




Dear St. Vincent Parents,

I hope this letter finds you well. As summer vacation is underway, I wanted to take a moment to emphasize the importance of summer reading. Studies have shown that students who continue to read during the summer months are better prepared for the upcoming school year and are more likely to succeed academically.

Summer reading not only improves reading skills but also helps to expand vocabulary, increase knowledge, and improve critical thinking. It also provides a great opportunity for individuals to explore their interests and discover new perspectives through literature.

There are many ways to incorporate reading into your summer routine. Whether it's visiting the local library, joining a book club, or simply setting aside time each day to read, there are plenty of options to choose from. Encouraging children to read can also be a fun family activity that promotes a love of learning. One of the best ways to encourage your child to read is to have your child see you reading as well. To do this, some families choose to set a specific time for family reading where the entire family stops what they are doing and reads. Why not make this a fun event and pack up a blanket and a bag of books and head to the beach, a park or your backyard in the evening?

When selecting a book for your child, it's important to consider his/her reading level to ensure he/she can engage with the content comfortably and derive educational benefits from the experience. Here are some options you can use to select a book on your child's reading level:

Early Readers	2nd Grade - 8th Grade
<p>Have your child select a book and read one page out loud. Then follow the Five Finger Test.</p>  <p>5 Finger Book Test</p> <p>Read the first page of the book you like. Put up a finger when you come to a word that you do not know. Use the list below to determine if this is a right fit book for you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">1 = <i>Too Easy</i> You need more of a challenge.2 = <i>Just Right</i> Enjoy your book.3 = <i>Give it a go</i> Will be tough but might be fun to try.4 = <i>Too Tricky</i> Why not read this with an adult?5 = <i>Choose Another.</i> Try this one next year.	<p>Have your child follow the Five Finger Test or find your child's Lexile level at the bottom of his/her MAP test results that were sent home with the report cards. Then input their Lexile level into the following site:</p> <p>Lexile.com</p>

While it's important to have your child read books at his or her level, it's also important that your child engages with text that brings joy to them. Therefore, if your child is interested in reading text above his/her level, please find ways to support your child in enjoying this text such as reading it together, reading it to your child or having your child follow along with an audio book while holding a copy of the printed text. If your child is enjoying reading a book below his/her level, allow him/her to do this in addition to a text that may stretch your child as well.

Please consider your child's interests: While it's crucial to choose books within your child's reading level, it's equally important to consider their interests. Find books that align with their hobbies, favorite characters, or preferred genres. When children are engaged with the content, they are more likely to enjoy reading and develop a lifelong love for books.

Visit libraries and bookstores: Take your child to local libraries or bookstores and let them browse the shelves. Encourage them to explore different sections and genres while keeping their reading level in mind. Librarians and bookstore staff can also provide recommendations based on your child's age and reading abilities. I would highly recommend the following website:

<https://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/>

Remember, the goal is to encourage your child's reading development and enjoyment. By selecting books appropriate for their reading level and interests, you can nurture their love for reading and support their educational growth. I urge you to make summer reading a priority this year. It's a simple and enjoyable way to continue learning and growing, and it can have a positive impact on academic success. Thank you for your time, and happy reading!

Mrs. Schuler

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