

June 2026

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Another school year is coming to an end! As summer approaches, I would like to encourage you to keep reading high on your child's list of summer activities. Just like other skills your children are learning such as how to hit a baseball or play the piano, reading needs to be practiced every day to maintain and strengthen skills.



Extensive research shows the connection between academic success and the time children invest in reading outside of school. This connection is primarily attributed to the role of reading in expanding vocabulary and enhancing background knowledge. In an effort to combat the phenomenon known as "summer slide" or summer reading loss, which occurs when children read less during the summer break, I ask you to encourage your children to maintain their reading habits.

Here are some tips to keep reading a priority over the summer:

- Ensure your children engage in daily reading as a part of their routine.
- Assist children in discovering books that support their interests, as finding the right genre or author can spark a love for reading.
- Utilize resources like the Island Trees Public Library.
- Introduce your children to a book series.
- Encourage the reading of diverse genres such as magazines, graphic novels and nonfiction.
- Engage in conversations about their reading.
- Set a positive example for your children by demonstrating a commitment to daily reading.

Remember, being an avid reader is the surest path to academic success! Below you will find links to recommended books as well as links to enrichment websites.

If you are unable to obtain a book for your child, please reach out to the ITMMS main office at (516) 520-2157 to arrange an appointment to borrow a book from us.

Have a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Friedman

English Chairperson Grades 5-8

Suggested titles by grade level:

Grades 3-5

<https://www.ala.org/sites/default/files/alsc/content/compubs/booklists/summer/ALSC2023-summer-reading-3-5.pdf>

Scholastic Book Wizard - Enter your grade and interest and books will be recommended for you!

<https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/>

English Enrichment pages on the IT website.

Please consider checking out some of the links provided!

<https://sites.google.com/islandtrees.net/enrichmentresources/ela>