



Martin Luther King, Jr. Academic Magnet School  
for Health Sciences and Engineering  
9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading  
2017-2018

**All-school Summer Reading**

The faculty of MLK is excited to re-institute an all-school summer reading book to promote community and the goals of lifelong learning we, as teachers and staff, seek to instill in you, our reason for being here.

Many of you have heard or seen a recent film called *Hidden Figures*. This movie was based on a book that we have chosen for every student and faculty member to read. Our goal is to create opportunities for all members of our community to discuss the important issues addressed in *Hidden Figures* and have experiences with other students in other classes and grade levels to enrich these experiences. When we return to school, we hope to have some classroom and out-of-class activities during which all students will get to learn more about math, science, history, and many other topics addressed in *Hidden Figures*.

To that end, please carefully read *Hidden Figures Young Readers Edition* by Margot Lee Shetterly before the first day of school. While there is not a required summer written assignment, you will be expected to know key details from this informational text and will be tested at the start of the school year. Various classes will explore the book in different ways, including through projects, writing assignments, and class discussions. Your thorough reading of the book will be expected and will enhance your participation in these assignments. Upon your return to school in August, please bring your own copy of the text with you for the first several weeks.

**9<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading**

All 9<sup>th</sup> Graders are required to read *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card in addition to *Hidden Figures Young Readers' Edition*.

*Ender's Game*

Aliens have attacked Earth twice and almost destroyed the human species. To make sure humans win the next encounter, the world government has taken to breeding military geniuses and then training them in the arts of war. The early training, not surprisingly, takes the form of 'games'. Ender Wiggin is a genius among geniuses; he wins all the games. He is smart enough to know that time is running out. But is he smart enough to save the planet?

The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the study of the summer reading novel. You should bring your own copy of the novel with you when you report to school. (If this proves to be problematic for you and your family, see your teacher at the beginning of school.) Because you will be required to create meaning from what you read, you are expected to be an active reader. That means you should take notes (highlighting or underlining important parts, writing notes in the margins or on the front and end covers) on the novel as you read to help you remember important parts.

Some things to take notes on as you read:

- Study the setting of the novel and think about the impact it has on the plot and characterization
- Describe the characters, both primary and secondary
- Note the primary conflicts in the novel and how they are resolved
- Note the climax, or highest point of action, of the novel
- Major themes
- Symbolism

Again, you are expected to be an active and engaged reader of the novels. While you are not required to complete a writing assignment on the reading over the summer, you are responsible for the reading and creating meaning from it. Testing on the novels will begin the second day of school.