



June 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We wrap up the school year with an exceptionally strong sense of pride in our students, who responded to remote, hybrid and in-person learning with flexibility, resilience and grit. It has been an unconventional year to say the least!

Summer is around the corner and it is a great time to unwind and recharge, explore new areas of growth, and most of all have fun. It's a much needed and welcome pause in our students routines. Summer need not, however, be a period of regression in acquired academic skills. Maintaining acquired skills is a goal for all our students during summer break. One critical skill to emphasize is reading. Reading is like playing a sport or practicing an instrument – the more you practice, the better you will be. Research shows that unless students read regularly during school break, they can fall substantially behind in reading achievement. Daily reading can be a very profitable activity for your child this summer.

A few things to keep in mind:

- It is critical that student select a book that is “just right”. Preview the book by reading the first page or two with your child to determine if it's a suitable book or not:
 - Have your child read aloud one page.
 - Hold up one finger for each tricky word.

- Try another page.
 - If 5 fingers are raised for any page - this book is for another time!
- Let your child select the book – motivation to read plays heavily into promoting reading and increasing ability to comprehend.
 - Encourage reading easy books or rereading favorite books. This is an excellent opportunity to practice fluency skills.
 - Make “Family Read-Aloud” a part of your daily routine. Reading aloud to children, regardless of their age, has many benefits. It builds a love of words, stories and books, develops vocabulary and interests, contributes to background knowledge needed for reading comprehension, and helps to lengthen attention span. Read aloud to your child from books that are mutually enjoyable, but that are too challenging for your child to read on their own. 15-20 minutes a day is sufficient, but consistency is important.
 - Books on tape are a good option for high interest books that may be too challenging for independent reading.
 - Ask your child’s tutor or Language teacher for your child’s Lexile number and use the Lexile range to find material/books that will provide the right level of challenge for your student's ability and goals. More information on **Lexile** range can be found in the document labeled: “**Finding The Just Right Book!**”
 - Play games that build Reaction Time Skills (Accuracy and Efficiency) that directly correlate with Reading Fluency. Playing anyone of these games before a reading activity is excellent practice.

Suggestions For Reaction Time Games:

- Spot it
- Blink
- Rhyming Bingo
- Slap Jack
- Crazy As

Grade Specific Reading Assignments

There are some grade specific reading assignments for returning students. Again our goal is to keep reading fun. If these requirements prove too stressful for your child, please read aloud the titles your child selects and/or provide whatever support you deem necessary. We encourage children to read independently, but please help them with any difficult words so that summer reading is both rewarding and fun.

Entering 2nd Grade:

Read 4 titles (fiction or nonfiction) of student's choice. Complete a book cover or illustration for at least one book.

Entering 3rd Grade:

Read 4 titles (fiction or nonfiction) of student's choice. Complete a book cover or illustration for at least one book.

Entering 4th Grade:

Use "Summer Reading Bingo" board to track your reading. You may select at least one sharing tool from the options listed under the "Summer Reading Bingo" board.

Entering 5th Grade: Read Assigned Summer Book: *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate. Complete book report for the assigned book using the template provided on the Carroll website

Happy Summer Reading!

Irum Haque

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