

Dear Parents,

It is a well-known fact that students lose some of their academic skills over the summer. Reading is a great way to maintain these skills and reduce the effects of this “summer slide”, therefore, we are encouraging students to engage in summer reading to help bolster their academics.

There is a summer reading program for rising 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Each student is required to read the equivalent of three books over the summer and submit book reports when they return to school in the fall. Each book should be:

- No less than 150 pages (unless a special exemption is acquired).
- 300 pages or more counts as 2 books.
- Over 450 pages qualifies as fulfilling the 3-book requirement.

Please do not read the following books as they are a part of our literature program: ***Maniac Magee, Detectives in Togas, Jackson Whole Wyoming, The House Without a Christmas Tree, Egypt Game, or The Lost Years of Merlin.***

All students have been tested in the Fountas and Pinnell System. Research has shown that students will improve their overall reading ability if they are reading books with a 98% to 100% accuracy in decoding words and are able to understand the text that they are reading.

Students are expected to read books at their tested reading level or a level below. If you do not know your child’s independent reading level, please reach out to me.

#### **How to match the book reading level to the student reading level**

Most of our library books have a reading level identified and paced on the spine of the book. If you are looking for a book that is not in our library, you should perform a google search using the following words: “What is the reading level of \_\_\_\_\_?”. You may see an independent reading level and a guided reading level. The levels we are looking for are the *independent reading level*. If you do not see a reading level, have your child read a few pages to you. Watch to make sure they are not omitting, substituting, or reading words incorrectly.

The idea is to have a successful reading experience that the student will enjoy. When your child has completed the book, please have them write a book report. The template has been attached to this email. The form will need to be signed by a parent or guardian before being submitted.

The Prince George’s county library system has a summer reading program. Your child may want to sign up for the program and earn fun prizes.

Enjoy your summer!

Jordan Brunne