



Middletown Township Public School  
*Summer Reading Program*  
For Students Entering 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Summer 2015



Please check the website for grade level lists of suggested books, a downloadable reading log, and a description of a *book talk*.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are pleased to continue with the redesigned summer reading program. We hope that your children will look forward to reading this summer and take the opportunity to engage in many rich and rewarding opportunities to discover books they will truly enjoy.

Once again we want to share the reasons that the committee redesigned the summer program last year.

- 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!
- In response to parent feedback we have also redesigned the “assignment” that accompanies the summer reading. Students *will no longer be required to complete written responses* based upon one or two books they have read. Instead, we are asking students entering grade 1-5 to 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 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 log that lists the books they have read over the summer to school in September. With your guidance, they will select their favorite book and present a “*book talk*” for their class. Classroom teachers will work with their students to schedule these book talks sometime during the first few weeks of school. A detailed description of a book talk is available in the *Summer Reading* section of our website at [www.middletownk12.org](http://www.middletownk12.org).

Parents should feel free to review the list for the grade *above and below* their child’s grade to ensure that the books they select are aligned to their child’s reading level. We encourage parents and guardians of students entering 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade to be actively involved in the book selection process and we want you to know that ***with parental approval your children may select books that are not on the lists to fulfill the summer reading assignment.*** These alternate books should of course provide a new reading experience and not be ones they have previously read. Some schools may hold book fairs that will offer many selections from the revised lists. 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 the summer that your child *falls in love with reading!* We hope that by providing lists of suggested books that include many more titles and authors, by eliminating the written assignment, and by encouraging parents to select and approve books that are not on the list, 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, how-to-books, in 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.

Once again we have included grade level *Summer Literacy Calendars* for July and August with suggested activities for you and your family to enjoy. (These activities are *optional* - they are provided as a resource for your consideration.)

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

*The Middletown School District Summer Reading Committee*