

BURRILLVILLE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT

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Dear Burrillville Families,

Congratulations on the successful completion of another academic year! As you head into your summer vacation, we hope that you will remember to make reading a part of your day, every day.

Students and parents often ask us why we have summer reading assignments. "This is supposed to be vacation," they say. "Why do we have to read?"

Well, if you are looking at reading as a chore or an unpleasant task, we can understand why you would feel that way. But what if reading were something that you wanted to do? Author J.K. Rowling once said, "If you don't like to read, you haven't found the right book." This summer, we challenge all our students (and their families, too!) to find the "right book" and try to like - maybe even love! - reading. This year, we have made some changes to our summer reading assignments to reflect our belief that choice is a necessary ingredient to developing a lifelong love of reading.

There are so many good reasons to keep reading over the summer. Certainly, as teachers, we want our students to continue to feel connected to school and to a sense of learning, and we want to reinforce the reading skills that they already have. (Did you know that kids who don't read all summer can lose 4 months of learning during that time?) Summer is also a perfect time to get swept away by an amazing story, or to learn more about hobbies and interests, or to tackle reading something that's personally challenging for you.

We hope that you and your family will view these assignments not as hardships, but as stepping stones to a world of enjoyment. Best wishes for a wonderful, readingful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Mayhew".

Julie Mayhew