



Metuchen Public Schools

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Dear Parents of Students Entering Grades 1 & 2,

Although it is likely to look and feel different from summers of recent years, this summer will still provide families with opportunities to relax and create memories. Reading experiences can aid in developing fond family memories while also nurturing a love of print and books. Throughout the summer, we encourage you to instill a love of reading by reading aloud to and with your child. Establishing this habit during their formative years, and nurturing it throughout their school years, is critical to their success.

Here are some tips for you to consider when reading aloud with your child:

- ★ Make reading aloud a daily habit. Select a time of the day when you will sit with your child and read books together. Like all habits it may take a while to get into a routine; however, once it is established it will be a time for you to both look forward to!
- ★ Find a comfortable spot to snuggle up and read with your child.
- ★ Read stories in a set of three--let your child select a favorite book, a familiar book, and a new (unfamiliar) book.
- ★ Keep reading time light and fun--read for enjoyment and conversation about favorite parts in the story. Save the phonics instruction and deep comprehension skills for school.
- ★ Reading aloud to your child provides them the opportunity to hear what good oral reading fluency sounds like. Read it like you mean it--become the characters and read the stories with great feeling!
- ★ In turn, you can have your child create their own recorded read-alouds for oral reading practice, and to keep a record of their favorite books at this moment in their lives. Your child can look back on these videos as they grow.
- ★ If your child is an independent reader, share your read aloud experience with him/her--you read a page, then have your child read a page. This, again, will aid in your child's oral reading fluency development.

Beyond reading aloud, we encourage you to give your child various opportunities to read books independently. Below are some reading resources that can help you to select books for you and your child.

The Association for Library Services for Children (ALSC) has compiled [these lists](#) of varied, diverse summer reading options.

You can also check out the [School Library Journal's "Best of" Lists](#) for recommendations across a variety of genres and levels. They also put together a book list specifically for [Summer Reading](#) that will be updated throughout the summer.

For reading selections that feature topics of social justice and diverse perspectives, [Social Justice](#)

[Books: A Teaching for Change Project](#) is a great resource where you can search by topic/genre.

The [Metuchen Public Library](#), also has a vast collection of e-book resources, including Tumblebooks.

For nonfiction reading selections across a variety of reading levels, you can check out Common Sense Media's [Best Nonfiction Books for Kids](#).

[Epic Books](#) is another great resource to explore for full copies of texts in a diverse range of topics and levels. Your child will be able to access books from 7am-4pm, Monday through Friday using their class code.

These options are only a jumping off point. Your child may also select other titles that match interests and reading level. [Other reading materials](#) may include newspapers, magazines, and age-appropriate websites.

Finally, we recognize that many children will have multiple opportunities to view television shows and watch their favorite movies. We would encourage you to program your television to display the Closed Captioning on taped (not live) shows and movies. Your child's eyes will gravitate toward the words on the screen and they will again build their reading skills as they attend to the words and connect the print to the spoken words. This is a fantastic tool to provide your child with entertainment while also building their reading fluency skills.

Have a wonderful summer filled with fun, laughter, and reading!

Sincerely,

Natalie-Franzi Dougherty