Summer is a time that offers the opportunity for rest, relaxation, and creation of memorable experiences. Sometimes, summer can also be time where students experience learning losses if they don’t continue to exercise their growing brains. One of the best ways to combat this potential period of loss is for students to read, for personal learning or just for pleasure! In an effort to reduce a possible “summer slide,” both Fairfax County Public Schools as well as Fairfax High School encourage students to read at least one book over the summer months.

This year’s fantastic Community Read book, which won the National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, the Newbery Medal, and the NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Literary Work, is *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson.

The engaging memoir, told in verse, allows the reader to share in the narrator’s struggles, sorrows, and self-discovery while coming to look at their own world through a new lens. *Brown Girl Dreaming* celebrates the diversity of American life, a particularly relevant topic to our vibrant, multicultural Fairfax High School community. We hope that you will find yourself reflecting on your own stories, while pondering your future dreams. We are very excited to converse about the messages of the book in the fall.

**ABOUT THE BOOK:**
Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child’s soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson’s eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

**WHERE TO FIND THE BOOK:**

- Fairfax High School’s Main Office – books are available for check out on a “first come, first serve” basis.
- Local, public libraries. (The book is in high demand. You may want to get on the wait list!)