



ST. AMELIA SCHOOL
A National School of Excellence
2999 Eggert Road
Tonawanda, New York 14150-7199



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Summer 2017

Dear Parent:

This summer the staff and faculty of St. Amelia School have made a change to our Summer Reading Program. It is simply to have your child read every day (20 minutes suggested). We are attaching a suggested summer reading list to help guide you. The main goal is for your child to read and avoid the summer slide. See what interests your child has and have them read - - *Sports Illustrated*, *Highlights Magazine*, newspapers, etc. **Just Read!** Students are asked to log the number of pages or minutes they read every day. Parents, please sign the form at the end of summer and have your child return it to school the first week of September for our prize program!

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 2½ 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:

- **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.
- **Be sure your child reads at least 20 minutes a day.** According to research, a child who reads only one 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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **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.
- **Read for different purposes.** Reading directions for a recipe or directions for assembling a toy are fun ways of incorporating reading into everyday activities.
- **Play games with words.** Commercial games such as *Apples to Apples* improve vocabulary. You can easily turn a game of *hopsotch* or *4 square* into a game that incorporates learning letters or sight words.
- 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.

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

Sincerely,

James Mulé
Principal



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Summer READING LOG for: _____

Grade in September 2017: _____

Date	Title	Pages Read / Minutes

➤ Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return to your child's teacher by September 8, 2017.



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SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST for 2017 – 2018 School Year

Titles are listed in an increasing order of difficulty but all within grade level expectations. Please choose the books that are appropriate for your child and their level of reading.

Reading Log: Students are asked to log the number of pages or minutes they read every day on the Reading Log provided and also posted on our website at www.stameliaschool.org.

Parents, please sign the form at the end of summer and return it to school with your child the first week of September for our prize program!

Reading Response Sheets: Forms are available on our website and may be completed and returned in September. This activity is an **optional** activity for those who wish to have a written report form.

➤ **Grade 7 & 8** (incoming)

Stargirl- Spinelli
If a Tree Falls at Lunch Period / Choidenko
Tex / Hinton
Rumble Fish / Hinton
That Was Then, This is Now / Hinton
Esperanza Rising / Ryan
The Pearl / Steinbeck
The Diary of a Young Girl / Frank
The Boy in the Striped Pajamas / Boyne
Of Mice and Men / Steinbeck
Number the Stars / Lowry
The Giver / Lowry
Gathering Blue / Lowry
Wonder / Placito
Animal Farm / Orwell
Lord of the Flies / Golding
The Lightning Thief / Riordan
Tuesdays with Morrie / Albom
Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children / Riggs

➤ **Grade 6** (incoming)

Rules / Lord
Lily's Crossing / Giff
The Orphan of Ellis Island / Woodruff
Tangerine / Bloor
The View from Saturday / Konigsburg
Pictures of Hollis Woods / Giff
Holes / Sachar
Schooled / Korman
Percy Jackson & the Olympians series / Riordan
A Long Walk to Water / Park
A Wrinkle in Time / L'Engle

➤ **Grade 5** (incoming)

FICTION:

Extra Credit / Clements, Andrew
Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes / Coerr
Hatchet / Paulsen
Sixth Grade Secrets / Sachar
Baby / MacLachlan
Chronicles of Narnia / Lewis

NON-FICTION:

Biography of your choice

➤ **Grade 4** (incoming)

FICTION:

Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing / Blume
The Mouse and the Motorcycle / Cleary
Babysitters Club series / Martin
Fantastic Mr. Fox / Dahl
Goosebumps series / Stine
Charlotte's Web / White
Stuart Little / White
I Survived series / Tarshis
Matilda / Dahl
The Borrowers / Norton
Diary of a Wimpy Kid series / Kinney
BFG / Dah

NON-FICTION:

Who Was...? series
- Various authors

SUGGESTED SUMMER READING LIST for 2017 – 2018 School Year

<p>➤ <u>Grade 3</u> (incoming)</p> <p>FICTION:</p> <p><i>Flat Stanley</i> / Brown <i>Amelia Bedelia</i> series / Parish <i>Cam Jansen</i> Series / Adler <i>Amber Brown</i> series / Danziger <i>Horrible Harry</i> / Lee <i>Babysitters Club Little Sister</i> series / Martin <i>Jake Drake</i> series / Clements <i>Magic Tree House</i> series / Osborne <i>A-Z Mystery</i> series / Roy</p> <p>NON-FICTION:</p> <p><i>Incredible Sharks</i> / Simon <i>Dinosaurs</i> / Gibbons <i>From Seed to Plant</i> / Gibbons <i>Sharks</i> / Gibbons, Gail <i>Any Magic Tree House Fact Tracker</i> / Osborne <i>George Washington's Teeth</i> / Camora <i>If You Decide to Go to the Moon</i> / McNulty <i>Tell Me Tree: All About Trees for Kids</i> / Gibbons <i>The Moon Book</i> / Gibbons <i>Deserts</i> / Gibbons <i>The Man Who Walked Between the Towers</i> / Gerstein</p>	<p>➤ <u>Kindergarten</u> (incoming)</p> <p>FICTION:</p> <p>Any Eric Carle book Any Clifford Book Any Dr. Seuss Book Any Berenstain Bears Book Any Kevin Henkes Book Any Mo Willems Book</p> <p>NON-FICTION:</p> <p><i>Autumn Leaves</i> / Robbins <i>Color</i> / Heller <i>Starting Cooking</i> / Harvey <i>From Seed to Plant</i> / Gibbons <i>Monarch Butterfly</i> / Gibbons <i>How Many Baby Pandas?</i> / Markle <i>Frogs</i> / Gibbons <i>Your Five Senses</i> / Broekel</p>
<p>➤ <u>Grade 2</u> (incoming)</p> <p>FICTION:</p> <p><i>Henry and Mudge</i> series / Rylant <i>Diary of a Spider</i> / Cronin</p> <p>NON-FICTION:</p> <p><i>Magic School Bus</i> series / Cole</p>	<p>➤ <u>Pre-Kindergarten – 4 year old</u> (incoming)</p> <p><i>Books from the following authors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Norman Bridwell - Dr. Seuss - H.A. Rey - Rosemary Wells - Mo Willems
<p>➤ <u>Grade 1</u> (incoming)</p> <p>FICTION:</p> <p><i>Biscuit</i> series / Capucilli <i>Elephant & Piggie</i> series / Willems <i>Little Critter</i> series / Mayer <i>Poppleton</i> / Rylant <i>Berenstain Bears</i> series / Berenstain <i>Frog & Toad</i> series / Lobel</p> <p>NON-FICTION:</p> <p><i>Amazing Bats</i> / Simon <i>Any non-fiction books by Gail Gibbons</i> <i>Really Big Cats</i> / Fowler <i>What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?</i> / Jenkins <i>About the Ocean</i> / McKay <i>Did Dinosaurs Have Feathers?</i> / Zoehfeld <i>Plant Packages</i> / Blackaby <i>Spinning Spiders</i> / Berger</p>	<p>➤ <u>Pre-Kindergarten – 3 year old</u> (incoming)</p> <p><i>Books from the following authors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eric Carle - Lucy Cousins - Dr. Seuss - Leo Leonni - Bill Martin, Jr. - Mercer Mayer - Mo Willems