Summer break is here, yet it should not mean taking a break from learning, especially reading! Studies show that students may experience loss of reading skills over the summer if no reading occurs, so the seventh grade ELA teachers want students to make an effort to sustain their reading skills. There are many benefits to reading, some of which include critical reading and thinking skills, vocabulary development, and even writing skills. Additionally, reading for enjoyment is a lifelong habit that the ELA teachers support and want to develop in students. This summer, students are encouraged to set regular time aside for reading (in addition to their summer reading requirement), away from their screens.

Listed below are the summer reading guidelines and expectations for all students in Language Arts 7 and Language Arts 7 Plus.

The required text will be integrated into reading experiences in the first trimester and will be included as a component of first trimester assessment.

**Required Book:**
*Drums, Girls & Dangerous Pie* by Jordan Sonnenblick

**Book Description:**
Steven has a totally normal life (well, almost). He plays drums in the All-City Jazz Band (whose members call him the Peasant), has a crush on the hottest girl in school (who doesn't even know he's alive), and is constantly annoyed by his younger brother, Jeffrey (who is cuter than cute - which is also pretty annoying). But when Jeffrey gets sick, Steven's world is turned upside down, and he is forced to deal with his brother's illness, his parents' attempts to keep the family in one piece, his homework, the band, girls, and Dangerous Pie (yes, you'll have to read the book to find out what that is!).

Have a safe and fun-filled summer vacation, and enjoy summer reading! Your teachers look forward to meeting you in September and discussing your summer reading with you.

**LANGUAGE ARTS 7 EXPECTATIONS:**
Students are expected to read *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* over the summer. Students are encouraged to use active reading, taking notes on the character(s), setting, plot (events) and theme. However, **these notes are optional**, and assessment of this required text will occur as part of first trimester reading experiences.

- **Plot Development**
  Plot is a literary term used to describe the sequence of events in a story. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story.

- **Characterization**
  Characterization is a literary technique that names the author’s process of creating believable, fictional characters through their speech, actions, effect on others, actions, and physical description (looks). Characters also have goals and motivations.
● Setting
  Setting is a literary term used to describe where (location, environment) and when (time of day, month, year, etc.) the story occurs.

● Theme
  Theme is a literary term used to describe the underlying message or life lesson that the author wants to make known to readers. This can be developed through the characters, setting, and plot.

**LANGUAGE ARTS 7 PLUS EXPECTATIONS:**
Students are expected to read *Drums, Girls, & Dangerous Pie* over the summer. Students are encouraged to use active reading, taking notes on the character(s), setting, plot (events) and theme; however, **these notes are optional.** Assessment of this required text will occur as part of first trimester reading experiences.

Additionally, students in LA Plus must choose from one of the three projects below. You should bring your completed project with you on the second day of school.

**“Get to Know Me” Poster:** Select one of the main characters from the novel and create a poster about him/her. Include at least five pictures (use your imagination) and five captions that explain why these pictures are linked to your character. Think about physical characteristics, personality traits, relationships with other characters, actions/events that involve the character, interests of the character, etc. when selecting pictures. In addition, your poster needs three meaningful quotes that this character said. (Pick quotes from the book that help to develop the character’s personality and put quotation marks around these words.) Finally, make sure that you poster is decorated and visually pleasing!

**Journal:** Throughout the novel, Steven, the main character, shared excerpts from his own journal entries. Select a different character and create a journal based on his/her point of view. Create a front cover for this journal and then add at least five journal entries (written in the perspective of that character) that focus on key events from the story. Each journal entry should be at least 5-7 sentences. Your project should look like a journal when it is complete.

**Soundtrack:** Select 5 songs that relate to the characterization (personality, conflicts, etc.) of a main character of the book. Print out the song title, artist name, and the lyrics (please cover up any inappropriate lyrics). Highlight the words or phrases from the song that made you connect the song with the character. Make sure the song relates to the emotions/ideas of the character. **For each song,** write at least one paragraph that explains why the lyrics match the characterization of your character. Use specific text references in your description.