



Dear Parents,

Reading is one of the most important skills there is. Indeed, it is the foundation of almost all future learning for your child at Hilldale School and beyond. Families who encourage daily reading and writing will have more successful children. Your support at home is essential!

Reading experts note that most young readers suffer a back slide in reading skills during the summer down time. But that need not be the case! Families can make reading a priority during the summer. You can help your child succeed by the positive attitude you take toward reading to your child and hearing him/her read to you, by the expressive voice intonation you use, by questioning about what you and your child have read and about what your child can see in a book's pictures, and by the encouragement you express to your child as they try out their reading in a variety of venues. Please help to make reading a priority during the coming summer!

Every Hilldale student is encouraged to read as much as possible during the summer vacation. A list of recommended titles follows, and each student is **required** to read Chasing Vermeer by Blue Balliett. We will start the year off by discussing this story and doing corresponding activities during the opening days of school, so please make sure your child is ready to participate. We hope you will supplement the required reading with other books that you and your child choose from this or any other summer reading list. Children should spend some time reading every day during the summer.

Summer Reading List – Incoming Fourth Grade
Themes: Ancient Civilizations and Geography

Required for all:

Suggestions:

Because of Winn Dixie
Inkheart
Inkwell
The One and Only Ivan
Half Magic
The Secret of Platform 13
The Borrowers
The BFG
Witches
The Westing Game*
The Twenty-One Balloons
Island of the Blue Dolphins*+
The Secret Series
City of Ember*
I Survived...
A Pride of Princesses
Crispin
The Higher Power of Lucky
The Wish Giver
Lost Hero series
The Never Ending Story
Shiloh
The Wizard of Oz*

Chasing Vermeer

Kate Di Camillo
Cornelia Funke
Cornelia Funke
Katherine Applegate
Edward Eager
Eve Ibbotson
Mary Norton
Roald Dahl
Roald Dahl
Ellen Raskin
William Pene Du Bois
Scott O'Dell
Pseudonymous Bosch
Jeanne DuPrau
Lauren Tarshis
Shirley Clino
Avi
Patron & Phelan
Bill Brittain
Rick Riordan
Michael Ende
Phyllis Reynolds
L. Frank Baum

Blue Balliett

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon Grace Lin
In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson Bette Lord
There's a Boy in the Girl's Bathroom Louis Sachar
Percy Jackson and the Olympians* Rick Riordan

*More advanced

+Available from school to borrow

Rick Riordan