



SUMMER READING AT HES

Ahhhh...SUMMERTIME!!!! Time for relaxing, recharging your batteries, and for having FUN. As important as all of that is, however, it's still really important for kids to read over the summer! Surf, sun, sand, rest, relax, recharge...we can experience it all while reading a book! Reading just 20 minutes a day can prevent the "summer slump" that most kids experience when they begin their next school year! Attached you'll find some ideas about how to prevent that "Summer Slide" that happens all too often!

SUMMER READING FOR EVERYONE

For our Summer Reading this year, kids in Kindergarten through Sixth Grade will simply track how many books they read. That's it! Using the attached sheet/directions, students will cut out the paper chains, list the name of the book they read, and include the date the book was read or finished. If students want to color the clipart image, they can! We strongly encourage **all** students to participate. Let's see which grade/class can get the longest chains! Everyone who participates will receive a small prize, but the top two participants in each grade will get to have lunch with Mrs. Sweet!

Important Note for Parents: In an effort to become more environmentally conscious, students will NOT be automatically receiving hard copies of summer reading materials. Instead, we ask families to print their own paper chains from the attachment. *If you do not have access to a printer, you **MUST** email Mrs. Sweet (see email address below) **before June 12** in order to have hard copies of materials sent home. If you email **AFTER** June 12th, your message may not be received, and you run the risk of not receiving hard copies of materials.* For your convenience, all of the summer reading information will also be available on the Holland Elementary website!

Please direct ALL questions regarding summer reading to Mrs. Sweet, the Literacy Specialist, at sweeta@tantasqua.org. Thank you!

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general educational program and the full range of any occupational/vocational education programs offered by the district.



PREVENTING THE SUMMER SLIDE

TIPS FOR PARENTS

Studies show that children who do not read or have access to books during the summer lose up to 2 months of reading performance. Those losses accumulate during the elementary school years so that by the time a child enters middle school he/she may be 2 1/2 years behind! All children, whether from low, middle or upper income families, may fall victim to the "summer slide" if not provided with summer reading opportunities. So how do we prevent the summer slide-or even accelerate reading growth? Here are a few ideas:

- 1** Visit your local library! Help your child find "right fit" books. Right fit books are books that are of high interest to your child and are not beyond their reading level. You can use the five finger test to determine if the book is too difficult for your child. Open the book to a page with many words. Have your child begin reading the text. Hold up a finger for each word he/she does not know. If you have 4 or 5 fingers up, the text may be too difficult for your child to read independently. Feel free to still check out the book! It just may be a book you want to read with your child.
- 2** Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day. According to research, a child who reads only 1 minute a day outside of school will learn 8,000 words by the end of sixth grade where a student who reads 20 minutes outside of school will learn 1,800,000 words! That's huge! If reading isn't one of your child's top priorities, you may need to set up an incentive program.
- 3** Set a good example. When your child sees you reading and enjoying a book or a newspaper article, you are sending a message that reading is important and valuable.
- 4** Read to your child. When you read to your child, he/she hears the rhythm of language. Be sure to read with expression! Changing your voice for different characters and increasing your volume during exciting parts are only a few ways to keep children engaged.
- 5** Read with your child –explore different types of reading such as poetry. For our little ones, poetry is a great way to improve phonemic awareness skills as poetry often incorporates rhyme. For our older children, poetry is a means of improving fluency.
- 6** Read for different purposes. Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.
- 7** Play games with words. Commercial games such as Apples to Apples improves vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of hopscotch or 4 square into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words. Be sure to check out the 8 Super Summer Sight Word Activities on the Make, Take & Teach Blog.
- 8** If you have access to an iPad, there are tons of interactive books and apps that address phonics and early reading skills. There are also many websites that offer free reading related games.

Have a happy and healthy summer! Be sure to read, read and read some more! Not only can prevent the summer slide, we can accelerate reading growth.



SUMMER READING LOG
every time you finish a book
add a link to the chain!

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