



## 2019-20 Lower School Summer Reading

### For rising Kindergarteners

Dear Parents,

As the long days of summer stretch before us, we encourage our students to read and explore books daily. Children love to hear adults read to them. It creates a special time between adults and children.

Our list can be used as a starting point with your soon-to-be-kindergartener and includes award-winning books and books recognized by teachers as meaningful reading for students of kindergarten age. Please read some of these great books to your children and check out the suggested parent reading list. We also encourage reading fairy tales, folk tales, and nursery rhymes. They are a rich and beneficial part of our literary heritage, and they enhance children's phonological awareness.

### BOOK LIST

Here is a book we highly recommend for parents to read.

- *The Power of Play: Learning What Comes Naturally* by David Elkind

Here are some of our favorites for reading aloud to your children.

- *Chrysanthemum* by Kevin Henkes
- *Little Oink and Little Pea* by Amy Krouse Rosenthal
- *Why Do You Cry?* by Kate Klise
- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Hop on Pop* by Dr. Seuss
- *Where the Wild Things Are* by Maurice Sendak
- *Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes* by Eric Litwin
- *Lyle and the Birthday Party* by Bernard Waber



## 2019-20 Lower School Summer Reading

### For rising 1<sup>st</sup> graders

Dear Parents,

The first selection, *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever* by children's author Mem Fox, is for parents to read. We know that many of you already read aloud regularly; *Reading Magic* is full of suggestions to enrich your experiences. The book is inexpensive, short, and easy to read, and we think (actually, we know) that you'll enjoy it. After finishing *Reading Magic*, we're sure you'll understand why reading to your child over the summer is so important.

### BOOK LIST

Here is a book we highly recommend for parents to read.

- *Reading Magic: Why Reading Aloud to Our Children Will Change Their Lives Forever* by Mem Fox

Fox extols the benefits of reading to preschoolers — even newborns — and gives suggestions for helping children learn to read by themselves.

With your child, choose and read many books this summer. Some suggestions are...

- *Step-One* reading books
- the *Olivia* series by Ian Falconer
- poems by Shel Silverstein
- books by Joy Cowley
- animal stories
- *Purplicious* books by Elizabeth and Victoria Kann
- *Noodles* series by Scholastic
- *Biscuit* series by I Can Read



## 2019-20 Lower School Summer Reading

### For rising 2nd graders

Dear Parents,

To keep your child ready for the 2nd Grade, it's critical that they read regularly this summer. The goal is to read 2-3 books a week; approximately 1hr 30 min to 2 hours of reading each week. This number will vary based on your child's reading level and the length of the books. Please be sure to read with your child, asking clarifying questions, inference questions, helping them make predictions and identifying cause and effect in the story. It's also important not to frustrate your young reader with overly difficult text or concepts.

In addition, please help your child complete the following assignment: Create an art piece (drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, etc.) of your favorite character in one of your summer reading books. Please have the artwork show the character's traits, ie. favorite thing to do, clothing, hobbies, places they visit, people they spend a lot of time with, etc. Be sure to include the setting of the story in your art piece. Bring it in to share on the first day of school!

### BOOK LIST

In addition to these books, feel free to use KidsA-Z.com as an additional resource.

- *I Am Series* Brad Metzler
- *Frog and Toad Series* Arnold Lobel
- *The Henry and Mudge Series* Cynthia Rylant
- *Click, Clack, Moo! Cows That Type* Doreen Cronin
- *The Word Collector* Peter Reynolds
- *Fly Guy's Big Family* Tedd Arnold
- *Hi! Fly Guy* Tedd Arnold
- *The Day The Crayons...* series Drew Daywalt
- *Goldie Locks Has Chicken Pox* Erin Dealy
- *The Magic Tree House: Twister on Tuesday* Mary Pope Osborne
- *The Magic Tree House: Pirates Past Noon* Mary Pope Osborne
- *The Magic Tree House: Day of The Dragon King* Mary Pope Osborne (For Advanced Readers)
- *Junie B. Jones: The Stupid Smelly Bus* (For Advanced Readers)
- *Owl Diaries: Eva and The Lost Pony* Rebecca Elliott (For Advanced Readers)



## 2019-20 Lower School Summer Reading

For rising 3<sup>rd</sup> graders

Dear Parents,

Learning and Reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don't read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

This summer your child will need to complete one of the Required Reading books and its assignment, as well as two Reader's Choice books. Your child may ask for help understanding the assignments, but s/he must draft and edit them independently. The ideas and editing should reflect his/her abilities, not those of someone who helped him/her.

### BOOK LIST

Choose one of the following (books are listed in order of difficulty) and complete the assignment.

*Dymonde Daniel: Make Way for Dymonde Daniel* by Nikki Grimes

Smart, confident Dymonde Daniel sits in her third-grade classroom and wonders why she's been at her new school for weeks and still doesn't have a best friend. In walks Free, a new student who is so quiet and grouchy that Dymonde secretly names him Rude Boy. What do you know about first impressions? Think about how people perceive you the first time they meet you? Your assignment is to describe yourself as if no one knows you at all. Describe your hobbies, foods you like to eat, places you like to visit, and any information you want to share to give us a great first impression of yourself.

*The Lemonade War* by Jacqueline Davies

This book tells the story of an exciting summer spent by loving but competitive pair of siblings, Evan and Jessie. They have a personal conflict which becomes a professional one as well, as they set out to outsell each other at each of their lemonade stands. *Your assignment is* to write a story about a time when you had a conflict. Have you ever felt competitive with someone close to you, like a sibling or a good friend? How did the conflict begin/happen? What did you do? How was it resolved?

*Fantastic Mr. Fox* by Roald Dahl

Mr. Fox and his family live under a tree on a hill, along with his friends. In order to keep his family fed, he steals food each night from one of the three mean farmers who also live on the hill. The farmers seek revenge and make many plans to get rid of Mr. Fox. *Your assignment is* to write a letter either to Mr. Fox letting him know that you think what he is doing to the farmers is okay, OR, a letter to one of the farmers letting him know that Mr. Fox is committing a crime.

The assignment should...

- be written in your own handwriting
- have your name and date at the top

**Reader's Choice:** Choose at least one additional chapter book and one non-fiction book to read this summer.



## 2019-20 Lower School Summer Reading

For rising 4<sup>th</sup> graders - 2018-19

Dear Parents,

Learning and Reading researchers continually trumpet the fact that reading is the single most effective activity to prevent summer learning loss (a.k.a. the Summer Slump). Studies show that students who read as few as six books during the summer months gain or maintain reading skills achieved during the preceding school year, while students who don't read during the summer may fall back as much as a grade level in their skills.

This summer your child will need to **read two books and complete a writing assignment**. One book may be anything s/he chooses, but the other must be a realistic fiction book about a child's summer adventure. Some suggestions are below.

### BOOK LIST

- *Seaglass Summer* by Anjali Banerjee
- *The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall
- *Fudge-a-Mania* by Judy Blume
- *Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great* by Judy Blume
- *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen
- *The Summer of the Gypsy Moths* by Sarah Pennypacker
- *Aurora County All Stars* by Deborah Wiles
- *Judy Moody and the Not Bummer Summer* by Megan McDonald
- *Summer Reading is Killing Me!* by Jon Scieszka
- *How Tia Lola Saved the Summer* by Julia Alvarez

### Writing Assignment:

Who doesn't love summer vacation? It's nearly three months of sleeping in, playing outside, drinking lemonade, and creating unforgettable memories. The characters in our summer reading all share their tales of unforgettable summers. Think of an exciting, fun, tragic, or hilarious story about your summer that you would like to share with your classmates. If you're feeling imaginative, you may even stretch the truth a little and make your story more dramatic.

Your piece should...

- be written and edited by you alone. It should reflect your abilities, not those of someone who helped you.
- be handwritten on wide ruled notebook paper
- have a title
- have your name and date at the top

**Reader's Choice:** In addition to the summer adventure book you read, you will need to read an additional book of your choice. You do not need to write about this book this summer; we will do that together when school starts.