

Dear Parents,

This year was another tough one but we survived COVID-19 learning!

Our annual summer reading campaign takes place every year and has become a HNES tradition. This program should be an enjoyable experience for all students and their families and is meant to promote a love of literature. Research has proven that reading during the summer improves reading and protects reading gains made during the school year. All students who participate and turn in a personal reading log signed by a parent will be recognized in chapel with a Summer Reading Certificate after we return to school in August. While we hope that the certificates will motivate the students, we know that the real rewards will be much more far-reaching.

We are asking rising kindergarteners and first graders to read at least two books a week. Rising second graders should try to read at least ten books including some beginning chapter books on their lexile level. Older elementary grades (3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>) should read at least five age-appropriate books of varied genres including novels, biographies, nonfiction, magazines, story collections, or graphic novels. Pre-Kindergarten students should browse one picture book a week or ten for the entire summer.

In order to encourage student interest and participation, books should be selected based on age-appropriateness and interest level. All students have spent the past year learning to select good literature based on these principles and should be encouraged to continue practicing this skill. Since there is no specific reading list, we suggest using the Sunshine State Young Reader's program ([www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra](http://www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra)) for appropriate books. We currently participate in the SSYRA program in the library and these books are great suggestions for new upcoming award-winning literature as well. I have attached the lists broken out depending on grade level and encourage all students to start reading the SSYRA books over the summer. The public library is also a great local resource and has a lot of current titles as well as classics.

The success of this program is dependent on your parental participation as well as the students. Please support and encourage our young readers this summer and help them acquire good books. I truly appreciate the extra efforts parents put forth to support everything we do at HNES. It is inspiring to be working together to provide the best possible education for our children. I can't wait to hear about all the good literature the children discover over the summer!

Sincerely,

Lauren Presser

Media Specialist