

To: Incoming 8th Graders and Parents

RE: Summer Reading

Summer can be full of good times and fun memories, but did you know that students may experience learning losses when they don't read during the summer? There's actually a name for it: *The Summer Slide* (and not the fun one at the playground). This *Summer Slide* can create an achievement gap between students who read and those who don't. Students who do not read over the summer tend to lose some of the growth achieved at the end of the year and may end up starting the next year behind their peers.

So, what can you do to help STOP the *Summer Slide*? Here's a simple solution... read books! Studies show that children who read over the summer are more prepared to learn and perform better on tests upon returning to school in the fall. With that in mind, all incoming 8th graders are asked to read two grade level, content appropriate books over the summer and take two A.R. tests on the books. As incoming eighth graders, you should know I will not allow you to read graphic novels or books that are obviously below grade level (*Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Big Nate*, *The I Survived Series*, *Michigan Chillers*). I will also no longer accept any AR tests on books that have been made into movies! If you are in doubt, I suggest you shoot me an email and double-check your book. I have a list of suggested titles published on my Google Site at the following address:

<https://sites.google.com/fmuthschools.com/mrsschulershomepage/reading-links>. These titles are merely suggestions; they are not required.

The Accelerated Reading Platform will stay open for use at home over the summer. Students can take tests any time after June 14th from the hours of 7:30 A.M.-9:00 P.M. Monday-Friday. To be sure a book has a corresponding AR test, students may check www.arbookfind.com. Students can access the Accelerated Reader (AR) link two ways:

<https://global-zone50.renaissance-go.com/welcomeportal/13329>

Or the AR link can be found on the Frankenmuth School District website

(<https://fmuthschools.com/>) under the Resources tab, Parent Resources, Accelerated Reader.

The User Name is the first letter of your first name and the first four letters of your last name. The Password is student created. If you have questions or issues while logging into AR at home, please contact me at lschuler@fmuthschools.com. AR assessments will be due by the end of the school day on Friday, September 15th. AR tests taken during the seventh-grade school year will not count toward summer reading.

Frankenmuth Wickson Library will once again offer a summer reading program, *All Together Now*, beginning on June 19th (<https://www.wicksonlibrary.org/>). In addition to offering great programs and fabulous book choices, Wickson staff is happy to help students download Overdrive and/or Libby apps (free with a library card). Call Wickson at (989) 652-8323 or stop in if you need assistance with a library card and/or the library apps. As an additional incentive, students who complete the summer reading bingo card with at least two bingos will receive extra credit to start the year!

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions over the summer. My email address is Lschuler@fmuthschools.com. Happy summer and happy reading!

Mrs. Schuler

Mrs. Schuler

English 8/reading 7/Literacy Specialist

Incoming 8th Graders

Book List Suggestions

Historical Fiction

Salt to the Sea or *Between Shades of Gray* by Ruta Sepetys
A Night Divided by Jennifer Nielsen
Projekt 1065, Prisoner B-3087, Allies, Ground Zero, Grenade or Refugee by Alan Gratz
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
My Mother the Cheerleader by Robert Sharenow
Kent State, Countdown, Revolution or Anthem by Deborah Wiles
How to Hang a Witch by Adriana Mather
The Paperboy by Vince Vawter
The Button War by Avi
The Paper Girl of Paris by Jordyn Taylor
Freewater by Amina Luqman-Dawson ('23 Newbery Award winner)

Science Fiction/Fantasy

Michael Vey series by Richard Paul Evans
Matched trilogy by Ally Condie
The Land of Stories series by Chris Colfer
The Red Queen series by Victoria Aveyard
Pony by R.J. Palacio
Son by Lois Lowry
Beastly or *Mirrored* by Alex Flinn
The Lockdown series by Alexander Gordon Smith

Realistic Fiction

Star Girl series by Jerry Spinelli
The Goodbye Days by Jeff Zentner
Sweethearts by Sara Zarr
All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven
The Trap by John Smelcer
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely
Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds
Ghost series by Jason Reynolds
P.S. I Like You by Kasie West
Alex Rider series by Anthony Horowitz
The Road to Wherever by John Ed Bradley
Maizy Chen's Last Chance by Lisa Yee ('23 Newbery Honor Award)
Running Wild by Lucy Jane Bledsoe

Sports

Gutless by Carl Deuker

Pop by Gordon Korman

The Final Four by Paul Volponi

Game Seven by Paul Volponi

Top Prospect by Paul Volponi

Swing by Kwame Alexander

Kneel by Candace Buford

High Heat by Carl Deuker

Mystery at the Olympics: Rush for the Gold by John Feinstein

42 is not Just a Number by Doreen Rappaport

Mystery/Thriller

The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes (or any book in the series)

The Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (or any book in the series)

Truly Devious by Maureen Johnson (or any book in the series)

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie

Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

In the Hall with the Knife by Diana Peterfreund (Or any book in The Clue series)

Closed for the Season by Mary Downing Hahn

One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

Who Killed Christopher Goodman? by Allan Wolf

The Last Mapmaker by Christina Soontornvat ('23 Newbery Honor Award)

Nonfiction

D-Day: The World War II Invasion that Changed History by Deborah Hopkinson

Titanic Survivors by Allan Zullo

I am Malala by Yousafzai

I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka, Liz Welch and Martin Ganda

Heaven is for Real by Todd Burpo

A Child Called It by Dave Pelzer

Free Lunch by Rex Ogle

Chasing Lincoln's Killer by James Swanson

Captured by Alvin Townley

Getting Away with Murder: The True Story of the Emmett Till Case by Chris Crowe

In Harm's Way: JFK, World War II, and the Heroic Rescue of PT 109 by Iain Martin