Dear Parents,

This letter is designed to answer your questions about summer reading. It is intended as a guide, giving suggestions and activities for integrating pleasure reading into your family’s summer days.

Students are required to choose at least one from the three novels listed below and encouraged to read as many novels as possible from the Intermediate School Summer Reading Suggestions list on pages 3 and 4 of this letter. Students should record all of their summer reading on the Summer Reading Log found on pages 5 and 6 of this letter. Students should be prepared to create a project-based book response which will be completed at school with their literature group. The provided descriptions were obtained from Common Sense Media, Amazon, and GoodReads.

**Louisiana’s Way Home** by Kate DiCamillo - from GoodReads - “From two-time Newbery Medalist Kate DiCamillo comes a story of discovering who you are — and deciding who you want to be. Called “one of DiCamillo’s most singular and arresting creations” by The New York Times Book Review, the heartbreakingly irresistible Louisiana Elefante was introduced to readers in Raymie Nightingale — and now, with humor and tenderness, Kate DiCamillo returns to tell her story.”

“When Louisiana Elefante’s granny wakes her up in the middle of the night to tell her that the day of reckoning has arrived and they have to leave home immediately, Louisiana isn’t overly worried. After all, Granny has many middle-of-the-night ideas. But this time, things are different. This time, Granny intends for them never to return. Separated from her best friends, Raymie and Beverly, Louisiana struggles to oppose the winds of fate (and Granny) and find a way home.”


"I bought the milk," said my father. "I walked out of the corner shop, and heard a noise like this: thum m thum m m. I looked up and saw a huge silver disc hovering in the air above Marshall Road." “Hullo,” I said to myself. "That's not something you see every day. And then something odd happened."

Find out just how odd things get in this hilarious story of time travel and breakfast cereal, expertly told by Newbery Medalist and bestselling author Neil Gaiman and illustrated by Skottie Young.

**Restart** by Gordon Korman - from GoodReads - “From the #1 bestselling author of Swindle and Slacker, Restart is the spectacular story of a kid with a messy past who has to figure out what it means to get a clean start.”

“Chase's memory just went out the window. Chase doesn't remember falling off the roof. He doesn't remember hitting his head. He doesn't; in fact, remember anything. He wakes up in a hospital room and suddenly has to learn his whole life all over again . . . starting with his own name. He knows he’s Chase. But who is Chase? When he gets back to school, he sees that different kids have very different reactions to his return. Some kids treat him like a hero. Some kids are clearly afraid of him. One girl in particular is so angry with him that she pours her frozen yogurt on his head the first chance she gets. Pretty soon, it's not only a question of who Chase is--it's a question of who he was . . . and who he's going to be.”
What is summer reading?

We believe that summer reading should be leisure reading, emphasizing pleasure rather than instruction. Quantity is not important, but routine reading is encouraged. Your child should choose books they want to read, within good taste and reason. Interest is one of the greatest motivations for readers of any age.

Which books should we choose?

- Help your child investigate interests through reading.
- Encourage variety in reading. Don’t forget poetry, biographies, magazines and newspapers, comics, etc.
- Leisure reading should be geared to the comfort level of students. They should not be discouraged from choosing books that are a stretch. They can always put a book aside if it proves to be too advanced. There is nothing sacred about finishing every book you begin.

Who can help us?

- A librarian or a children’s specialist at a local bookstore can be a great help in guiding children to find books that they will love.
- Sign up for the Grosse Pointe Public Library's Summer Reading Program at one of the branches. Make use of the 4/5 book suggestions.
- Talk to your children’s friends about which books they have loved.

How can I motivate my child to read?

- Model reading for your child through family reading. Consider setting aside a family reading time when the entire family reads together.
- Let an older child read to a younger sibling, relative, or friend.
- While you are reading a newspaper, encourage younger children to “make” their own newspaper and later ask them to read it to you.
- Set up a “reading bank”: Children “owe” you 15-30 minutes of reading per day. They can “stock up” minutes by reading more and then trade in those minutes on days they don't have time to read. A chart made by your child could keep track of minutes earned and used.
- Encourage children to make their own reading selections and respect their decisions.
- For variety, consider recorded books. Vacations might be a good time to utilize this alternative.

What are the parents’ roles?

- Read, read, read to your children. Read whatever they love; read whatever you love. Read stories over and over again. Read to your entire family. Read to your older child. Never stop reading aloud!
- Make reading fun. Plan a lunch at a bookstore after choosing books, or stop off at the ice cream parlor after a trip to the library. You have control over setting the tone of reading in your family.
- Enjoy a recorded book as you travel or carpool. It helps pass the time pleasantly and may give rise to conversation about the book.
- Help children find time to read. Allow children the opportunity to plan their daily routine, scheduling in time for favorite television shows and time for reading.
- Surround children with a variety of reading materials.
- Share children’s reading experiences, value their opinions and concerns. Engage them in conversations about what they are reading.
- Express your approval of their reading.

Here’s to the long, lazy days of reading enjoyment!
Intermediate School Language Arts Department

**Fiction:**

*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo  
*Tuesdays at the Castle* by Jessica Day George  
*Merci Suarez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina  
*The Night Diary* by Veera Hiranandani  
*The Book of Boy* by Catherine Gilbert Murdock  
*To Night Owl from Dogfish* by Holly Goldberg Sloan and Meg Wolitzer  
*The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise* by Dan Gemeinhart  
*Bob* by Wendy Mass  
*Belly Up* by Stuart Gibbs  
*The Worst Class Trip* by Dave Barry  
*Moo or Hate That Cat* by Sharon Creech  
*The Someday Birds* by Sally J. Pla  
*Amina’s Voice* by Hena Khan  
*Hello Universe* by Erin Entrada Kelly  
*El Deafo* by CeCe Bell  
*The Fourteenth Goldfish* or *Turtle in Paradise* by Jennifer L. Holm  
*The Crossover* or *Booked* by Kwame Alexander  
*Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt  
*Escape from Mr. Lemoncello’s Library* or *Island of Dr. Libris* by Chris Grabenstein  
*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier  
*Inside Out and Back Again* by Thanhha Lai  
*Hattie Big Sky* by Kirby Larson  
*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin  
*The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate* by Jacqueline Kelly  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper  
*The Land of Stories (series)* by Chris Colfer  
*Ungifted* or *Restart* by Gordon Korman  
*The Invention of Hugo Cabret* or *Wonderstruck* by Brian Selznick  
*Harry Potter (series)* by J.K. Rowling  
*Artemis Fowl (series)* by Eoin Colfer  
*Charlie Bone (series)* by Jenny Nimmo  
*Joey Pigza (series)* by Jack Gantos  
*The Boy on the Porch* by Sharon Creech  
*Eragon (series)* by Christopher Paolini  
*Dragon Rider* or *Inkheart* (series) by Cornelia Funke  
*Chains, Forge,* by Laurie Halse Anderson  
*Rules* by Cynthia Lord  
*Lawn Boy or Hatchet* by Gary Paulson  
*Ella Enchanted* by Gail Carson Levine  
*Michigan Chillers* or *American Chillers* (series) by Johnathan Rand  
*Princess Tales* (series) by Gail Carson Levine  
*Ida B and Her Plan to Maximize Fun, Avoid Disaster, and (Possibly) Save the World* by Katherine Hannigan  
*Al Capone Does My Shirts, Al Capone Shines My Shoes* by Gennifer Choldenko  
*North* by Donna Jo Napoli  
*Sahara Special or Diary of a Fairy Godmother* by Esme Raji Codell  
*A Nest for Celeste* by Henry Cole  
*The Lightning Thief, Percy Jackson and the Olympians (series)* or  
*The Red Pyramid* (series) by Rick Riordan  
*Wings of Fire* (series) by Tui T. Sutherland  
*Lunch Money or Keepers of the School (series)* by Andrew Clements
NON-FICTION AND BIOGRAPHY:

Hidden Figures Young Readers’ Edition by Margot Lee Shetterly
Her Right Foot by Dave Eggers
My Name Is Truth: The Life of Sojourner Truth by Ann Turner
Women Who Broke The Rules: Coretta Scott King by Kathleen Krull
Who Was Alexander Hamilton? by Pam Pollack, Meg Belviso
Good Masters! Sweet Ladies! Voices from a Medieval Village by Laura Amy Schlitz
Alexander Hamilton: The Making of America, Book 1 by Teri Kanefield
Becoming Kareem: Growing Up On and Off the Court by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Raymond Obstfeld
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson
Presenting Buffalo Bill: The Man Who Invented the Wild West by Candace Fleming
Streetcar to Justice: How Elizabeth Jennings Won the Right to Ride in New York by Amy Hill Hearth
I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick
Leonardo’s Horse by Jean Fritz
The Tarantula Scientist by Sy Montgomery
Spiders or Lizards by Nic Bishop
Hurricanes: Earth’s Mightiest Storms by Patricia Lauber
Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women by Catherine Timmesh
We Were There Too!: Young People in U.S. History by Phillip M. Hoose
Interrupted Journey: Saving Endangered Sea Turtles by Kathryn Lasky
Digging for Bird-Dinosaurs: An Expedition to Madagascar by Nic Bishop
Hero Dogs: Courageous Canines in Action by Donna M. Jackson
Coyotes in the Crosswalk by Eve Bunting
Backyard Detective: Critters Up Close by Nic Bishop
Bear Dogs: Canines With a Mission, by Ted Wood
Rainbow Soup by Brian P. Cleary
A Maze Me, Poems for Girls by Naomi Shihab Nye
George Washington, Spymaster: How the Americans Outspied the British and Won the Revolutionary War by Thomas B. Allen
Through My Eyes by Ruby Bridges
Langston Hughes, American Poet by Alice Walker
Tallchief: America’s Prima Ballerina by Maria Tallchief
26 Fairmont Avenue by Tomie DePaola
Ben Franklin’s Almanac by Candace Fleming
Walt Whitman: Words for America by Barbara Kerely
The Dinosaurs of Waterhouse Hawkins by Barbara Kerley
Let It Shine! Stories of Black Women Freedom Fighters by Andrea Davis Pinkney
First to Fly by Peter Busby
Fight On! Mary Church Terrell’s Battle for Integration by Dennis Brindell Fradin and Judith Bloom Fradin
Hana’s Suitcase by Karen Levine
Michaelangelo, Cleopatra, Leonardo Da Vinci, or Bard of Avon by Diane Stanley
Pop! The Invention of Bubble Gum by Meghan McCarthy
The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer
I, Fly: The Buzz About Flies and How Awesome They Are by Bridget Heos
# Summer Reading Log

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