

June 2025

Dear Parents,

At Amani, our objective is to create lifelong readers who think critically about what they read. We've worked hard all year long to strengthen our students' reading and writing skills and have them develop a love for the world that reading opens. In an effort to keep our students reading over the summer months and to avoid learning losses, known as "Summer Slide," our school has made it a priority to keep our scholars' skills sharp by encouraging them to read all summer long.

A recommended reading list for your scholar's grade is attached to this letter. A variety of genres has been included from which s/he can choose to read. Most of them can be found in any public library or bookstore. Also included are various activities you can do along with your scholar.

Thank you for joining us in our efforts to create passionate, life-long readers. We wish you a safe and enjoyable summer of reading pleasure.

In addition, below you will also find recommendations for summer math activities including interactive web sites to sharpen their skills and in-person activities around New York City.

Recommended Math Websites and activities for practice, fun and inspiration:

- www.khanacademy.org
- www.quizziz.com
- www.kahoot.com
- www.blooket.com
- www.ixl.com
- www.prodigygame.com

MoMath (National Museum of Mathematics):

- **Offers a wide range of engaging and interactive exhibits that explore mathematical concepts in a fun and accessible way.**
- **Features dynamic exhibits and galleries, including family-friendly activities and workshops.**
- **Is open seven days a week and offers a variety of programs for different age groups.**
- **Has a pop-up experience located at 225 Fifth Avenue.**

NYU Center for Mathematical Talent (NYU CMT):

- **Provides math activities for all ages, including games and puzzles.**

- Offers a variety of math activities, including One Row Nim, One Piece Chess, The Fifteen Game, Magic Squares, and 3-Dimensional Tic Tac Toe.
- Can be accessed virtually through [NYC.gov](https://www.nyc.gov).

Supply List

8th Grade ELA:	3 Black Marble Notebooks. 100 Pencils 10 Manila folders (per student)
7th Grade ELA	2 Red Marble Notebooks 2 Plastic Red Folders 100 pencils (per student)
8th and 7th Grade Social Studies	2 Green Marble Notebooks, 1 Green Folder (per student)
8th and 7th Grade Science	2 Yellow Marble Notebooks, 1 Yellow Folder (per student) Box colored pencils Pens
7th Grade Math	2 Blue Marble Notebooks. Ruler. Protractor. 100 pencils. TI-32 Calculator
8th Grade Math	2 Blue Marble Notebooks. Ruler. Protractor. 100 pencils. TI-32 Calculator
Algebra Algebra	Blue Marble Notebooks. Ruler. Protractor. 100 pencils. TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Upper School Summer Reading Choice Board

Choose at least **3 activities** to complete by the end of summer. Try to pick from **different rows and columns** for variety!

Reading Response	Creative Expression	Multimedia	Speaking & Sharing
Write a letter to the author explaining what you learned or how the book affected you.	Design a new book cover that represents a key theme, character, or event. Include a one-paragraph artist's statement.	Create a short video trailer (60–90 sec) that persuades others to read the book. Use music, images, and voiceover!	Give a book talk (recorded or live) where you explain the plot, favorite moment, and why others should read it.
Create a two-column chart comparing and contrasting the main character with yourself.	Write a poem, rap, or song inspired by the book's themes, characters, or conflict.	Make a digital timeline of major events from the story using Google Slides, Canva, or another app.	Start a podcast-style discussion with a friend or family member who also read the book.
Write a one-page reflection on the most important message or theme of the book.	Draw a comic strip or short graphic novel scene from the book (real or imagined).	Build a virtual museum exhibit with 5 "artifacts" that represent key parts of the story. Use Google Slides or Padlet.	Host a mini book club (online or in person) with a few peers or family members and lead a short discussion.

Requirements

- Choose **at least one book** (fiction or nonfiction) of your choice at grade level or higher.
- Complete **three different activities**.
- One activity must involve **writing** (e.g., letter, reflection, poem).
- Be ready to **turn in** one of your projects when school resumes

Book Recommendations

Recommendations for Rising 7th Grade	
<u>New Kid</u> by Jerry Craft	<p>This graphic novel details the life of Jordan Banks - Seventh grader Jordan Banks loves nothing more than drawing cartoons about his life. But instead of sending him to the art school of his dreams, his parents enroll him in a prestigious private school known for its academics, where Jordan is one of the few kids of color in his entire grade. As he makes the daily trip from his Washington Heights apartment to the upscale Riverdale Academy Day School, Jordan soon finds himself torn between two worlds—and not really fitting into either one. Can Jordan learn to navigate his new school culture while keeping his neighborhood friends and staying true to himself?</p>
<u>Harbor me</u> by Jaqueline Woodline	<p>It all starts when six kids have to meet for a weekly chat—by themselves, with no adults to listen in. There, in the room they soon dub the ART Room (short for ‘A Room to Talk’), they discover it's safe to talk about what's bothering them—everything from Esteban's father's deportation and Haley's father's incarceration to Amari's fears of racial profiling and Ashton's adjustment to his changing family fortunes. When the six are together, they can express the feelings and fears they have to hide from the rest of the world. And together, they can grow braver and more ready for the rest of their lives.</p>
<u>Black Brother</u> by Jewell Parker Rhodes	<p>Donte is one of the only Black students at his mostly white prep school, and he's tired of being treated unfairly—suspended, arrested, and constantly compared to his lighter-skinned brother. When he discovers fencing, he sees a chance to change the narrative. With the help of a former Olympic coach, Donte trains to compete—and to stand up against racism and injustice. This inspiring story is about finding your voice, challenging unfair systems, and showing the world who you really are.</p>
<u>The First Rule of Punk</u> by Celia C. Perez	<p>María Luisa, or Malú for short, is a punk rock-loving, creative Mexican American girl who's just moved to a new school where she feels like she doesn't quite fit in. She misses her old life and struggles with people who expect her to be “more Mexican” or “less punk.” But instead of changing who she is, Malú finds power in being herself—using music, zines, and her bold personality to stand out in the best way. This fun and heartfelt story celebrates identity, self-expression, and finding your people without losing who you are.</p>
<u>They Called Us Enemy</u> by George Takei	<p>In this graphic memoir, actor and activist George Takei recounts his childhood in Japanese American internment camps during World War II. With honesty and emotion, he explores what it means to be American—and how standing up for justice matters.</p>

Recommendations for Rising 8th Grade

The Hate U Give
by Angie Thomas

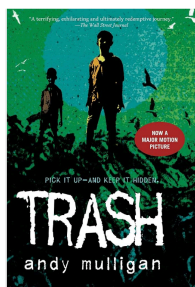
Sixteen-year-old Starr Carter lives in two different worlds—her low-income Black neighborhood and her elite, mostly white prep school. When she witnesses her childhood friend Khalil get shot and killed by a police officer, Starr’s world is shaken. Suddenly, she’s at the center of a national controversy and has to decide whether to stay silent or speak out for justice, truth, and change. This powerful novel explores racism, identity, activism, and the power of finding your voice when the world wants you quiet. If you care about fairness and speaking up for what’s right, this book will stay with you long after you turn the last page.

One of Us is Lying
by Karen M.
McManus

It starts like any other day in detention—until one of the five students doesn’t make it out alive. The twist? He was about to expose the others’ secrets online. Now the remaining four are suspects in a murder investigation, and everyone is trying to figure out who’s lying. Told from multiple points of view, this fast-paced mystery is full of drama, twists, and suspense. If you like true crime, puzzles, or shows like *Pretty Little Liars*, this story will pull you in and keep you hooked until the final reveal.

**The 7 Habits of
Highly Effective
Teens**
by Sean Covey

Being a teen can be tough—between school stress, friendships, family, and planning your future, it’s easy to feel overwhelmed. This book breaks down seven habits that can help you manage your time, build confidence, set goals, and become a better version of yourself. With real-life stories, simple tips, and a funny, honest tone, *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* is like a life toolkit that actually makes sense. It’s perfect if you’re ready to level up your habits, your mindset, and your future.



In a city where kids survive by picking through garbage dumps, three boys—Raphael, Gardo, and Rat—find something mysterious in the trash: a bag that leads them into a world of secrets, lies, and danger. Suddenly, they’re being hunted by the police, and they have to rely on their smarts, loyalty, and bravery to stay alive and uncover the truth. *Trash* is an action-packed mystery full of suspense, heart, and unforgettable characters. Inspired by real struggles, it will make you think about justice, poverty, and what it means to do the right thing—even when it’s risky.