

The 2008 W.B.M.S. Summer Reading Program

Spring has arrived and it is time to think about our school-wide Summer Reading Program. This is an opportunity to go on exciting adventures or learn something new without leaving home. How? By reading! Reading is a great hobby when you just want to relax and enjoy a good story or learn something new. It's a good pastime when the weather's too stormy to be outside. Reading can become a family event when parents, children, relatives, and guests participate in sharing favorite books.

All White Brook Middle School students are expected to participate in the Summer Reading Program. In September, you will engage in classroom discussions and projects centered around your summer reading. You may read books of your own choosing but may also be expected to read a particular book requested by your teacher. A list of suggested books and authors for your grade level will be provided.

The expectations of our school's summer reading program are:

Incoming 5th graders: 2 books

Incoming 6th graders: 2 books

Incoming 7th graders: 3 books

Incoming 8th graders: 3 books

Students often ask, "How should I keep track of my reading so that I don't forget everything over the summer?" One way is by using a small notebook to keep a reading journal. Each time you read, jot down the date, which pages or chapters you read, and a few short notes about what happened in that part of the story. You can even write down your reactions to things that happen, notes about characters that are interesting to you, new or difficult words you encounter, and notes about parts of the story that are confusing. These notes will help you review what you've read, and you can use them in the fall when you begin talking about your reading.

Some students enjoy drawing pictures and sketches to help them remember what happens in each part of a novel. By the time they've finished reading, they have constructed entire "scrapbooks" of sketches or storyboards to share with other students in the fall.

Other students enjoy reading a book with a partner or in a group. Friends get together a few times a week to share reading a particular book. Children often enjoy sharing reading with a parent, grandparent, or older relative who can help explain difficult vocabulary or confusing and complicated parts of a story.

Students who enjoy nonfiction often like to build models, create videos, or do something with the knowledge they gain from reading. This can be a wonderful way to share what you have learned and to help others discover new hobbies and interests.

Remember: Reading is exercise for your brain! When school begins in the fall, you'll have many opportunities to share your reading experiences with others.