



Required Summer Reading

May 2026

Dear Families,

With the school year drawing to a close, we're already looking forward to supporting your child's continued growth over the summer! Research consistently highlights the importance of keeping minds active to prevent learning loss. To help you with this, we've prepared an informative video presentation filled with practical tips and ideas for engaging your child in meaningful learning experiences throughout the summer months. This video will be shared with you prior to our end-of-year conferences, providing an opportunity for us to discuss these strategies together.

In addition, we've carefully curated a selection of summer reading books designed to spark curiosity and build essential background knowledge. At Swift, we believe in fostering a rich learning environment that integrates grade-level content and vocabulary across all disciplines, including the arts. These books connect directly to the exciting topics your child will delve into next year, providing a valuable foundation. We recognize that some students may require assistance with these texts, and we encourage you to support them as needed.

Here are some strategies and tools you may find helpful:

- ★ *Adults Preview First:* An adult familiarizes themselves with the book's content and vocabulary.
- ★ *Spark Curiosity:* The adult introduces the book, and the student shares what they notice and wonder about it, building interest.
- ★ *Shared Reading:* The adult and child read the book together. Students aren't expected to read independently. Use read-aloud or assistive technology.
- ★ *Discussions:* Talk about the book as you read. Connect it to your child's knowledge and ask questions to check comprehension and introduce new vocabulary.
- ★ *Real-World Learning:* To reinforce what they've learned, visit libraries, museums, or aquariums. Encourage creative expression through drawing, painting, models, timelines, and more.

We hope this required summer reading provides a fun and enriching way to prepare your child for the upcoming school year! The first STEAM unit will be based on the summer reading. *Please make sure your child reads the book before returning to school.*

Assigned books are as follows:

- Rising K/1st** - Bats at the Library, by Brian Lies (Available through Learning Ally)
- Rising 2nd** - Frog and Toad All Year, by Arnold Lobel (Available through Learning Ally)
- Rising 3rd** - Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist, by Jess Keating
- Rising 4th** - Who Was Clara Barton?, by Stephanie Spinner (Available through Learning Ally)
- Rising 5th** - Niagara Falls, Or Does It?, by Henry Winkler (Available through Learning Ally)

I hope you enjoy learning together. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions. Have a fun-filled, relaxing summer.

Best,

Roni Battaglia

Lower Division Director