

# Austin Road Middle School



## 2022 Summer Study for Rising Eighth Grade ELA Scholars

### Welcome Eight Grade Scholars!

We look forward to traversing through time and space with you through the eyes of some of the best writers of all time. Students enrolled in Eighth Grade ELA are required to read two books (one fiction, one nonfiction), and learn about current events. **Students will interact in class discussions and complete a small project in class over the material, so they should read and annotate carefully.**

**NOTICE:** Please be aware that there is sensitive material in the options, parents and students should work together to choose materials to study. There are lots of choices for every student.

### PART 1: Read One Nonfiction Book - Choose one option below:

1. ***The Wave*** by Todd Strausser is based on a true incident that occurred in a high school history class in Palo Alto, California, in 1969. The teacher conducts an experiment to show students how quickly mass hysteria and group dynamics can be affected in order to teach a lesson on how Hitler convinced so many German people to turn against the Jews.
2. ***The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*** by Sean Covey is a handbook to self-esteem and success. This classic book applies the timeless principles of 7 Habits to the tough issues and life-changing decisions teens face. Covey provides a simple approach to help teens improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, achieve their goals, and appreciate their parents, as well as tackle the new challenges of our time, like cyberbullying and social media.
3. ***It's Trevor Noah: Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood*** by Trevor Noah is Noah's story of growing up in South Africa with a black South African mother and a white father during a time when it was a crime for biracial children to exist. Through it all Noah used his intelligence and wit to push through troublesome conditions and created for himself a remarkable future. Today, Noah serves as host of *The Daily Show* on Comedy Central which has become a popular program throughout America.

**PART 2: Read One Fiction Book - Choose one book from the options:**

1. ***To Kill a Mockingbird*** by Harper Lee is a coming of age novel centered around the young brother and sister duo of Scout and Jem Finch who live in a small Alabama town with their father Atticus Finch a lawyer. The town is plagued by racial and social injustices that the children witness all while they enjoy the summer in a sleepy town. Things become increasingly difficult for the family when their father elects to defend a black man accused of raping a white girl in their town. **(This book deals with sensitive subject matter.)**
2. ***Blended*** by Sharon Draper is a novel that chronicles eleven-year-old Isabella's life as she battles with finding her identity and discovering her voice. Isabella's parents are divorced, so she is forced to switch lives every week. One week is spent with her dad, his girlfriend and her son in a fancy house where they are one of the only black families in the neighborhood while the next week she is with her mom and her boyfriend John-Mark in a small, not-so-fancy house that she loves. Her world is upside down as she tries to fit in with the affluent lifestyle that her father provides while still remaining true to the girl her mom has raised her to be. Her life goes topsy-turvy when each of her parents announce their engagements, and an incident with her soon to be stepbrother and the police leaves the whole family shaken.
3. ***New Kid*** by Jerry Craft is a graphic novel that tells the story of Jordan. His parents, mainly his mom, decide to send him to a prestigious middle school. Jordan is an artist who had his heart set on going to a performing arts school. Jordan must learn to navigate life and learning in this new environment where he doesn't quite fit in.

**Part 3 - Follow the News (Recommended):**

A truly educated person also has knowledge of current events. Instead of limiting yourself to one source, examine a variety of sources. To know your world better, please do one of the following weekly:

- Read a newspaper or read the news online.
- Read a weekly news magazine.
- Listen to the news on the radio.
- Watch the news on television.

Enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you in the classroom. If you have any questions, please feel free to email - **Ms. Natasha Williams, 8th Grade Teacher- [natasha.williams@henry.k12.ga.us](mailto:natasha.williams@henry.k12.ga.us)**