

GISB Summer Reading for Incoming 8th Graders, 2019

Dear Students,

It has been a pleasure to work with you this year and to watch your growth, and we welcome new students who will be joining us in the Fall. We are a school of great readers and keeping this pastime up over the summer is an excellent way to support a love of reading, introduce students to new topics, genres and authors, and to provide a "reading-bridge" between June and August. Incoming 8th graders are required to read one book but should read as much as possible over the summer break. Browse the bookstore, websites, or the library!

Please read Jason Reynold's *Ghost* for the first day of school. Bring your copy. We'll use this as our first text for discussion when we return so please read closer to August than June to keep it fresh in your mind. You'll be expected to know the plot, characters, major themes, and some responses to the overarching question.



Overarching Question: What challenges us? What brings us happiness?

Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school track team—a team that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose, but they also have a lot to prove, not only to each other, but to themselves.

This year we'll learn how to annotate a text: Underline or highlight character descriptions and vivid passages. Note patterns or connections within the book and to other books by writing notes in the margins. For example, are there any symbols that show up throughout the book? Maybe you read about a similar problem in another book you've read. You can use sticky notes to mark significant pages too. Try to think deeply and widely about the text.