



Have you ever heard of the Summer Slide? It's a term used to describe what happens when children are not engaged in educational activities over the summer, and it is real! The good news is that the summer slide can be prevented! By engaging students in short, fun bursts of disguised educational experiences, students will get what they need to reduce the possibility of losing the skills they have worked so hard all year to gain. With this school year coming to an end and summer just around the corner, I'd like to share some ways to avoid the summer slide by encouraging students to set summer reading goals and providing some fun summer reading ideas to help them reach their goals.

Begin the summer by setting your intentions. Consider making a special date with your child to discuss summer reading goals using the conversation starters below as a guide. Put them in writing and display them as a reminder to your family's commitment to read over the summer:

- How many books do you plan to read?
- What is your plan for reading that many books?
- Where will you find these books?
- Who might you like to read with during the summer?
- What books do you hope to read?
- Do you have any favorite authors you hope to read books by?



### Summer Reading Goals

My goal is to read \_\_\_\_\_ books  
either on my own or with someone  
over the summer.

To reach my goal I will do the following things:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_



For **Memorial School's Summer Reading Challenge**, I would like to encourage all of our 4th and 5th graders to read 10 titles this summer. They can be chapter books, picture books, magazines, newspapers, recipes, directions to a new game, poetry, song lyrics, comic books, etc. **Summer Reading Library Cards** with directions for the challenge on the back are being sent home with this year's fourth and fifth graders during the last week of school. Be sure to look for them and encourage your child to participate in order to be eligible for some cool prizes when they return them during the first week back to school in the fall!

To build excitement for summer reading as a family, check out this [2 minute video of Dav Pilkey](#), author/illustrator of Dogman, as he sketches and talks about why it's important to keep reading this summer.

A fun way to continue to engage your child in reading over the summer is by participating in the Summer Reading Program through [Newton's Gale Public Library](#) and [Kingston's Community Public Library](#). This year's Summer Reading Program's theme is **Tails and Tales**. Access the sign ups for the program online through the links above.

I also encourage you to check the following links often for updates about additional programming during these unique times:

#### **Gale Library**

<https://www.newton-nh.gov/gale-library>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/category/Library/The-Gale-Library-Newton-NH-110328637315/>

## **Kingston Community Library**

<https://www.kingston-library.org/programs.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/Kingston-Community-Library-402272246795/>

Another way to keep the learning flowing is what I like to call, “Read Time **BEFORE** Screen Time.” Choose a designated amount of time you’d like your child to read for before they are able to engage in screen time. Although the goal is for at least twenty minutes of reading a day, it doesn’t all need to happen at once. Perhaps part of that time could be independent reading time and the other part of the time could be shared reading at bedtime or another designated time during the day. For independent reading, I suggest beginning with 15-20 minutes for 4th-6th graders. Once your child builds their independent reading stamina, you may choose to increase the time. You know your child best, so use your own discretion while keeping in mind that the goal is for our children to see reading as fun, not as a chore that they dread doing.

Speaking of keeping reading fun, why not make a game of it? Play Summer Reading BINGO using [Scholastic’s Summer Reading BINGO Board](#) or by creating your own 5 x 5 grid with your child. Maybe you could consider creating an incentive list like:

### **After 5 activities on the board are completed...**

Share a special snack like ice cream sundaes.

### **After 10 activities on the board are completed...**

Have a special family game night complete with their favorite game day snacks.

### **After 15 activities on the board are completed...**

Share their meal of choice together, including their favorite dessert.

### **After 20 activities on the board are completed...**

Have a special movie night complete with popcorn and candy!

**After all activities on the board are completed...**

Go on a special family outing while maintaining social distancing, of course!

I'm confident that our Memorial Eagles will set some great goals and work hard towards meeting them! Remember, reading gives you some place to go when you have to stay at home. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and safe summer!

Keep reading and keep smiling!

Mrs. Parker