



Middletown Township Public School
Summer Reading Program
For Students Entering 1st through 5th Grade
Summer 2025



Please check the website for grade level Reading Menus.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to celebrate the beginning of summer as a time to rest, relax and read! Not only is summer reading critical for students to maintain the reading skills they worked so hard all year to acquire, but reading can also be a fun way to spend time during the hot summer days. We support summer reading by providing our students with **Reading Menus** that offer suggestions for summer reading activities. We hope that your children will look forward to reading this summer and take the opportunity to engage in many rich and rewarding activities that allow them to discover books they will genuinely enjoy.

The philosophy underlying our summer reading program supports *best practices* in literacy instruction.

- Research tells us that students must read during the summer to *maintain* sharp reading skills. In the fall, a student's lack of reading during the summer months, combined with the fact that many of their new classmates *did* read during the summer, may result in a reading ability gap that could potentially widen each year, making it difficult for students to keep up with grade-level reading expectations.
- Research also tells us that we should encourage students to *choose* from a wide variety of literature that will allow them to select books that appeal to their individual interests. We want your children to look forward to the *luxury of time* that summer will provide and enable them to experience the joy of reading books they will love. We hope our students will anticipate the publishing of a new book by a favorite author with the same enthusiasm they show when they await the release of a new movie or video game!
- Instead of a written assignment based upon summer reading, we ask that students entering grades 1-5 simply set goals for themselves in order to hold themselves accountable for their reading. Some examples for setting these goals are:
 - I will read for ____ minutes every day.
 - I will read ____ books this summer.
 - I will read the ____ series.
 - I will read ____ books about koalas to learn more about them.

Outlining a clear plan can help make these goals more achievable. Some examples include:

- I will read for 20 minutes every day when I wake up.
- I will read ____, ____, and ____ at the pool in August.
- I will read the ____ series on weekdays right before dinner.
- As an added bonus, **Rutgers University** has teamed up with us to provide an opportunity to earn tickets to a fall Rutgers football game by reading over the summer. Please click [here](#) for more information on the RU Reading program.

We encourage parents and guardians of students entering 1st-5th grade to actively participate in the book selection process. We want you to know that **with parent/guardian approval, your children may select books that are not included in the Reading Menus.** Some schools may hold book fairs that will offer many selections for summer reading. In addition to purchasing books at book fairs or from Barnes & Noble, we also encourage students to borrow books from the **Middletown Township Public Library**. Families may also consider trading, swapping, or borrowing books from friends or relatives. We hope that by including a variety of titles and authors, eliminating a traditional written assignment, and inspiring parents to be involved in selecting and approving high-interest books, our students will read many books this summer. The door is open for you and your child to choose from fiction, non-fiction, informational, and how-to books. Texts may be the traditional print or eBook versions. Planning fun ways to celebrate reading can motivate and excite your child even further. Click [here](#) for a list of ideas. Have fun, read to each other, and talk about books during dinner or while riding in the car. Help your child see the summer as a time when they can dive into books that feed their imagination and special interests.

We wish you a wonderful summer!

The Middletown School District Summer Reading Committee