

Dear Mercymount Families,

Research spanning 100 years has proven that students lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer- a phenomenon known as “the summer slide.” Here are some facts about this achievement gap:

- When no work is done over the summer, it can take up to **2 months** from the first day of school for students’ brain development to get back on track.
- Teachers spend an average of **4-6 weeks reteaching** material that students have lost during the summer.
- Failing to read over the summer results in an academic loss equivalent to **2.6 months** of reading skills. Similar statistics apply to math as well.
- Third graders who can’t read on grade level are **4 times less likely to graduate** by age 18 when compared with proficient readers.
- A study conducted at Harvard’s Center for Evaluation found that reading **4 or 5 books** over the summer months had an impact on fall reading achievement comparable to attending summer school.
- **2-3 hours per week (20 minutes a day)** is all children need during the summer to prevent summer learning loss.

[\(https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics/\)](https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics/)

To help prevent “the summer slide” and to aid your child’s transition into the new school year, we appreciate your support with the following summer assignments. Thank you for your partnership in learning!

Entering Grade...	Reading and Language Arts		Math
K	(Enter K-1) Read a book of your choice for 20 minutes for as many days as you can this summer. Read with a parent or read by yourself. If you can’t read the words by yourself, read the pictures.		(Entering K) Practice counting, recognizing, and writing your numbers through 20.
1	Use the attached checklist to try reading in different ways. Turn in the checklist with a parent signature during the first week of school and be ready to tell your teacher about an interesting reading experience you had over the summer.		(Entering 1) Practice counting by 1’s, 5’s, and 10’s, recognizing, and writing your numbers through 120.
2	(Entering 2) Students have received a reading packet to complete and return on the first week of school.		(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school.
3	Grades 3 and 4 will be voting for this year’s Rhode Island Children’s Book Award. To qualify to vote, you must read at least 3 titles from the attached list. All students should be prepared to complete an assessment (test or project) of the teacher’s choosing during the first weeks of school.	(Entering 3) 1. <u>Required Read</u> : <i>Third Grade Angels</i> by Jerry Spinelli 2. <u>Free Choice</u> : Read 1 book of your choice from the attached list.	All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.
4		(Entering 4) 1. <u>Required Read</u> : Read <i>Simon B’ Rhymin</i> by Dwayne Reed. 2. <u>Picture Book</u> : Read 1 picture book from the attached list. 3. <u>Free Choice</u> : Read 1 book of your choice from the attached list.	

5	<p>Reading <u>Required read:</u> <i>Wildfire</i> by Rodman Philbrick (RI Children’s Book Award Winner 2019) <u>Free Choice Chapter-Book Read:</u> Read one chapter-book of your choice, minimum 200 pages <u>Picture Book with Moral:</u> Read one picture book from the RI Book Award List, with a moral to the story.</p> <p>All students should be prepared to complete an assessment (test or project) of the teacher’s choosing during the first weeks of school.</p> <p>Grammar Complete the attached grammar practice packet. Due on the first day of school and will be assessed with an accompanying test during the week.</p>	<p>(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school. All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.</p>	
6	<p>Literature All students should be prepared to complete discussion questions and have an assessment on the book assigned by Mrs. Antone. In addition, they should complete ONE of the attached project choices for the book assigned by Mr. Cotnoir. Projects will be collected and presented during the first week of school.</p>	<p>(Entering 6)</p> <p>Mrs. Antone - <i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft</p> <p>Mr. Cotnoir - <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician’s Nephew</i> by C. S. Lewis</p>	<p>(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school. All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.</p>
7	<p>Grammar All students should also complete the attached grammar packet. It will be collected during the first week of school.</p>	<p>(Entering 7)</p> <p>Mrs. Antone - <i>The People of Sparks</i> by Jeanne DuPrau</p> <p>Mr. Cotnoir - <i>Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> by C.S. Lewis</p>	
8		<p>(Entering 8)</p> <p><i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck</p> <p>Mr. Cotnoir - <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> by C. S. Lewis</p>	



2023 Rhode Island Children's Book Award Nominees

The Adventure Is Now by *Jess Redman*

(Novel) A fun-filled, action-packed middle grade novel about a boy who learns about protecting the environment, finding real friends, and living in the now while spending the summer on a remote island.

Allergic by *Megan Wagner Lloyd*

(Graphic Novel) A coming-of-age middle-grade graphic novel featuring a girl with severe allergies who just wants to find the perfect pet!

Bartali's Bicycle: The True Story of Gino Bartali, Italy's Secret Hero by *Megan Hoyt*

(Picture Book) This 2021 National Jewish Book Award finalist brings to light the inspiring, true story of Gino Bartali, a beloved Italian cyclist and secret champion in the fight for Jewish lives during World War II.

Bea is for Blended by *Lindsey Stoddard*

(Novel) Girl power scores a goal in this uplifting story of teamwork, new beginnings, and coming together to fight for what's right.

Chunky by *Yehudi Mercado*

(Graphic Novel) In this full-color middle grade graphic memoir, Yehudi Mercado draws inspiration from his childhood struggle with his weight while finding friendship with his imaginary mascot, Chunky, as he navigates growing up in a working class Mexican-Jewish family.

Katie the Catsitter by *Colleen AF Venable*

(Graphic Novel) Introducing an irresistible new middle-grade graphic novel series about growing up, friendship, heroes, and cats (lots of cats!) When Katie gets a job catsitting for her mysterious upstairs neighbor, life gets interesting.

The Lion of Mars by *Jennifer L. Holm*

(Novel) Life on Mars is pretty standard.... until a mysterious virus hits. Bell has spent his whole life--all eleven years of it--on Mars. When a virus breaks out and the grown-ups all fall ill, Bell and the other children are the only ones who can help.

Maya and the Robot by *Eve Ewing*

(Novel) An illustrated middle grade novel about a forgotten homemade robot who comes to life just when aspiring fifth-grade scientist Maya needs a friend -- and a science fair project.

(Content Warning: supporting character with they/them pronouns)

The People's Painter: How Ben Shahn Fought for Justice with Art by *Cynthia Levinson*

(Picture Book) A lyrically told, exquisitely illustrated biography of influential Jewish artist and activist Ben Shahn

Saving American Beach: The Biography of African American Environmentalist Mavynee Betsch by *Heidi Tyline King*

(Picture Book) This heartfelt picture book biography tells the story of MaVynee Betsch, an African American opera singer turned environmentalist and the legacy she preserved.

Saving Sorya: Chang and the Sun Bear by *Trang Nguyen*

(Picture Book/Graphic Novel) A middle grade graphic novel adventure based on a true story, in which a young conservationist overcomes the odds to save and return a sun bear to its natural habitat.

Shark Summer by *Ira Marcks*

(Graphic Novel) When a Hollywood film crew arrives on Martha's Vineyard with a mechanical shark and a youth film contest boasting a huge cash prize, disgraced pitcher Gayle "Blue Streak" Briar sees a chance to turn a bad season into the best summer ever.

She Was the First!: The Trailblazing Life of Shirley Chisholm by *Katheryn Russell-Brown*

(Picture Book) A timely, inspiring picture book biography of the dynamic twentieth-century educator, activist, and politician Shirley Chisholm.

Simon B' Rhymin by *Dwayne Reed*

(Novel) A humorous and heartwarming bounce-to-the-beat underdog story about a young rapper whose rhymes help bring his community together, from America's favorite rapping teacher.

Sona Sharma Very Best Big Sister by *Chitra Soundar*

(Early Chapter Book) Can Sona be the best big sister ever when she's not sure she even wants a baby sister or brother? Brimming with warmth and charm, this story set in India will resonate with new older siblings everywhere.

Unspeakable: The Tulsa Race Massacre by *Carole Boston Weatherford*

(Picture Book) A powerful look at the Tulsa Race Massacre, one of the worst incidents of racial violence in our nation's history.

Willodeen by *Katherine Applegate*

(Novel) A singular middle-grade novel about a girl who risks everything to help a handmade creature who comes to life.

