



SACRED HEART OF JESUS SCHOOL

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Dear Parents,

We know our students are greatly anticipating the summer months ahead! As summer begins, we strongly encourage you to make reading a priority with your child ***and read all summer long!*** In addition to stimulating the imagination and providing a great recreational activity, reading over the summer can help minimize summer learning losses. There are no limits to the benefits of reading!

Students going into fourth through eighth grade will participate in summer reading. To help ensure this is an enjoyable experience, each student will select his or her book from the Louisiana Young Reader's Choice Awards list. Students going into pre-kindergarten through third grade will not have a required book to read, but we strongly encourage that every student read as much as possible.

Please note that the library will be open three days this summer for students to take Accelerated Reader tests: Saturday, June 17, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; Sunday, July 9, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.; and Sunday, June 23, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Any students in third through eighth grade are welcome to take tests at this time. All points earned will count for the 2017-18 school year!

Here are some tips to help establish a positive reading culture and to make it an activity your child looks forward to every day:

- Establish reading time every day. For example, read a few books together every night before bed. Or establish a “relax and reading hour” every day, perhaps after they come home from camp or from playing outside. Whatever works with your schedule!
- Try to avoid negative language with reading. Reading shouldn't be a chore and DEFINITELY shouldn't be a punishment; it should be a fun and relaxing part of their day!
- Save money on books and visit one of our AMAZING five-star libraries in EBR. Allow your child, with a little bit of guidance, to pick out a good stack of books for themselves.
- Participate in East Baton Rouge Parish Library's Summer Reading Program: “Build a Better World.” More information can be found by clicking [here](#).

- Create a “Summer Reading Bucket List” with every family member, where each person lists all the books they want to read over the summer! Be sure the adults participate too!
- Find fun new places to read! Make a blanket fort, read under the trees outside, visit the park and have a picnic.
- Lead by example! Read to your child, ask them to read to you, or share a book together. Read magazines, books, and newspapers around them.
- Listen to audio books on long car rides. These can also be checked out from the public library!
- Encourage siblings to read to one another to strengthen their fluency and speaking skills.
- Have your child make a list of all the books read this summer. They can then rate each book with stickers on a scale from 1 – 5, based on how much they enjoyed them!
- Don’t be afraid to read the same favorites over and over again. Don’t be worried if your child is reading mostly comic books. Try not to force them to read a book they are resisting. Remember – ANY reading is POSITIVE reading! 😊

We hope your family has a restful and fun-filled summer break. Don’t forget: even if you can’t get away from Baton Rouge for a vacation, you can always escape in a book!

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