



SANDHILLS SCHOOL

Elementary Summer Reading 2026

Reading builds fluency, comprehension, vocabulary, knowledge, creativity, imagination, and improves a student's overall academic success. Because of this, regular reading is an important part of everyday life and all students are encouraged to read for approximately 20 to 30 minutes daily.

Students may read books silently, aloud, with audio while following along in the book, or on an electronic device. You can find many recommended titles on Audible, Apple Books, Hoopla and other free and paid platforms.

For students that struggle with sitting for 20 minutes, break reading time into two sittings (10-15 minutes in the morning and 10-15 minutes before bed). Elementary students love to be read to! Take turns reading pages in a book they are enjoying. Read-alouds are a great way to expose them to stories that are age-appropriate, but beyond their reading level.

Many libraries offer free summer reading programs, story times and other activities for ages preschool through adult. We are excited to share that Richland County Library branches offer **decodable readers!** The most extensive collection is located in the Education Studio of the Main Library at 1431 Assembly Street in Columbia, but readers are available in all branches.

For elementary students, the best book is one that they enjoy! Help your child pick books about things they like (animals, sports, history, a specific activity). We find that many students enjoy reading books that are part of a series. Some popular early chapter book series include:

Henry & Mudge

Zoey & Sassafras

Ghost Patrol

Mercy Watson

Nate the Great

Swindle Series

My Weird School

Hank Zipzer & Here's Hank Series

Field Trip Mysteries

Narwhal and Jelly (graphic novel series)

I Survived (Historical fiction)

Whole Phonics Books (decodable readers)

High Noon Books (decodable chapter books)



Parents and students are encouraged to read reviews on Common Sense Media, Good Reads, or other sources to choose books that will be most appropriate and enjoyable for their student.