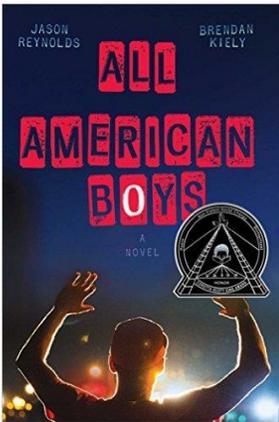


Sophomore Summer Reading

As a student going into tenth grade, you will be faced with a good deal of reading in English II, especially in English II Honors. In preparation, you must pick **one** of these choices to read over the course of this summer. Each title is marked as fiction (**F**) or nonfiction (**NF**) as well as standard (**S**), honors (**H**), and (**S/H**) appropriate for both. A student may select any book on the list; the labels are just to indicate recommendations, not requirements. All titles are available in paperback or as an e-book unless otherwise noted.



There will be activities related to each title over the course of the first two weeks of school. You are encouraged to take notes, highlight, or even use post-its as you read and these may come in handy when you return in the fall. You are encouraged to select a topic that interests you. Some titles are noted as being recommended for different academies or subject areas; but again these are only recommendations, not requirements. By encouraging reading, the goal is to create life-long learners as well as better writers.

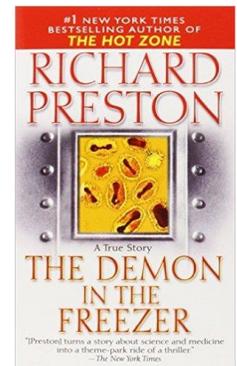


All American Boys by Jason Reynolds (F -S- 320 pgs.)

Rashad Butler is a quiet, artistic teen who hates ROTC but dutifully attends because father insists "there's no better opportunity for a black boy in this country than to join the army." He heads to Jerry's corner store on a Friday night to buy chips, and ends up the victim of unwarranted arrest and police brutality: an event his white schoolmate Quinn Collins witnesses in terrified disbelief. Quinn is even more shocked because the cop is Paul Galluzzo, older brother of his best friend and Quinn's mentor since his father died in Afghanistan. As events unfold, both boys are forced to confront the knowledge that racism in America has not disappeared and that change will not come unless they step forward. Diverse perspectives are presented in a manner that feels organic to the narrative, further emphasizing the tension created when privilege and racism cannot be ignored. Timely and powerful, this novel promises to have an impact long after the pages stop turning. This novel is a Florida TeenReads 2016-'17 selection and is not yet available in paperback.

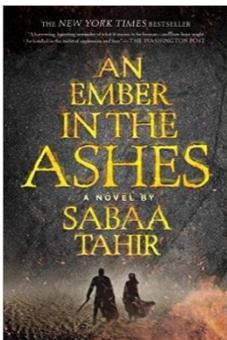
Demon in the Freezer: A True Story by Richard Preston (NF – S – 304 pgs.)

On December 9, 1979, smallpox, the most deadly human virus, ceased to exist in nature. After eradication, it was confined to freezers located in just two places on earth: the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta and the Maximum Containment Laboratory in Siberia. But these final samples were not destroyed at that time, and now secret stockpiles of smallpox surely exist. For example, since the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the subsequent end of its biological weapons program, a sizeable amount of the former Soviet Union's smallpox stockpile remains unaccounted for, leading to fears that the virus has fallen into the hands of nations or terrorist groups willing to use it as a weapon. Scarier yet, some may even be trying to develop a strain that is resistant to vaccines. This disturbing reality is the focus of this fascinating, terrifying, and important book. **This is recommended (but not required) for students in the Bio-Tech Academy.**



An Ember in the Ashes, An by Sabaa Tahir (F – H – 464 pgs.)

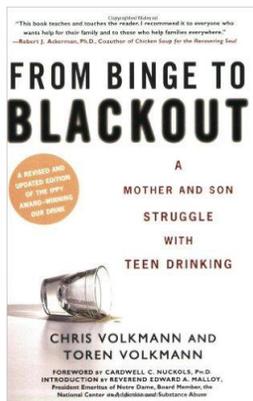
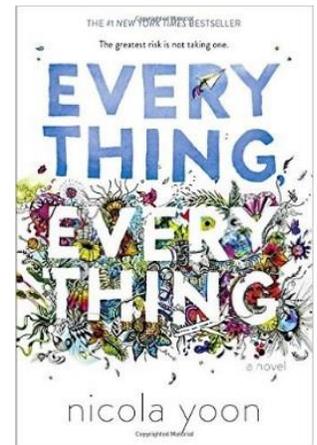
Amazon's Best Young Adult Book of 2015



Laia is a slave. Elias is a soldier. Neither is free. Under the Martial Empire, defiance is met with death. Those who do not vow their blood and bodies to the Emperor risk the execution of their loved ones and the destruction of all they hold dear. It is in this brutal world, inspired by ancient Rome, that Laia lives with her grandparents and older brother, who do not challenge the Empire. They've seen what happens to those who do. But when Laia's brother is arrested for treason, Laia is forced to make a decision. In exchange for help from rebels who promise to rescue her brother, she will risk her life to spy for them from within the Empire's greatest military academy. There, Laia meets Elias. He wants only to be free of the tyranny he's being trained to enforce. He and Laia will soon realize that their destinies are intertwined—and that their choices will change the fate of the Empire itself. This novel is a Florida TeenReads 2016-'17 selection and is the first in a series.

Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon (F- S – 320 pgs.)

This is the story of Maddy, a girl who's literally allergic to the outside world, and Olly, the boy who moves in next door . . . and becomes the greatest risk she's ever taken. This innovative and heartfelt debut novel unfolds via vignettes, diary entries, illustrations, and more. My disease is as rare as it is famous. Basically, I'm allergic to the world. I don't leave my house, have not left my house in seventeen years. The only people I ever see are my mom and my nurse, Carla. But then one day, a moving truck arrives next door. I look out my window, and I see him. He's tall, lean and wearing all black—black T-shirt, black jeans, black sneakers, and a black knit cap that covers his hair completely. He catches me looking and stares at me. I stare right back. His name is Olly. Maybe we can't predict the future, but we can predict some things. For example, I am certainly going to fall in love with Olly. It's almost certainly going to be a disaster. This novel is a Florida TeenReads 2016-'17 selection

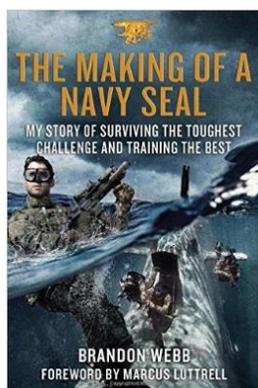
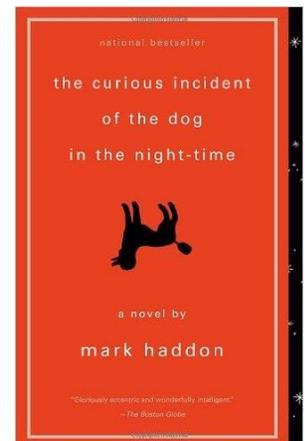


From Binge to Blackout: A Mother and Son Struggle With Teen Drinking

by Chris & Toren Volkmann (NF-H- 410 pgs.) Throughout his college years, Toren Volkmann partied like there was no tomorrow, having what was supposed to be the time of his life. Like so many parents, his mother, Chris, overlooked Toren's growing alcohol problem. But when he graduated, Toren realized he'd become a full-blown alcoholic. And he was not alone. Considered a rite of passage, teenage drinking has skyrocketed to epidemic proportions, fostering a generation of young adults whose lives are already beginning to come apart under the strain. This book, written from the viewpoints of both mother and son, is a riveting, enlightening, and heartbreakingly true story of a family that was able to confront the fear, pain, and denial that threatened to destroy them—and survive the epidemic of teenage drinking that's putting America's future at risk.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (F- H – 226 pgs.)

Christopher Boone, the autistic 15-year-old narrator of this revelatory novel, relaxes by groaning and doing math problems in his head, eats red-but not yellow or brown-foods and screams when he is touched. Strange as he may seem, other people are far more of a conundrum to him, for he lacks the intuitive "theory of mind" by which most of us sense what's going on in other people's heads. When his neighbor's poodle is killed and Christopher is falsely accused of the crime, he decides that he will take a page from Sherlock Holmes (one of his favorite characters) and track down the killer. As the mystery leads him to the secrets of his parents' broken marriage and then into an odyssey to find his place in the world, he must fall back on deductive logic to navigate the emotional complexities of a social world that remains a closed book to him. His literal-minded observations make for a kind of poetic sensibility and a poignant evocation of character.

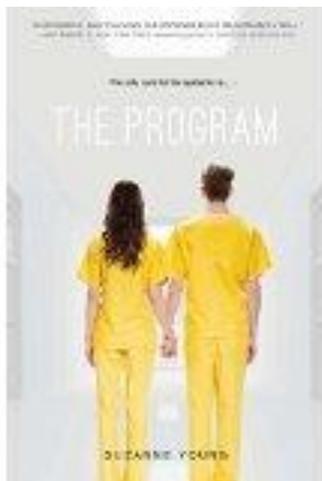
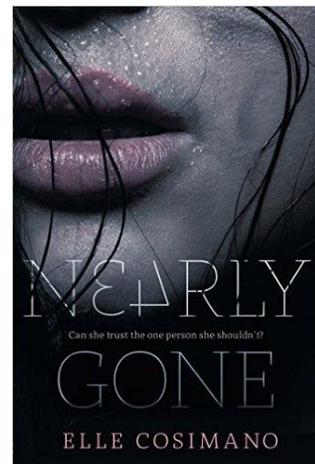


The Making of a Navy SEAL: My Story of Surviving the Toughest Challenge and Training the Best by Brandon Webb (NF – H- 256 pgs.)

Brandon Webb's experiences in the world's most elite sniper corps are the stuff of legend. From his grueling years of training in Naval Special Operations to his combat tours in the Persian Gulf and Afghanistan, *The Making of a Navy SEAL* provides a rare and riveting look at the inner workings of the U.S. military through the eyes of a covert operations specialist. Explosive, revealing, and intelligent, *The Making of a Navy SEAL* provides a uniquely personal glimpse into one of the most challenging and secretive military training courses in the world. This book was adapted from Webb's Adult Bestseller *The Red Circle* for a Young Adult Audience. The text is a Florida TeenReads 2016-'17 selection and is not currently available in paperback.

Nearly Gone by Elle Cosimano (F – S/H – 416 pgs.)

Nearly Boswell knows how to keep secrets. Living in a DC trailer park, she knows better than to share anything that would make her a target with her classmates. Like her mother's job as an exotic dancer, her obsession with the personal ads, and especially the emotions she can taste when she brushes against someone's skin. But when a serial killer goes on a killing spree and starts attacking students, leaving cryptic ads in the newspaper that only Nearly can decipher, she confides in the one person she shouldn't trust: the new guy at school—a reformed bad boy working undercover for the police, doing surveillance. . . on her. Nearly might be the one person who can put all the clues together, and if she doesn't figure it all out soon—she'll be next. This novel is the beginning of a series and is a Florida TeenReads 2016-'17 selection.



The Program by Suzanne Young (F- S/H -- 432 pgs.)

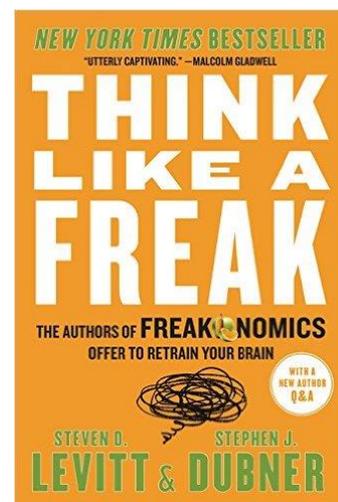
In this gripping tale for lovers of dystopian romance, true feelings are forbidden. Sloane knows better than to cry in front of anyone. Teen suicide is an international epidemic, and the adults are bound to stop it through participation in the Program, a treatment facility where memories are erased. Sloane's parents have already lost one child; she knows they'll do anything to keep her alive. Sloan and James are two teens confident that their passion will overcome depression, yet the handlers from the Program seem to have their eyes on the teens' every move. Will their love survive the Program?

This is recommended for fans of Lauren Oliver's *Delirium* and Veronica Roth's *Divergent*. This novel is the first in a series and was a Florida TeenReads 2015-'16 selection.

Think Like a Freak: The Authors of Freakonomics Offer to Retrain Your Brain by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner (NF- S/H- 304 pgs.)

With their trademark blend of captivating storytelling and unconventional analysis, Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner take us inside their thought process and teach us all how to think a bit more productively, more creatively, more rationally. They offer a blueprint for an entirely new way to solve problems, whether your interest lies in minor lifehacks or major global reforms. The topics range from business to philanthropy to sports to politics, all with the goal of retraining your brain. Along the way, you'll learn the secrets of a Japanese hot-dog-eating champion, the reason an Australian doctor swallowed a batch of dangerous bacteria, and why Nigerian e-mail scammers make a point of saying they're from Nigeria.

Levitt and Dubner plainly see the world like no one else. Now you can too. Never before have such iconoclastic thinkers been so revealing—and so much fun to read. **This is recommended for students in the International Business and Marketing Academy and the new IT Academy.**



If you have any questions or concerns regarding the summer reading selections for incoming sophomores, email Jodi Rolison at Jodi.Rolison@stjohns.k12.fl.us as tenth grade team leader, Betsy Kasting at Elizabeth.Kasting@stjohns.k12.fl.us as English department chair, or Gina Fonseca at Gina.Fonseca@stjohns.k12.fl.us as the administrator in charge of English.