



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

Mr. Seth Gordon
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of the English faculty at North Shore Middle School, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be partners in helping your children to learn and grow. We are excited to get to know your children this fall and hope to continue the progress made in elementary school. This summer we look forward to working with you to help your children foster and strengthen their appreciation of reading. Summer is a great time to emphasize the pleasure of reading whether at the beach, a park, on vacation or at home.

Our summer reading program aligns with the goals of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project, where students read regularly and authentically, reflect on author's craft and learn about themselves as readers. **We would like students read and enjoy at least two books this summer.** We guarantee that if we can help children find books that they care about and that are written within an appropriate range of textual complexity, they will read more this summer. We recommend that students aim to read for a half hour each day. We will include a menu of possible summer book options but we encourage you to work with your child to select the best books for them.

As your children leave for the summer, they should know their reading level so they can pick an enjoyable book that is appropriate for them. During the summer months, Camille Purcell will be available to students at the Sea Cliff Library, and Nicole Digirolamo will be available at the Gold Coast Library. Having met with them, I can tell you that Ms. Purcell and Ms. Digirolamo are knowledgeable about literature and students' reading habits, and they are dedicated to helping your children grow as readers. They can help you learn about digital book options for the iPad and/or smartphones, audiobooks, graphic novels, and books that children love. We also encourage you to talk to your children about their reading experiences and model for them the joys of summer reading.

When students return to school in September, their teachers will use the attached reflection questions to help prepare for a year-long sequence of individualized reading conferences, tailored to help your child grow as a reader and thinker. We believe our approach will help your child grow as a reader and thinker while promoting reading for pleasure during the summer.

Sincerely,

Seth Gordon
Humanities Teacher Leader

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