



Parents and Students,

Summer is upon us and it is a time for relaxing and enjoying the freedom of a less structured day. We hope our students enjoy the warm weather this summer, and we also hope that our students are able to utilize the reading skills they have up this school year.

Summer reading is incredibly important, so that our students don't experience that dreaded "summer slide" – a decline in their reading ability. Studies show that students who are not reading much, or at all, during the summer months experience a decline in their reading abilities. This effect becomes increasingly pronounced as students get older and advance in grade level.

We are encouraging our lower school students to practice their reading for a minimum of 20 minutes per day during the summer months. This can be independent reading, reading aloud with a family member, or reading with other children and/or siblings. Reading independently plays an important role in skill development as well as group reading and group discussion.

Below is a list of local Summer Reading Program links that may be helpful and fun for the students to participate in. I can't wait to see what books the children have chosen to read over the summer and the interests that have been sparked by them!

## Summer Reading Programs

- Virginia Beach Public Library Summer Reading Challenge (June 7th-August 14th)  
<https://www.vbgov.com/government/departments/libraries/programs-classes/pages/summer-reading-challenge.aspx>
- Norfolk Public Library  
<https://www.norfolkpubliclibrary.org>
- Chesapeake Library Summer Reading Program  
<https://chesapeake.beanstack.com/reader365>
- Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program (July 1st-August 31st)  
[https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/pdf/2021/BN\\_Summer\\_Reading\\_21\\_Journal\\_English.pdf](https://dispatch.barnesandnoble.com/content/dam/ccr/pdf/2021/BN_Summer_Reading_21_Journal_English.pdf)
- Books-a-Million Summer Reading Program (mid-May - Summer)  
<https://www.booksamillion.com/summeradventure>

Thank you and have a great summer!

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