

Catherine R Gentry, EdD
Superintendent, Thomasville City Schools

Sweet Summer Time

So the year has ended and for teachers, students, and parents the glorious weeks of summer have finally arrived. Educators often get asked to share tips for “keeping up” with academics and learning over the summer...here are my top five:

#1 – Read

Reading is fun and having choice in reading is a research-based way to keep students on track and growing in this important skill. The public library is a great place to check out books for free – and it is air conditioned! In addition, all TCS students are part of the NC Cardinal program. The program uses each students school ID (PowerSchool Number) to connect with libraries around the state and it is all virtual! In addition, between the Central Rec Center and each school campus you can find several “little free libraries” where the goal is to take a book and leave a book for another – all free of charge!

#2 – Learn Something New

Summer is the perfect time to practice your growth mindset and get outside of your comfort zone. Learn a new skill, go some place you have never been, pursue an interest you may not have time for during the busy and hectic school year. Our local community college, DCCC, has an abundance of camps and continuous/lifetime learning opportunities for all ages. Local museums often extend hours and opportunities for family and kids only sessions of special interest around themes, cultures, and other special events.

#3 – Explore

Exploring does not mean an elaborate trip to a foreign country, but can be something as simple as a picnic in the park or a stroll through your hometown. The Thomasville Chamber of Commerce (thomasvillechamber.net) and Thomasville Tourism Commission (visitthomasvillenc.com) both provide great resources for things to do around town or in the nearby region. From festivals to walking tours of historic sites, our All American City has much to offer. In addition, July is Parks and Recreation month in Thomasville. Maps of the city’s numerous parks and listings of department activities can be found at city hall or the recreation department. Also, don’t forget Hi-Toms baseball!

#4 – Check In

Though we know school is the last place you want to be during the summer, please know that we are still here! Be sure you follow us on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates on what’s going on this summer and check out the website for news and announcements. Summer is also a great time to work with transitions from school to school or grade to grade. If you have concerns or questions, feel free to call any of our schools to set up an appointment and set goals for a great year!

#5 – Be a Kid

Whether it is running through the sprinklers or catching fireflies, all of us need to take the time to be kids this summer. For almost 10 months each year, we (teachers and parents) push our kids and ourselves to meet the demands of a rigorous state curriculum ending with up to two weeks of high stakes testing. We all, especially our kids, need a break. We need to use the other parts of our brain to create and discover. Whether it is drawing, mapping the stars, learning to cook, swimming or going fishing, these less structured pursuits allow us to get our hands dirty and learn in different ways.

I hope everyone has a safe and relaxing summer. We look forward to seeing you back in August to tackle another school year filled with growth, success, and opportunity.