

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

As sun and summer approach, indicating the end of another school year, it is important to keep the upcoming school year on the horizon. In order to maintain and increase students' literacy skills, every Northgate student is required to read during the summer. The intent of this activity is to keep students reading at a leisurely pace to keep their minds growing as they create life-long reading habits. Current research points out that increased summer reading reduces summer learning loss. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, has stated "A key step toward stopping the summer slide is the development and launch of high quality programs that take advantage of time outside the school day and year to help children learn, grow, and develop" (Elling, 2009).

For the 2014-2015 school year, we will be utilizing the Accelerated Reader program for summer reading. The students will have the ability to choose from over 150,000 titles from the AR database which can be accessed from any computer. This flexibility will span the ranges of reading levels while allowing all students to choose something he/she finds interesting. Books can be borrowed from the local libraries. Specific step-by-step directions were explained during English class and are included in this mailing. Students scheduled for AP Language or AP Literature in the fall of 2014 will be given an alternative assignment for their summer reading from their respective teachers.

Students will be required to take an assessment regarding the summer reading novel(s). The assessment will be administered on September 2nd for students in grade 7, 8, or 9, and on September 3rd to students in grade 10, 11, or 12. Students wishing to take the test(s) earlier may do so either on August 13th or August 18th from 8 am-11:30 am in the High School library. This assessment will count as a grade in the student's English class.

With encouragement from both school and home, your child will benefit from continued reading and will be well on the way to a successful school year.

Any questions regarding the summer reading assignment, please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Francesca J. Lattari at 412-732-3300 ext. 2109.

Thank you and enjoy your summer!

