



Madison Campus Elementary Summer Reading Program
for
Incoming Third Graders
2016-2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Madison Campus Elementary ("MCE") has a summer reading program for our students (Grades 1-8). Reading skills can regress over the summer, and this is one great way to maintain current reading levels and skills. The idea is to read and enjoy books that have not previously been read.

We are asking that each returning student participates and keeps a record of books read throughout the summer which includes the title and number of pages. Remember to bring your Log to school on the first day of third grade and make sure that it includes a parent's/guardian's signature verifying that the books were read. The Reading Log will count as the first reading grade for first quarter. Keep a log as you go along rather than try to remember all the books you read at the end of the summer. We must know that a parent's signature verifies the exact titles and number of books read.

Seven (7) books of at least 40 pages in length read over the summer are required for all returning MCE students coming into third grade. As an incentive, students who read a minimum of ten (10) books of at least 40 pages in length over the summer will qualify for a Summer Reading Celebration shortly after school resumes. Remember that a Reading Log is required and to be submitted the first week of school.

This program is meant strictly for participation throughout the summer months and **not** for last-minute books hurriedly read right before school resumes or shortly thereafter just in order to qualify for the Summer Reading Celebration. The aim is more honorable than this.

Rather than setting up an inflexible list of must-reads, I am leaving the decision of reading material up to you and your child with guidelines listed on the following page. Please take the time to read these.

If you are a resident of Davidson County, the Public Library system has a summer reading program and prizes as well. Stop by your local library and sign up for a library card. Davidson County generally has several nice incentives from which to choose. I am not sure about other county libraries, but most probably have a summer reading program. Just inquire at the desk. Most libraries also have suggested reading lists by grade level. Check out www.bn.com for Barnes & Noble's summer reading program. Students choose a free book upon meeting requirements. Same books read - 3 potential prizes.

1 = MCE Reading Celebration if 10 books are read, 2 = a prize from the public library, 3 = a free Barnes & Noble children's book.

What could be better? Relax, read, and enjoy your summer!

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Some basic guidelines to help you and your child in selecting books to read include:

- Read a variety of types of books and authors (poetry, historical fiction, non-fiction, nature, biographies, children's magazines) instead of books from one series only.
- Choose realistic fiction books that *could* be true and are uplifting and educational;
- Choose topics that interest you, but stretch yourself to learn something new and different;
- Choose books that are on your reading level but not below. One informal way to determine this is to open a book you might like to read to any random page. Read that page, and as you do, hold up one finger for every word you do not know. At the end of the page, if you did not know 5 words or under, it's probably a good fit.
- Watching a movie based on a book does not count as having read the book.
- Often the title of the book is a dead giveaway as to its appropriateness. (Ex: *The Boxcar Children* book series is a wholesome and much better choice than, say, *Homer Simpson* comics or *Harry Potter*); Reading book summaries on the back cover of a book can provide hints about a book's content and help you determine its appropriateness for reading.
- Find some time to read to your child. This may not "count" for the summer reading program, but is an excellent way to bond with your child and spend quality time together.
- Consider checking with *Nourish (formerly the ABC)* on Conference Drive for inspiring Christian and nature books, as well as McKay's Used Books in West Nashville, 636 Old Hickory Boulevard, Nashville 37209 (615) 353-2595. Books bought at McKay's are much cheaper than buying them new, of course, and they will even buy your used books for a portion of its original price. You will receive store credit or, if you prefer, cash for those books.

If reading time ends up being stressful, then consider lowering the amount of reading time each day or dividing that time into 2 smaller chunks of time per day. Change things up and take a trip to the library or a park for reading. Your own backyard under a shade tree may be all that is needed to get the motivation going again.

Of course it is your call as a parent as to what you will or will not allow your child to read at home, however, absolutely none of the following books can "count" toward the MCE 3rd grade summer reading program:

Unacceptable books for the Summer Reading Party include:

Any *Harry Potter*, *Captain Underpants*, *Star Wars*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (or books of this nature)

Fiction books that are not realistic (witchcraft, fairy tales and the like)

Magic Tree House books – Most are quite educational despite a "trip in time" at the beginning of each book to experience a true historical event, but be sure to peruse them first.



Happy Summer
Reading!

