



GOAL: The goal of the school district's summer reading program is to foster a lifelong reading habit among students, while also encouraging them to continue to grow academically. Just like athletes work their muscles to grow and improve, students should work their brains.

TASK: Read material of your choice and keep a reading log of dates, times, and summaries. Submit your reading log to the media center or English teacher during the first week of the school year.

WHY READ?

- Reading is important because it develops the mind, leads us to discover new things, and helps to develop the imagination.
- Understanding the written word is one way the mind grows in its ability.
- Reading is fundamental in today's society.
- Reading is a vital skill in finding a new job. Many well-paying jobs require reading as a part of job performance. Reading is important because words -- spoken and written -- are the building blocks of life.

SUMMER READING PROGRAM DETAILS:

1. Read a **minimum of one hour each week**, for a total of **10 hours** for the summer. Students may choose to read *anything!* This includes novels, magazines, ebooks, newspapers, and other nonfiction selections -- this does not include social media.
2. Build reading stamina! Limit distractions while you read so that you can ask questions, make connections, visualize, and synthesize the information over an extended time.
3. Track your reading! As you read, complete the attached reading log. Bring your reading log with you the first week of school and submit it to your English teacher or the school librarian. Reading logs are available in paper and digital formats.

READING CELEBRATION

Each student who participates in the summer reading program by completing and submitting a reading log will earn rewards during the first few weeks of school. Rewards may include, but are not limited to: ice cream treats, tickets to school sporting events, school swag, free books, and a field trip to the 2024 SC Read-In.

Reward availability may vary by school.

NEED BOOK SUGGESTIONS?

- South Carolina Young Adult Book Award Nominees <https://www.scasl.net/young-adult-book-award>
- YALSA Book Finder <http://booklists.ypsa.net/>
- TeachingBooks.net <https://school.teachingbooks.net/>
- Ask your English teacher or librarian!

ENROLLED IN AN HONORS ENGLISH COURSE?

We ask that all honors students choose from the following texts, which are slightly more rigorous and will help students prepare for the assigned reading during the school year.

Honors English 1

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Animal Farm by George Orwell
Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo*
The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank⁺

Honors English 3

The Pearl by John Steinbeck
The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien
Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng*
How the Word was Passed by Clint Smith⁺

Honors English 2

A Separate Peace by John Knowles
A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris*
Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom⁺

Honors English 4

Watership Down by Richard Adams
Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
The Book of Lost Names by Kristin Hamel*
The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch⁺

Recommended Poetry Anthologies

Counting Descent by Clint Smith*
Call Us What We Carry by Amanda Gorman*
The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson edited by Thomas Johnson
Leaves of Grass by Walt Whitman

* indicates a contemporary author, regardless of subject matter

⁺ indicates a nonfiction text

Good literature, no matter when it was written, is both powerful and thought-provoking. Parents and students should discuss book choices together to find the appropriate titles.

Please see your English teacher, the school librarian, or the front desk for a copy of the summer reading log. You may also access the log electronically here or on the newberryhs.org website.

