

To the Parents of Middle and High School Students:

You play an important role in your child's reading life. We know reading skills are built through many opportunities over time to read and discuss interesting books, magazines, and other reading material—both at school and at home. We also know reading fluently with good comprehension is critical to your child's achievement.

Summer is an ideal time to help your child maintain and increase reading skills. LPSS encourages families to take advantage of summer vacation by reading for enjoyment. As a parent, you can assist by helping your child to choose interesting books, by reading with him/her, and by discussing what you have read. The Lafayette Parish public libraries are good resources, as are area bookstores.

Because year-round reading is important to students' reading growth, LPSS invites and expects all students to participate. We'd like students to read as much as they can, but reading at least six books would be fantastic! That's the number of books researchers say will help students maintain and increase the gains they made during the school year.

Earlier this year, a committee of teachers, parents, students, school and public librarians, and administrators met to examine current research on summer reading. After considerable study and discussion, committee members agreed on a district guideline to promote reading growth.

The school your child attends will send a letter or brochure outlining expectations for summer reading. Your child's school and teacher will choose one of two options for their program.

The first option, Students' Free Choice, encourages students to select their own titles from a wide list of recommended books and to record titles, authors, and short responses on a reading log. Students are also encouraged to select titles that may not appear on the list. Under this option, schools and teachers will provide incentives to reward summer readers.

The second option, Guided Support for Independent Study of Novels, allows students to begin work on key concepts and works of literature essential to course work in the coming academic year. In that program, teachers will provide support in the form of background information, guiding questions, rubrics for projects and assessments, and other expectations for required books.

With either option, students will continue to gain skill in reading and will be ready to face new challenges in the coming academic year.

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