

May 2023

Dear Cross Families,

This year Cross will be again implementing summer required reading. We are asking that all future 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th graders read **ONE Required Novel** and **One Book of Choice**. The book choices are attached organized by grade level along with a book review template that must be completed and turned in for credit in the fall.

Children acquire news skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning never has to stop. Children who read throughout the summer gain skills and develop a better understanding of language and the world around them. Please encourage them to experience the joy of reading, the doorway to all other learning.

Key things to remember in supporting your child:

- **Allow your child to choose the books he or she reads.** Studies have shown the benefits of choice in reading development. Expose your child to a wide variety of reading materials, but let him or her be the final decision-maker.
- **Do not worry if your child chooses some books “below” his or her reading level or reads a book over again.** This will reinforce decoding and comprehension skills. Given choice and positive encouragement, your child will also choose more challenging books.
- **Make available all kinds of reading materials,** including magazines, picture books (at any age!), chapter books, nonfiction, and, yes, even appropriate comic books and graphic novels. Remember, you want them to love reading - they will branch out and try many things.
- **Encourage and support your child’s participation in the public library summer reading program** and other reading incentive programs available at bookstores.
- **Be a role model for your child** by reading yourself, provide lots of positive encouragement and interest in their reading, and set aside time each day for the family to read.
- **Reading is most effective when adults provide guidance and make sure that kids understand what they’re reading.** Ask questions about what your child is reading – who, what, where, when, why and how; summarize or ask your child to summarize; and reread hard-to-understand passages. Essentially, make reading a more interactive process to boost fluency and comprehension.

As you know, good readers and writers read and write DAILY. Recent brain research shows us that practice is necessary in order to master strategies that are critical to the success of the reading and writing process. The more students read the more

proficient they become at reading and writing.

Reading aloud to our children also has tremendous educational benefits and can be a source of much enjoyment for students and parents. I strongly encourage parents to read aloud daily to and with their children. ***Read-alouds are not only enjoyable for beginning readers but they are just as essential for students in the middle grades.*** Reading comprehension improves as students listen to and discuss events, characters, and motivation. They learn to predict what will happen and they increase their vocabulary. In addition, the read-aloud time generates further interest in books.

The attached Summer Reading List represents a variety of reading levels and interests. The intent is to give you and your child some assistance with making reading choices. Use the list as a guide, but do not feel limited to these choices. Another helpful tool is GoodReads website, <http://www.goodreads.com/list/tag/middle-school> a wonderful wealth of choices.

The Yorkville Library Website, <http://www.yorkville.lib.il.us/>, has several additional reading lists, such as books for children who are struggling, fantasy favorites, children's classics, challenging books for gifted students, as well as Internet resources.

Have a wonderful summer filled with reading!