

Dear Gibbsboro School families,

A goal of the Gibbsboro School Language Arts teachers is to foster a love of reading and to create lifelong readers. The summer months provide an opportunity to extend and enrich your child's reading experiences and prevent the loss of reading skills. Consider the following facts about reading:

Teachers typically spend between 4 to 6 weeks re-teaching material students have forgotten over the summer (Lasting Consequences of the Summer Learning Gap, Karl Alexander, Doris Entwistle, Linda Steffel Olson, April 2007).

Children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer (Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap, Jimmy Kim, Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk, 2004). Reading as a leisure activity is the best predictor of comprehension, vocabulary and reading speed (The Power of Reading, Stephen Krashen, Libraries Unlimited, 1993).

This summer finding books for your students to read is easy. Gibbsboro students now have access to both Overdrive and Sora, which are reading apps in which students can select books in electronic form. They have already made logins and passwords, and they will only need to download those apps on an electronic device of your choosing. Please note that finding books on these apps is simply a suggestion. Good old fashion paper books are totally acceptable if preferred!

We hope that our students will read many books over the summer and will return to school prepared to complete an appropriate activity. Each grade is required to read the following number of age appropriate fiction or non-fiction books :

- rising sixth graders are required to read **one** book each
- rising seventh are required to read **two** books
- rising eighth graders are required to read **three** books

Enjoy your summer and happy reading! If you have any questions, we can be reached at the following emails:

- ggibson@gibbsboroschool.org
- tlewis@gibbsboroschool.org
- mpollock@gibbsboroschool.org

Sincerely,

The Gibbsboro Junior High ELA team