

Dear Families,

As summer approaches the 4th, 5th, 6th grade team want to strongly encourage students to continue over the summer some type of academic work to keep their skills sharp and avoid the "Summer Slip." Imagine if you were an athlete or musician and took three months off from any form of exercise or practice for that time. Your performance would be adversely affected. The following research that reveals that average summer learning loss in math and reading for American students amounts to approximately one to two months per year.

- "Parents consistently cite summer as the most difficult time to ensure that their children have productive things to do." - Duffett et al, 2004
- "Summer learning loss is a well-documented phenomenon, with students losing between one and two months' worth of academic knowledge each summer." Edutopia
- "Decades of research confirm that summer learning loss is real." - New York Times
- While it's clear that everyone should experience periodic breaks from their daily routines, it's also true that prolonged periods of time without practice affects performance. - Ronald A. Fairchild Executive Director, Teach Baltimore Johns Hopkins University

Therefore, The Upper Elementary Team would like to help the students maintain all of the progress they have made this year by strongly encouraging them to complete the summer work that we are providing.

Language Skills: We ask that students complete the enclosed BINGO card that is enclosed. This will keep students reading, writing and engaged in language work. Students will need to bring in their initialed Bingo cards and one book report type project to share the first week back to school in August. There are endless possibilities - diorama, puppet show, poster, book jacket, movie, etc.

Mathematic Skills: Each student has been given a packet of 30 days worth of work. Students will be expected to complete this packet and bring it to school on the first day. Fact practice is also a skill that students should work on to make sure these skills stay sharp.

Have a great summer. See you in September,

4th, 5th and 6th Grade Team

(Karen, Julie, Maribeth, Andrea, Melissa, AnneMarie, Brynley, Liz, Natalie and Kathy)

Summer Reading Bingo!

Make 5 or more choices for reading over the course of the summer. Record your thoughts about your reading in some way. Here are a few ideas to try:

- Write a book report, put on a puppet show, illustrate an important event, post an online review, make a Venn Diagram comparing main characters, make a mobile, make a diorama, write a letter to a character, StoryBoard That!, etc... Be creative!
- Be prepared to share one project when you return to school in August.

B	I	N	G	O
Read a book with a number in the title	Read a book with a female main character	Read a book set in another culture	Read to a family member	Read a collection of myths
Read in a fort	Read a collection of poetry	Read an auto-biography	Watch a TED Talk on a topic of interest to you	Read a historical fiction book
Read a science fiction novel	Read a non-fiction book	Post on the FSMA library page	Read a book with an animal as the main character	Visit your local library
Read a book published this year	Read a biography	Register for the NCCo Library Summer Reading Program	Read in your closet with a flashlight	Read a book based on a true story
Read a graphic novel	Read a book with a one-word title	Listen to an audio book	Read a mystery novel	Read a book in a series

Write the title of what you read and have a parent initial each box as you complete it.