

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family are looking forward to a relaxing and enjoyable summer break! As your child’s 7th and 8th grade English Language Arts teacher, I’d like to share our summer reading plan and how it can continue to support your child's growth in reading and comprehension during the months away from school.

This summer, instead of assigning a single novel for all students, we will be using **ReadWorks**, a free, research-based reading platform. ReadWorks offers a wide range of high-quality, engaging texts across various genres, topics, and reading levels. This gives students more **choice and flexibility**, while still supporting essential reading skills. We will read single novels during the school year.

Why ReadWorks?

- **Diverse Text Options:** Students can explore fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and more—tailored to their interests and reading level.
- **Built-in Comprehension Checks:** Each article includes questions that help build critical thinking and understanding.
- **Flexibility:** Whether your child is at home, traveling, or away at camp, they can log in and complete short, manageable assignments at their own pace.
- **Consistency:** Regular practice with a variety of texts helps maintain the reading progress they’ve made during the school year.

While reading novels is certainly valuable, this approach allows us to focus on **comprehension, vocabulary, and analytical thinking** across a broader range of topics. It also encourages **daily reading habits** with shorter, more accessible texts.

Included in this letter are the instructions on how to log into ReadWorks and complete the summer reading assignments. I will assign all readings to be available the entire summer. Students can read the assignments whenever they would like as long as the assignments are completed before the start of school. The assignments will open June 1, 2025 and will need to be completed by August 13, 2025.

In addition, please have your son/daughter memorize this list of prepositions. It is a valuable part of speech for advanced sentence structure. Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> graders already have been exposed, but they can benefit from memorizing them too. A full copy is on a page following this letter.

Prepositions		
aboard	behind	during
about	below	except
above	beneath	for
across	beside	from
after	besides	in
against	between	inside
along	beyond	into
among	but	like
around	by	near
at	concerning	of
before	down	off
on	throughout	on
out	to	upon
over	toward	with
past	under	within
since	underneath	without
through		

In this letter, I have included some interesting research on the benefits of reading, log-in information to ReadWorks, a list of prepositions, and instructions for completing the ReadWorks variety of assignments.

Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out. My email is [kstefanek@ndes.org](mailto:kstefanek@ndes.org). Let’s work together to make this summer both restful and enriching for your child!

Warmly,  
Mrs. Kelly Stefanek  
7th & 8th Grade ELA Teacher

## IMPORTANCE OF READING

Daily reading, even for short periods, significantly impacts literacy development. For example, reading 20 minutes daily can expose children to nearly 2 million words annually, boosting vocabulary and academic performance. Moreover, a substantial difference exists in the number of words children encounter depending on their daily reading habits, with high-reading students exposed to significantly more words than those who read less frequently. The Renaissance website notes that students reading 30+ minutes daily may encounter 13.7 million words by graduation, compared to 1.5 million for those reading less than 15 minutes.

Here's a more detailed breakdown:

- **Vocabulary Growth:**

Studies suggest that students learn approximately one new vocabulary word for every thousand words read, according to the Renaissance website.

- **Reading Fluency and Comprehension:**

Regular reading improves reading speed and comprehension, enabling students to better understand complex texts.

- **Academic Performance:**

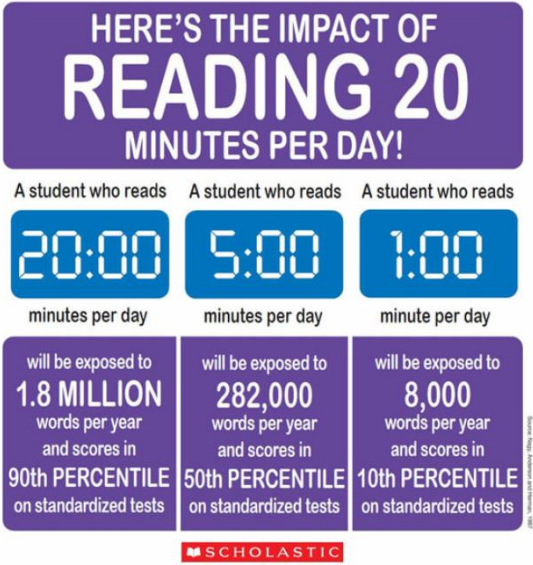
Children who read regularly tend to achieve higher scores on standardized tests and outperform their peers in academic areas.

- **Emotional and Social Development:**

Reading can also contribute to improved emotional well-being, stress reduction, and empathy.

- **Trend in Reading Habits:**

Recent data indicates a decline in student reading habits, with a decrease in the percentage of students reading for fun almost every day, according to [a report from Mastermind Behavior Services](#) and the Pew Research Center.



## Prepositions

**aboard  
about  
above  
across  
after  
against  
along  
among  
around  
at  
before  
on  
out  
over  
past  
since  
through**

**behind  
below  
beneath  
beside  
besides  
between  
beyond  
but  
by  
concerning  
down  
throughout  
till  
to  
toward  
under  
underneath**

**during  
except  
for  
from  
in  
inside  
into  
like  
near  
of  
off  
until  
up  
upon  
with  
within  
without**

As mentioned in the letter, please have your son/daughter in 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade memorize this list of prepositions.

## For Incoming 8<sup>th</sup> Grade On-Track Students

Students can access ReadWorks starting on June 1, 2025. They are required to complete 33 assignments by August 13, 2025.

Please follow these instructions to get started.

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### How to get students to their assignments

1. Have students go to [www.readworks.org/student](http://www.readworks.org/student)
2. Students enter class code **R45KCV**
3. Tell your students that their default password is **1234**

**Note:** Students can change their passwords when they log in, and you can change student passwords on this page.

### ReadWorks – Variety of Assignments and Required Work

1. If **Article-A-Day** is assigned, please complete the Book of Knowledge – follow directions given by program.
2. If **Reading Passage** is assigned, please complete the Vocabulary and the Questions – follow directions given by program.