

Hello Parents and Guardians of our North Shore High School Students,

We invite you to join us in encouraging your children to read over the summer. The importance of carving out reading time at home during the summer cannot be overstated. Children who read the most, both inside and outside of school, are the best readers, of course, but we find that they are also the best writers, the best spellers, that they possess the best vocabulary, and that they perform better in content-heavy areas like science and social studies. Clearly, reading is important, and the students who read the most possess the highest academic potential.

Another important reason to read during the summer is that it helps students continue to hold onto the skills they have achieved during the academic year. It is a common occurrence that students who do not read during the summer fall behind in their reading levels. Current research reveals that students need to read the equivalent of 40 books a year to maintain a reading level that matches their grade level.

Reading books that are “just right” for your son or daughter will help them retain their reading skills. A “just right” book is a book that is written at a person’s independent reading level and can be read without any assistance. The reader should feel extremely comfortable and fluent when reading. Additionally, readers can count a book of 100 pages as two or three books, depending on the size of the font. When you count the number of books in this way, 40 books a year should sound like a reachable goal.

We know that in spite of our best efforts, some of our children are not avid readers. The only people who can carve out reading time for our children at home are you, their parents and guardians. Twenty to thirty minutes of reading a night will add up to dozens of books being read. Hopefully, the twenty minutes will turn into more time if the book interests the reader.

Again, we hope you will encourage your children to read both this summer and as a life-long habit. **Please use the following summer reading lists to guide book selections.** Thank you, and we wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Mrs. Eileen Clarke-Brady, Reading Teacher



Mrs. Donna Rice, Librarian

