



North Shore Schools

Discovering Your Dreams

Mr. Seth Gordon
Middle School Teacher Leader
Humanities
gordons@northshoreschools.org

7 June 2018

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 look forward to working with you this summer 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. Consequently, we do not assign students specific titles, but rather ask that they choose from a menu of engaging books appropriate for their reading level. If we can help children find books that they care about and are within the appropriate range of textual complexity, we are confident that they will read more this summer. **We recommend that students aim to read for a half hour each day.**

As your children leave for the summer, they should have ideas for at least two 'just right' books, a list of questions to help them reflect on their reading experiences, and a clear sense of the purpose of summer reading. 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. Ms. Purcell and Ms. Digirolamo are dedicated to helping your children grow as readers and provide expert assistance into choosing books. 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 reflection questions given to the students in preparation for a year-long sequence of individualized reading conferences tailored to help your child grow as a reader and thinker.

Sincerely,

Seth Gordon
Humanities Teacher Leader