



330 Mount Laurel Road • Mount Laurel, NJ 08054 • Phone: 856-235-3387 • Fax: 856-235-1837
www.mtlaurelschools.org

Inspiring potential. Enriching futures.

June 21, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Caregivers of students **entering** 6th, 7th, and 8th grade,

I write to share important information with you. Our district is continuing its summer reading program in grades K-8. Research indicates that summer reading will help to maintain your child's reading skills, may improve his/her reading fluency, and, most importantly, has the potential to develop, in your child, a lifelong love of reading.

Attached with this correspondence is a **suggested** summer reading list of books that may help you match your child's ability and interest levels with appropriate texts. There is a great deal of variability between and among these books, even intra-grade level. In other words, books within a particular grade and/or age level may be too easy or too challenging for your child depending on the book's theme and ideas, content, font size, sentence complexity, vocabulary, and/or language and literary features. You may include titles not on this list that your child has self-selected as a part of this summer project.

The guidelines for this reading program are simple. Students are encouraged to read as much as possible over the summer months, respond to what they have read, and maintain a log of their readings.

This year, we have instituted a new approach to the **selection** of books for summer reading. During May and June, in our language arts' classrooms, we have been "buzzing" about books in an effort to encourage students to leave the district with a "book or two in-hand" for their summer reading. In other words, we want students to depart this school year with a book from our book rooms, our schools' libraries, or our individual classroom libraries. We hope this "buzzing" about books will capture the fascinating and interesting content of the books we are "advertising" and will lead to an interest and motivation for students' selecting a specific title from our collections. Please note that books that have been loaned to students for summer reading are required to be returned with them to school in September.

Our summer reading program for rising students in grades 5-7 will offer your child choice with his/her reading material and the opportunity to write in response to reading. Firstly, your child will be able to self-select the book or books that s/he wishes to read. Secondly, s/he will be asked to engage in a reader response activity as a way of sharing his/her thinking about the book(s) with his/her teacher and peer group.

Finally, students will be asked to maintain a reading log. The purpose of the reading log is to chart the title and author of the books read and the completion date of each book. When school begins again in the fall, your child's teacher will review your child's reading log and his/her responses to what was read over the summer vacation.

Please add this summer reading enterprise to your list of adventures and events you experience and enjoy during this time of year. I wish you and your family a safe and rejuvenating summer season. Thank you for participating in this project.

Best regards,

Loretta Del Collo, M.S. Ed., M.A.
Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction
Mount Laurel Schools