



SUMMER READING: RISING KINDERGARTEN THROUGH RISING FIFTH GRADE **(Current VPK through Fourth Grade Students)**

Dear parents,

Summer is almost here, and that means time for summer reading! While summer is a time to relax and play, it is important that our students keep their literacy skills sharp to be ready for the upcoming school year. **This is important for our readers and pre-readers alike!** I want to share some facts with you:

- The three months of the summer are referred to as the “summer slide,” when up to three months of skills learned in the previous school year can be lost. This loss is cumulative, so by the time a child graduates from high school, they could be up to three years behind in skills.
- An easy way to combat this summer slide is through reading. Not reading for a test score or project, but simply for fun.
- Any kind of reading material counts: books, magazines, cookbooks, comic books (which have surprisingly high vocabulary levels), video game manuals...anything!
- Allowing a child to choose what they read is very important.
- 44-84 hours of reading during the summer is seen as the most effective amount of time in combatting the summer slide. This equates to 30-60 minutes of reading per day.
- Being read to by a parent counts as reading
- Audio books count, too!

In light of what the research shows, and to ensure that each of our students is effectively prepared for next school year, **we want your child to read this summer. Parents of pre-readers, we want you to read to your child.** Our goal for each of our students is to **read between 30 and 60 minutes per day.** This time should be a fun time, with **no record-keeping involved.** There are no book lists, as we want our students to choose what they will read. There are no projects, as we want our students to enjoy reading for reading’s sake. We cannot stress enough how important this is for the success of all of our students. Parents, the easiest and most effective thing that you can do with your child this summer is to read.

Below are some resources you can explore for ideas to spice up your child's summer reading:

1. **Book Adventure** (www.bookadventure.com) – This is a free reading website similar to Accelerated Reader. Students can read books or find recommendations on the website, read the books and take a test on them. Students earn points for answering test questions correctly and can use those points to purchase prizes on the site. The site is great, but the prizes offered are fairly limited and may not appeal to your child. It does offer an option for parents to set up their own reward system.
2. **myON** (www.readonmyon.com, or www.myon.com) We have a great new resource for our families that I would like to introduce as an additional summer reading resource, **but that can also be used throughout the year.** It is a reading program called myON. It is a free digital library that personalizes reading experiences for our students. These free digital e-books are available through the myON platform (www.readonmyon.com) **for all students.** Books are provided through Capstone Publishing and several other publishers, with many of the books being nonfiction. We have over 5,000 titles available through the platform. Our K-8 students have each been given an account and can use this program at school and at home. Apps are available for Apple and Android products, as well as the Kindle. **Unlike Accelerated Reader, we do not have content control over the books available,** so please use discretion on the site.
We do not currently have login information for our ELC students, but **this is available for our ELC students, as well.** If you are interested in creating an account for your preschooler, please contact us at media@bsbacademy.com.
3. **Hillsborough County Public Library** (www.hcplc.org) The public library is a fun, free place to find a lot of great books to read during the summer. They are also a great place to find summer activities to keep your students engaged and learning throughout the summer.
4. **Reading For Fun Enrichment Library (Rising first grade, only)** To keep our rising first grade students' reading skills sharp over the summer, Abeka offers a set of 54 high-interest books, 12-16 pages in length that are perfect for our young readers. This set is available for purchase on the Abeka website (www.abeka.com) for \$55.55.
5. **Bob Books** (www.bobbooks.com) (**Rising kindergarten and first grade**) This is a great series of books, developed originally by a kindergarten teacher for her class. Books are available for students starting to read, emerging readers and developing readers. These books can be purchased as paper copies or e-books and are available on the Bob Book website or through other online retailers such as Amazon.
6. **Start with a Book** (www.startwithabook.org) this program was developed by Reading Rockets (www.readingrocket.org) and is a website that offers parents, caregivers and educators lots of engaging ideas for getting kids hooked on reading, exploring and

learning, to ward off the learning loss that many children experience over the summer. Along with a **How-to guide** to get parents started using the ideas, it also contains:

- Twenty-four [kid-friendly themes](#) featuring specific ideas for using books and related downloadable activities to build closer relationships with children and to get them thinking, talking, creating and exploring.
- Practical suggestions for using reading time to [build a child's reading fluency](#) — the ability to read a book or other text correctly, quickly, and with expression — with an opportunity to measure progress over the course of the summer.
- A highlighted list of [places to go and things to do in Washington DC](#) and ideas for connecting reading with other summer activities.
- [Tips for parents](#) in English, Spanish, and nine other languages to support English language learners.
- A sign-up for [weekly text messages](#) — delivered right to your mobile phone — in English or Spanish.

We hope you find these options helpful in your summer planning. Have a great summer and Happy Reading!

Jennifer Boucher and Susan Richards