

Summer Reading Goals

#1: To inspire a lifelong love of reading

"Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home."

— Anna Quindlen, *How Reading Changed My Life*

Reading is a skill that is used to entertain, learn, and grow. It is a means for discovering more about the world and oneself. Summer reading is a chance for students to become self-directed readers and discover "just right" books for themselves. Summer gives them the opportunity to explore new ideas or dive even deeper into a topic they love.

#2: To promote and develop literacy

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body."
— Joseph Addison

In order to improve at anything, one must practice. Research tells us that reading skills improve when practiced and weaken when not exercised. We want all students to be proficient readers so they are better able to succeed in school, learn about the world, readily access information, and reach their full life potential.

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Please carefully consider the content of the book your child chooses, as some books may have more mature themes than others. It is ultimately up to the parent to determine what title is appropriate for his or her child. The website below may assist you in the decision making process.

www.commonsemmedia.org

Books are designated as follows based on Lexile, content, and teacher input:

"A" = accessible read

"I" = intermediate read

"C" = challenging read



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

— Dr. Seuss, *I Can Read With My Eyes Shut!*

Much thanks to Walpole High School for sharing their successful summer reading program with WPS.

WESTFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOLS



A COMMUNITY OF READERS

JULY—AUGUST 2016

Westfield Public Schools Summer Reading Goals:

#1: To inspire a love of reading

#2: To promote and develop literacy

Welcome to our Community of Readers



1,000,000

The number of words a student is exposed to in one year by completing 15 minutes of out-of-school independent reading.
~Anderson, Wilson, & Fielding

This summer we invite your student to join us in *A Community of Readers*, a program designed to give participants a chance to select and read a book from a list of choices and to participate in a book talk. By providing many book choice options,

we hope that all students are able to find titles that get them excited about reading! We are proud of our book list, which was carefully compiled with input from staff and students to include titles that will appeal to students with a wide range of interests and reading abilities.

Based upon feedback from *A Community of Readers* in 2014-2015, our book talks succeeded in celebrating reading in a meaningful and engaging way. Our goal is to provide an opportunity for students and staff to read for pleasure and to find a book that will inspire participants to read even more! Although your student will only take

part in one book talk for which he or she signs up, we encourage students to read multiple books for pleasure and to exercise their brains over the long summer vacation!

The Westfield Athenaeum, Barnes and Noble, or Amazon.com have these titles available. Families should consider book recommendations, reviews, and summaries at the websites below in order to help students make the most appropriate selection. Together, you can make the best decision to find the “just right” book.

- www.barnesandnoble.com
- www.amazon.com
- www.scholastic.com/bookwizard/

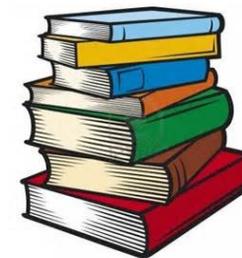
Reading is a family activity; we hope that family members will also read and discuss the book selected. We believe reading is THE most important skill for students to learn for the future. No matter what they do in life, students will need to know how to read to continue learning.

For a complete list of books with brief synopses, please visit any of the following websites:

- nms.schoolsofwestfield.org (NMS)
- sms.schoolsofwestfield.org (SMS)
- www.schoolsofwestfield.org (WPS District)
- www.westath.org/teens (Public Library)

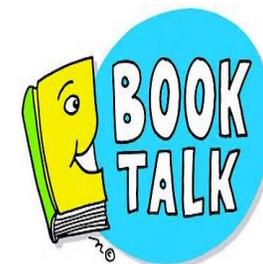
If you do not have access to the Internet, a hard copy of your school’s booklist can be viewed at these locations during regular business hours.

How does it work?



In the spring, students will choose a book from their school’s booklist. Hard copies of these booklists and a brief synopsis of each book will be available at the middle schools, Central Office, and at the Athenaeum during regular business hours. This information can also be accessed via each school’s website. Reading should be completed by the time students return to school.

During September, students will engage in a book talk with other students and



staff who have read the same book. Each student will be asked to participate in this discussion and write a book review giving his or her chosen book a thumbs-up or thumbs-down. These reviews will be in the building to display book titles and encourage reading for pleasure.

If you have questions or require further information, please contact:

NMS: 413-572-6441
SMS: 413-568-1900