**Summer Reading for Middle School Parents**

When you take the kids to the library or bookstore to pick up their summer reading books, why not grab a book or two for yourself? The following books were recommended to me by other educators and parents and I have found them incredibly valuable as both a teacher and a parent of two middle school girls:

***Mindset* by Carol S. Dweck.**

This is the book Principal Richardson wrote about in a letter earlier this year. Great insights into how we all either have a fixed or growth mindset and how that can influence all aspects of our life, including failures and learning.

***How to Talk So Kids Will Listen and Listen So Kids Will Talk* by Adele Faber and Elaine Mazlish.**

Great read on how to speak to our children and give them some of the power to make good decisions. Great little review cartoons you can put up on your fridge!

***How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character* by Paul Tough.**

This book was the result of research on successful schools and programs where children succeeded, despite the odds. Academic character turns out to be the cornerstone. How can we instill this in our teens at home and school?

***The Blessing of a B Minus* by Wendy Mogel**

Mogel offers advice on how to take our teens worst traits and turn them into strengths. She offers wit and wisdom around teen traits that don’t normally seem to be “blessings.”

***Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Lives of Adolescent Girls* by Mary Pipher**

I read this one in college in a Women’s studies course. Sage words on raising girls in our society.

***Yes, Your Teen is Crazy*: *Loving Your Kid Without Losing Your Mind* by Michael J. Bradley**

This book was my savior this year as my oldest turned 14. She’s a child of the modern family (divorced and remarried parents with 5 siblings) and the first to be raised with social media. This book offers tales and tips for some of those terrible teen situations.

***Real Boys: Rescuing our Sons from the Myths of Boyhood* by William Pollack.**

I haven’t read this one since I don’t have boys, but a very wise educator recommended it so I put it here for parents with boys!

And one I plan to read this summer…..

***Get Out of My Life, but First Could You Drive Me and Cheryl to the Mall: A Parent’s Guide to the New Teenager* by Anthony Wolf, PhD**

Just the title makes me want to read it, but the reviews are also great. I’ll get back to you on this one – or if you’ve read it, let me know how it was!