



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 How to Think Like Leonardo DaVinci. We will start the year off right 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.

Summer Reading List – Incoming Eighth Graders
Overall Theme: Leadership
Social Studies Theme: World Studies & Societal Structures

Required for all:

+How to Think Like Leonardo DaVinci

Michael J. Gelb

Encouraged:

The Hobbit

J.R.R. Tolkien

Suggested:

My Antonia

Willa Cather

Fresh Off the Boat

Melissa De la Cruz

Hoot

Carl Hiassen

The Imaginary Invalid

Moliere

Refugees

Catherine Stine

Servant of Two Masters

Carlo Goldoni

Kit's Wilderness

David Almond

Before We Were Free

Julia Alvarez

A Girl Named Disaster

Nancy Farmer

The Alchemist

Paul Coelho

Rebecca

Daphne Du Maurier

Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austin

Dancing on the Edge

Han Nolan

The Face on the Milk Carton

Caroline B. Cooney

The Secret Life of Bees

Sue Monk Kidd

Bless Me, Ultima

Rudolfo Anaya

The Sweet Hereafter

Russell Banks

The Princess Bride

William Golding

Lipstick Jihad: a memoir of growing up Iranian in America and American in Iran Azadeh Moaveni

I am Malala

Malala Yousafzai

Mara, Daughter of the Nile

Eloise Jarvis McGraw

+available to borrow from school