

Hey Pacer Parents!

Reading is so important for your child's academic success, and not just during the school year! Research continually shows that the more students read and write, the more proficient they become at those skills. Summer reading can play a significant role in developing literacy, building fluency, and preparing your child for the next grade.

Reading is like exercise; the more you do it, the better you get! Reading stamina, the ability and attention span to read for extended periods of time, is built gradually. We suggest starting with 15 minute increments and building to at least 30 consecutive minutes a day.

Summer Reading 2018

This year, our Summer Reading Program is going paperless! All the forms you need to keep track of your student's reading progress can be found on <http://bit.ly/SPESReads>, along with title suggestions and other fun things!

We will have three aspects to our 3-6 Grade Summer Reading program this year:

- **Minutes spent reading.** The grade that logs the most minutes will be recognized in Town Meeting and awarded a free dress day! To log minutes, students must go to <http://bit.ly/SPESReads> and enter their time in the form. A minimum of 15 minutes is required to complete the form. This will update a live chart so students can see which grade is ahead! The readers in each class with the highest number of minutes will be recognized individually and invited to eat their lunch on the playground with Mrs. Mac.
- **School-wide reading goal.** Mrs. Howen has set a reading goal for our school graders of 150,000 minutes (we will count the minutes read by K-2 grade as well). This is roughly 20 minutes per day, per child. We will be collecting ideas and voting on what the students want to see Mrs. Howen do when we accomplish this goal!
- **Highest total number of books.** Recording book titles is not required to participate, but for those that wish to keep track, we will present an award for highest total number of books read. Books must be logged in the electronic form on our website to be counted in this part of the competition.

All students that participate in any of the three aspects listed above will be recognized with a certificate and a treat when we come back to school in August.

What "counts"?

Anytime your child is exposed to the written word for an extended period of time (at least 15 minutes) it counts because their brain is engaged in developing literacy! This could include listening to a read-aloud or audiobook, exploring the pictures of a non-fiction text, or reading on a digital device.

Building a Community of Readers

Additionally, we will have an optional online component to our Summer Reading program through a Google Classroom. Students can log in with their school Google accounts on any computer with Internet access to discuss books with peers, complete book-related challenges (both analog and digital), and get recommendations for what to read next. I will moderate this classroom and we may have some guest teachers join in the discussions throughout the summer! As students participate in this online community, they will be deepening comprehension by engaging with their reading material, developing literacy habits. They will have opportunities to win free books as well!

Students will learn how to access this component before the end of the current school year during their library class.

We hope you will take every opportunity this summer to help your child explore new interests, exercise their imagination, and expand their reading horizons. We can't wait to celebrate your child's reading accomplishments when we see you again in August!

Need suggestions or recommendations about what to read? Check out the website!
<http://bit.ly/SPESReads>

Sherry McElhannon
Librarian