

Dear Parents,

As we all know, summer vacation is rapidly approaching, along with an increase in leisure time for your child. What some may not realize is that summer break often results in a loss of knowledge that was acquired during the previous school year. According to experts at the University of Florida, the best predictor of academic loss or gain over the summer is whether a child reads consistently during vacation. Amidst the rest, relaxation, and fun, it is our hope that your child preserves his or her educational successes by taking time to read.

In order to assist your child in maintaining an interest in reading, we have compiled a list of entertaining and engaging websites you and your child can explore during summer break. Some websites offer exciting book titles and reviews for different grade levels, while others offer language arts-oriented games. Visiting these websites even a few times a week may make a world of difference in your child's ability to retain—and even enrich—his or her knowledge base over the next few months. Some hints: Read along with your child and discuss the book together. Encourage your child to read more than one book. If your child is struggling with a book or isn't enjoying it, stop and choose another title.

This summer we've created a link for your child to write a short reading response once he/she has completed a book. Simply open the link to submit the writing online. Students submit writing to their 2010-2011 Language Arts teacher, listed in the drop-down menu. **Students who submit book responses will receive extra credit with their 2011-2012 teacher.**

It is our hope that you will encourage your child to explore these websites so as to help foster his or her love of reading. After all, many of your family moments may occur on the beach or in the backyard, but some of your child's greatest adventures this summer may be found within the pages of a book.

Sincerely,

The Coloma Middle School Language Arts Department

P.S. This summer Lakeside Books in Coloma has set up a program for students 12 years old and younger to be able to come in and swap books. You can call them at 468-4117 for details.

Reading Sites

<http://www.educationalsynthesis.org/books/>

<http://www.bookadventure.com/ki/index.asp>

<http://eduscapes.com/tap/topic93.htm>

http://www.highlightskids.com/Stories/Rebus/rebusRoundup_Top.asp

Guys Read <http://www.guysread.com/>

Kids Reads <http://www.kidsreads.com/>

*Coloma Middle School fosters a safe and respectful school environment while
challenging students to reach their full academic and social potential. 2008*

Good Reads www.goodreads.com/shelf/show/middle-school

Scholastic www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=7958

Education World www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr244.shtml

American Library Association

<http://www.ala.org/ala/professionalresources/libfactsheets/alalibraryfactsheet23.cfm>

International Reading Association

<http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists/ChildrensChoices.aspx>

Newbery Medal and Honor Books

www.ala.org/.../awardsgrants/.../newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.cfm

www.ala.org/.../awardsgrants/.../newberymedal/newberywinners/medalwinners.cfm

Grammar Sites

http://www.theteacherscafe.com/Grammar/Grammar_Games.php

http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/quizzes/

<http://www.esolhelp.com/classroom-jeopady-games.html>

Miscellaneous Language Arts Fun

<http://www.funbrain.com/kidscenter.html>

<http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/gamezone2.htm>

<http://www.quia.com/cb/148767.html>

<http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/braint.htm>

http://www.fun-with-words.com/rebus_puzzles_01.html

<http://www.mycrazy.com/rebus-puzzle1.html>