



Middletown Township Public School
Summer Reading Program
For Students Entering 1st through 5th Grade
Summer 2017



Please check the website for grade level Reading Menus and a downloadable reading log.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Once again, we are excited to roll-out our elementary summer reading program. We are providing our students with interactive *Reading Menus* that will provide suggestions for summer reading and literacy activities. We hope that your children will look forward to reading this summer and take the opportunity to engage in many rich and rewarding activities that allow them to discover books they will truly enjoy.

The philosophy underlying our summer reading program supports *best practices* in literacy instruction ...

- The research tells us that students need to read during the summer to *maintain* their independent reading levels. In the fall, the impact of a student not having read during the summer months, combined with the fact that many of his or her new classmates *did* read during the summer may result in a reading ability gap that could potentially widen each year making it difficult for students to keep up with grade level reading expectations.
- Research also tells us that we should encourage students to *choose* from a wide variety of books that will allow them to select books that appeal to their individual interests. We want your children to look forward to the *luxury of time* that summer will provide and allow them to experience the joy of reading books they will love. We hope our students will anticipate the publishing of a new book by a favorite author with the same enthusiasm they await the release of a new movie or video game!
- Instead of a written assignment based upon summer reading, we ask that students entering grades 1-5 simply keep a reading log, listing the title and the author of each book they read. (A copy of a grade appropriate “reading log” is provided on the website and may be downloaded. Students may also request a hardcopy from their elementary school before the end of the school year.) As an alternative to the written assignment, students will be asked to bring their reading logs, listing the books they have read over the summer to school in September. Our goal is to offer more student-centered opportunities that will allow for more creativity. With your guidance, they will select their favorite book and present a “*book talk*” for their class. Some of our older elementary students may opt to create a book trailer or use an alternate presentation format. Classroom teachers will work with their students to help them decide *how* they would like to present their favorite book. The presentations will take place sometime during the first few weeks of school and do not need to be completed before students return to school. Please check the *Summer Reading* section of our website at www.middletownk12.org.

We encourage parents and guardians of students entering 1st-5th grade to be actively involved in the book selection process and we want you to know that ***with parental/guardian approval, your children may select books that are not included on the Reading Menus to fulfill the summer reading assignment.*** Some schools may hold book fairs that will offer many selections for summer reading. In addition to purchasing books at book fairs or from Barnes & Noble, we also encourage students to borrow books from the **Middletown Township Public Library**. Parents and students may also want to consider trading, swapping, or borrowing books from friends or relatives.

With your support we want to make this another summer that encourages your child to *fall in love with reading!* We hope that by including many more titles and authors, eliminating a traditional written assignment, and by encouraging parents to be involved in the selection and approval of high interest books, our students will read many, many books this summer. The door is open for you and your child to choose from fiction, non-fiction, informational, and how-to-books. Texts may be the traditional print or eBook versions. Have fun, read to each other and talk about books during dinner or while riding in the car. Help your child to see the summer as a time when they can dive into books that feed their imagination and special interests. Think about some of the books you read and loved as a child and consider presenting a *book talk* for your child to spark their interest in reading the book to create a shared memory.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

The Middletown School District Summer Reading Committee