

Office of Curriculum & Instruction

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A Regional Collaborative Design to Achieve the Educational Goals of the Communities served by the Monmouth Beach, Oceanport, Shore Regional, and West Long Branch School Districts

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Dear Regional Families and Students,

It's that time of year again! The days are getting longer, warmer, and more beautiful with each day we cross off the calendar until the end of the school year. Besides packing your beach bags and planning your family trips, it is also that time to start planning your summer reading activities.

Not only is reading a classic, timeless, and fun way to spend your time in the summer, it is also a valuable way to bond as a family. Most importantly, there is a huge body of research that tells us that summer reading is one of the most important things we can do for ourselves and our children to ensure that they continue to make academic progress.

With that in mind, a regional committee of teachers has developed a K-12 Summer Reading Program that emphasizes the fun of reading, while ensuring that students remain active readers over the summer months. Participation in the Summer Reading Program is important so that students maintain the reading levels they finished the school year with and don't experience a "summer slide."

In order to help you navigate summer reading more easily, we are providing information on book selection and assignments. In addition to the materials disseminated at school, these materials will be placed on each school's respective website. As far as the book lists are concerned, every grade has some choice in the books they read. Each grade has a set of titles, authors, and series to choose from, but students are not necessarily limited to these lists in all cases. Each grade also has an expected assignment that students will complete as a part of their summer reading. When students return to school in the fall, there will be classroom follow-up as well.

It is important to note that summer reading and the related assignments represent minimum expectations; we would love for your child to read more than what we are asking! Also, please note that the assignments are mandatory. Summer reading will be a part of the first marking period grade. Each grade level is slightly different in how the grade will be used; however, because reading when school is not in session is so

important to every student's academic and social growth, the assignment is mandatory and will count for a grade.

A last note about reading levels and choosing books: Over the course of this past school year, we have been working toward identifying each student's reading level using the Fountas and Pinnell (F&P) reading assessment system. When students return in the fall, we will again measure their reading levels. We do this to ensure that the books we give our students to read are appropriate and the reading skills we teach appropriately and optimally challenge your child to become more skilled readers. We have labeled most of the books on the summer reading lists with their corresponding F&P level so you can use this information as a guide if you have your student's F&P level. If this information is not available, you do not need such a comprehensive kit to find a "just right book." At home you can use the "rule of 5." If a child opens a book to any page and begins reading but they do not know 5 or more words on the page, that book may be too difficult for him or her to read independently. This is certainly not a scientific measure of ability, but it does help in choosing books with your child. Best of all, it empowers your child to choose their own "just right" books!

We hope that you will support our work and your child in becoming a more skilled reader as well as a lifelong learner. If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at 732-222-9300 ext. 2180 or via e-mail at bpreston@shoreregional.org, or you can contact the Summer Reading Committee Chairperson at jones@mbschool.org.

Sincerely,

Bruce 'BC' Preston, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Meghan Jones, Summer Reading Committee Chairperson