

Reading gives us a place to go
when we have to stay where we are.

Dear Parents,

We survived this year, and summer is finally here! Summer break is an important time for everyone to rest, reflect and renew after a long, and challenging school year. Reading during the summer break is especially important for our children because we want them to maintain their reading skills, while honoring the space and rest that is so necessary. If reading ever feels daunting or burdensome, I would suggest turning to poetry books and novels in verse. Poetry touches the heart and stimulates the mind through the rhythm and beauty of language. Novels in verse offer the depth of a story without the stamina required to read a longer book. The Tuscaloosa Public Library has an excellent poetry collection, please visit them!

During the school year, my first priority is always to connect our children with a book they will love. When children read books they love, they are motivated to read by choice and are on the path to becoming lifelong readers. The Holy Spirit Faculty provides suggestions for summer reading to help guide our children toward excellent books. Please find the reading lists for each grade attached below. Poetry books are noted in the list. Also, the following links provide additional resources you may find helpful.

[Scholastic Summer Reading \(Home Base\)](#). Track reading and play games.
[The Alabama Virtual Library](#) has great non-fiction books and games for kids.
[Tuscaloosa Public Library - Tails and Tales](#) Summer Reading Program.
[Tumble Books](#) (free online books), through Tuscaloosa Public Library
[Overdrive eBooks](#) Downloadable eBooks and Audiobooks, through the TPL.
[Epic Books](#) is a fun, online reading community for children.
[Out of This World](#) is a STEM book series developed in cooperation with NASA.

Also, if you ever need additional book suggestions for your child, please do not hesitate to email me – I will continue to be their librarian during the summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Brake
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