

# PAS WEEKLY

[pennalexander.philasd.org](http://pennalexander.philasd.org) | Mr. Farrell, Principal | 215-400-7760

## Upcoming Events:

**8th Grade Closing Exercises**  
Monday, June 3rd, 3:30PM

**Last Day of School for Students**  
Tuesday, June 4th

**1st Day of School (Kindergarten- 8th Grade)**  
Tuesday, September 3rd

### Penn Alexander Community-

Happy Summer! As we end an exciting year, I wanted to share how incredibly grateful I am for my time at Penn Alexander over the past three years. It has been a privilege to learn and lead in partnership with our vibrant community. Watching our students exemplify our PAS core values- *Learning, Collaboration, Responsibility, Reflection, & Equity*, has been inspiring. I have no doubt that our collective commitment to ensuring all students have a purposeful learning experience will prepare them to be leaders beyond their time at Penn Alexander.

I wish Ms. Wapner best of luck in her role as Interim Principal for the '19-'20 school year, and will be supporting her during the transition. I look forward to seeing the continued growth of the PAS community, and hope to visit often.

-Mr. Farrell, Principal



## Summer Reading Books!

Last week, your child was sent home with summer reading information and books. Please review this information.



Similar to last year, the Equity Circle has planned a book list for adults in our community, the flier is included.



## PAS Student News- Episode 8

Check out our students' eighth & final PAS NEWS broadcast, a short news feature created in our WHY Media Lab program!



<https://tinyurl.com/PASNews8>

### **Summer Boxtops**

We encourage you to continue clipping and saving your boxtops over the summer. We will have a collection in September.



### **Annual School District of Philadelphia Survey**

The Annual School District of Philadelphia survey is designed to find out what you think about your child's school. We encourage you to take the survey for each of your children! Once you start the survey you must complete it all at once. The survey takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

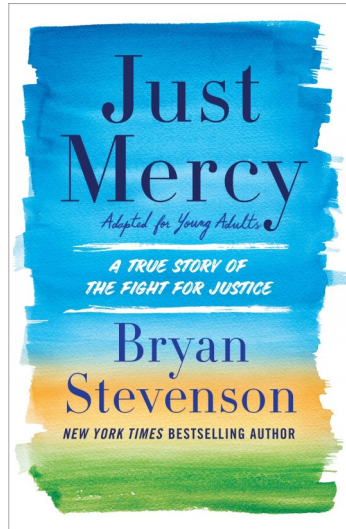
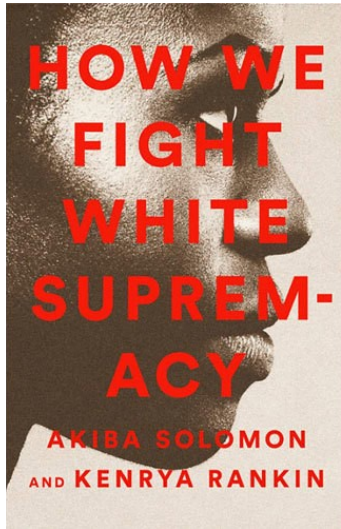
You will need your child's student ID number, which can be found on your child's report card, and included on a personal flier in this week's pony.

**<https://webapps1.philasd.org/parentsurvey/>**



# PENN ALEXANDER SUMMER 2019 READING

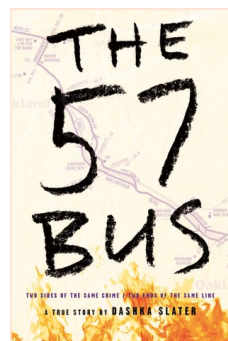
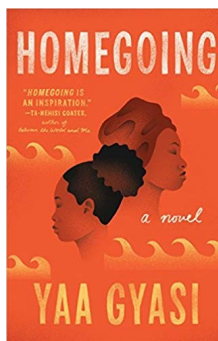
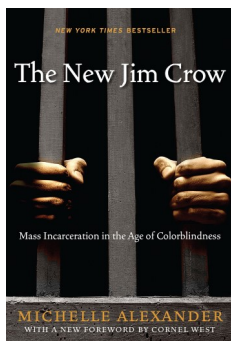
In partnership with our Equity Circle, Penn Alexander would like to offer these books as part of our summer reading program. The summer provides an opportunity for us to reflect and explore challenging issues, stories, and questions about social justice both inside and outside of our school. If you are unable to purchase any of the books, please contact [pasequitycircle@gmail.com](mailto:pasequitycircle@gmail.com) for assistance.



## NEW BOOKS FOR SUMMER 2019:

**How We Fight White Supremacy**  
By Akiba Solomon & Kenrya Rankin

**Just Mercy, Adapted for Young Adults**  
By Bryan Stevenson



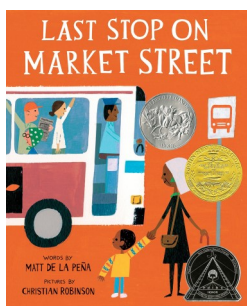
## BOOKS KEPT FROM SUMMER 2018:

**The New Jim Crow**  
By Michelle Alexander

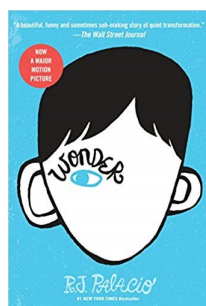
**Homegoing**  
By Yaa Gyasi

**The 57 Bus**  
By Dashka Slater

# STUDENTS' SUMMER 2019 READING



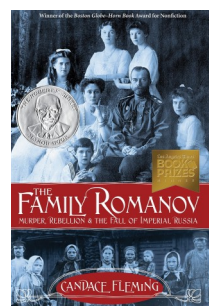
**Grades 1-3:**  
**Last Stop on Market Street**  
By Matt de la Peña



**Grades 4-5:**  
**Wonder**  
By R.J. Palacio



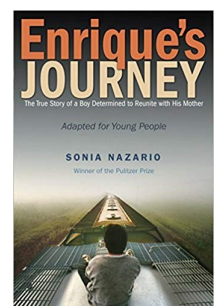
**Grade 6:**  
**Flying Lessons & Other Stories**  
Edited by Ellen Oh



**Grade 7:**  
**The Family Romanov**  
By Candace Fleming



**Angel on the Square**  
By Gloria Whelan



**Grades 8:**  
**Enrique's Journey**  
By Sonia Nazario

# FOR OUR FUTURE



## 100% FAIR FUNDING

DAY OF ACTION

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12 @ 12:00 PM

LOCATION: STATE CAPITOL MAIN ROTUNDA

PHONE: 717-585-2700

EMAIL: NSOOY@POWERINTERFAITH.ORG

ALL PA CHILDREN DESERVE A FULLY FUNDED,  
ROBUST EDUCATION IN OUR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

POWER

To sign up for the bus: <https://bit.ly/2EEFoZI>

## What are we trying to accomplish?

Until the spring of 2016, Pennsylvania was one of only 3 states in the United States with no consistent formula for distributing state basic education dollars. This resulted in large disparities between districts, particularly districts with majority white students compared to those with more children of color.

In 2016, State legislators enacted a well-designed formula with bi-partisan support, a Fair Funding Formula. However, they established *-by law- that **only new money added to the education budget since 2015, is distributed according to the Fair Funding Formula. Therefore, the distribution of PA basic education funding remains unfair.***

## What is the Fair Funding Formula?

The formula adjusts the state's portion of school district funding according to characteristics which impact a district's ability to provide a full and appropriate education for the children they are committed to serve.

## How did it the formula come about?

The characteristics and their respective weights in the Fair Funding Formula are the result of a year-long study by the 15-member Basic Education Funding Commission, which was created by the state legislature following pressure by a number of community advocates for good education. Hearings were held in locations across the state with testimony given by "experts" invited to testify by the commission members. Prior to the hearing held in Philadelphia, through planning a direct action and not backing down, the faith-based, community-organizing group POWER pressured the Commission to allow public testimony for the remainder of the hearings.

The resulting combination of factors agreed upon by the bi-partisan commission with community input provides a transparent and educationally-justified basis for distributing basic education funding.

In response to the commission's report, Pennsylvania's legislative bodies enacted the recommended fair funding formula. **BUT.. Only for "new money"**.

The budgeted money is still distributed in the *non fair* way. At an optimistic rate of 3% increase of "new money" per year, it would take more than 22 years for even 50% of the budgeted money to be distributed fairly. There would **never** be 100% FAIR FUNDING.

## Legislation for 100% Fair Funding: House Bill 961

All of the money, 100%, allocated for basic education funding must be distributed through the Fair Funding Formula to eliminate the years of racial bias in its distribution and ensure FAIR FUNDING for Education. Until it is, the funding will always be unfair. **Ask your Representative to back HB 961!**