



**School of the Arts Commencement  
Academy Summer Reading Program**

45 Prince Street  
Rochester NY 14607

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# A Letter to Parents/Guardians and Students

**Dear Parents/Guardians and Incoming Eighth and Ninth graders:**

This letter outlines the expectations for the Summer Reading Program for 2010. **All students are expected to complete the summer reading assignment REGARDLESS of the course in which they are enrolled.**

**Students are required to read 2 novels:**

- Select two novels from the book list provided
- The novels are categorized according to level of difficulty.
- Students are encouraged to take notes as they read the novels because they will be able to use them when they write their essay.

**In September...**

- Students will be completing an in class critical lens essay beginning on September 13th, that will serve as a writing baseline for teachers.
- Students may use any notes that they have taken on the novels that they read over the summer.

**Students are responsible for obtaining the novels from a public library or retail bookseller.**

*Although all the novels in this summer reading program are pre-approved by a panel of teachers, parents, and administrators, please be aware that some novels may contain mature themes or scenes. It is strongly recommended that you consider reading the novels along with your child to ensure proper interpretation of the content of these novels. This interaction can ensure greater retention of the main ideas and characters of the novels.*

Thank you for your support of the **SOTA Summer Reading Program!**

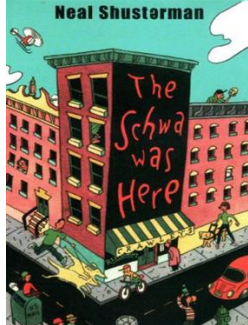
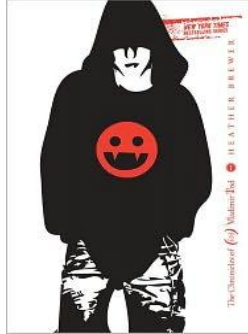
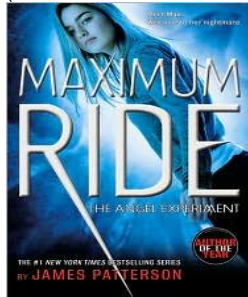

Sincerely,

The SOTA English Department



## Novel list for incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders (All are part of a series!)

www.barnesandnoble.com

Title	Author	Synopsis
<p><i>The Schwa was Here</i> Neal Shusterman</p> 	<p>Neal Shusterman</p>	<p>They say a lot of things about the Schwa, but one thing's for sure: no one ever noticed him. Except me. My name is Antsy Bonano— and I was the one who realized the Schwa was “functionally invisible” and used him to make some big bucks. So if you all just shut up and listen, I'll tell you everything there is to know about the Schwa. I'll spill everything. Unless, of course, “the Schwa Effect” wipes him out of my brain before I'm done....</p>
<p><i>Eighth Grade Bites</i></p> 	<p>Heather Brewer</p>	<p>Vlad has to keep his vampire urges under control while dealing with the pressures of middle school. Thirteen-year-old Vladimir Tod really hates junior high. Bullies harass him, the principal is dogging him, and the girl he likes prefers his best friend. Oh, and Vlad has a secret: His mother was human, but his father was a vampire. With no idea of the extent of his powers, Vlad struggles daily with his blood cravings and his enlarged fangs. When a substitute teacher begins to question him a little too closely, Vlad worries that his cover is about to be blown.</p>
<p><i>The Angel Experiment</i> (Maximum Ride Series #1)</p> 	<p>James Patterson</p>	<p>In James Patterson's blockbuster series, fourteen-year-old Maximum Ride, better known as Max, knows what it's like to soar above the world. She and all the members of the "flock"—Fang, Iggy, Nudge, Gasman and Angel—are just like ordinary kids—only they have wings and can fly. It may seem like a dream come true to some, but their lives can morph into a living nightmare at any time...like when Angel, the youngest member of the flock, is kidnapped and taken back to the "School" where she and the others were experimented on.</p>
<p><i>The Name of this Book is Secret</i></p> 	<p>Pseudonymous Bosch</p>	<p>This is the story about a secret. But it also contains a secret story. When adventurous detectives, Cass, an ever-vigilant survivalist, and Max-Ernest, a boy driven by logic, discover the Symphony of Smells, a box filled with smelly vials of colorful ingredients, they accidentally stumble upon a mystery surrounding a dead magician's diary and the hunt for immortality. Filled with word games, anagrams, and featuring a mysterious narrator, this is a book that won't stay secret for long.</p>

## Novel list for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> graders (many are part of a series!)

www.barnesandnoble.com

Title	Author	Synopsis
<p><i>The Hunger Games</i></p> 	<p>Suzanne Collins</p>	<p>In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV. Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen, who lives alone with her mother and younger sister, regards it as a death sentence when she is forced to represent her district in the Games.</p>
<p><i>Hoops</i></p> 	<p>Walter Dean Myers</p>	<p>All eyes are on seventeen-year-old Lonnie Jackson while he practices with his team for a city-wide basketball Tournament of Champions. His coach, Cal, knows Lonnie has what it takes to be a pro-basketball player, but warns him about giving in to the pressure. Cal knows because he, too, once had the chance--but sold out.</p>
<p><i>The Maze Runner</i></p> 	<p>James Dashner</p>	<p>When Thomas wakes up in the lift, the only thing he can remember is his first name. His memory is blank. But he's not alone. When the lift's doors open, Thomas finds himself surrounded by kids who welcome him to the Glade—a large, open expanse surrounded by stone walls. Just like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they got to the Glade. All they know is that every morning the stone doors to the maze that surrounds them have opened. Every night they've closed tight. And every 30 days a new boy has been delivered in the lift.</p>
<p><i>Chains</i></p> 	<p>Laurie Halse Anderson</p>	<p>As the Revolutionary War begins, thirteen-year-old Isabel wages her own fight...for freedom. Promised freedom upon the death of their owner, she and her sister, Ruth, in a cruel twist of fate become the property of a malicious New York City couple, the Locktons, who have no sympathy for the American Revolution and even less for Ruth and Isabel. When Isabel meets Curzon, a slave with ties to the Patriots, he encourages her to spy on her owners, who know details of British plans for invasion.</p>