

SUMMER 2013

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“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

~ Nelson Mandela

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Parent Page



Avoiding the Summer Slide

A plethora of research has shown that students lose an average of 2 months of academic skills over the summer months. As a result, teachers are compelled to review the previous year's work before teaching new material in the first few weeks of school. This loss of educational gains is commonly called the "summer slide".

According to many educational sources, the disparity of loss between students living in poverty and those from more affluent families is great. Students living in poverty often experience **more than 2 months** of educational loss, while students from affluent families may make

slight gains. While the reasons for the disparity may be varied, one contributing factor may be unequal access to quality summer programming.

While physical and social activities are imperative to a child's overall health and well-being for summer, building upon the foundations set throughout the academic year are just as vital. Remember that **READING EVERY DAY** is a key factor in preventing a loss of students' educational gains.

Here are a few ideas:

1. Visit your local library to help your child find "the right books"

2. Make sure your child reads at least 20 minutes every day
3. Set a good example—make sure your child sees you reading every day
4. Read to AND with your child
5. Read for different purposes: reading recipes and/directions is a great way to encourage reading
6. Play games with words
7. Allow your child to use your e-reader or tablet to find interactive books and apps that allow you to download books and reading related games

Literacy is Key

According to the Family Scholarly Culture and Educational Success: Books and Schooling in 27 Nations report, "Children growing up in homes with many books get three years more schooling than children from book-less homes."

Suggestion: Remember that modeling good reading habits is a great way to encourage your child to read. Make

sure that your children see you reading for pleasure often in your spare time. Be sure to make a variety of reading materials readily available in convenient places throughout your home to encourage your children to read on their own.

Fill your house with books! Give books as gifts and reward your children with literature. (Most book retailers offer gift cards or certificates

for sale.) It is the most useful thing you can do!





For more information about the Common Core Standards and how you can assist your child, visit:

Engageny.org:

www.engageny.org/parent-and-family-resources

National Parent Teacher Association:

www.pta.org

BASCS Staff Support:

Mr. Ersoy, Director
Mrs. Gillison, Guidance
Mrs. Cameron,
Outreach
Mr. Cieslik, HS Social
Studies
Mrs. Wilczak, HS ELA

What Are Common Core Learning Standards?

Learning standards describe what students should know and be able to do in each grade. The new Common Core Standards provide a clear picture of what students need to learn each year in order to graduate from high school ready to succeed in college and careers.

The Common Core Standards were developed by educators and other experts based on research and lessons learned by top-performing countries. The standards describe the skills and knowledge our students need to succeed in a rapidly changing world, including the ability to think creatively, solve real-world

problems, make effective arguments and engage in debates.

In NYS, Common Core Standards for English language arts include a focus on literacy in history, science and technical subjects. As a result, students will be asked to do significantly more writing and to read increasingly more complex texts with an emphasis on nonfiction. In math, students will take more time to understand concepts deeply, make connections between topics and master complex ideas through hands-on learning.

Staying informed about your

child's academic performance and behavior at school is key to making sure s/he is developing the skills s/he will need to be successful in college and careers. Some easy ways to stay well-informed are:

- Check in regularly with your child's teachers
- Attend parent-teacher conferences
- Volunteer at school events
- Join the parent association

**The information that appears in this section was gathered from the NYC Department of Education.*



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Parent Resources

"All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during summer. Research spanning 100 years shows that students typically score lower on standardized tests at the end of summer vacation than they do on the same tests at the beginning of the summer (White, 1906; Entwisle & Alexander 1992; Cooper, 1996; Downey et al. 2004)."

-National Summer Learning Association, *Doesn't Every Child Deserve a Memorable Summer?* (Baltimore, MD: Author, 2009), http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=research_brief.

National Summer Learning Association - http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=research_brief

Reading Is Fundamental - <http://www.rif.org/us/literacy-resources/articles/teenagers-and-reading.htm>

Education.com - <http://www.education.com/magazine/article/teen-summer-math-slide/>

Edutopia - <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/resources-prevent-summer-slide-matt-davis>

