

RAPTORS READ!



January 30, 2024

Hello Raptor students and families!

We are excited to welcome you to another school year and share information about our Raptors Read program.

While summer offers a necessary break from the academic pace and rigor of the school year, it also offers an opportunity to rediscover the pleasure of reading and to enjoy a lazy summer afternoon with a good book. Much has been written about the “Summer Slide,” in which students’ academic skills start to diminish over the summer break.¹ Fortunately, research shows that much of the slide can be significantly reduced with one simple remedy: regular reading.²

When students are directed to read a specific title, though, the joy that we hope students experience is often diminished. Thus, in an effort to reduce the “Summer Slide” while simultaneously fostering the love of reading that we all wish for our students, we updated our *Raptors Read!* program to allow all students—regardless of grade level or course—to select a text that best matches their reading preferences and reading levels.

That’s right—we want **every student**—along with **every staff member**—to select a book that interests them and enjoy it over the summer. When students return to Eaglecrest in August, they will have an opportunity to discuss their book with their peers. Why? Research shows that the opportunity to discuss readings with others leads to greater enjoyment.³ There is no assigned book. No written assignment. No project. Just read!

If students already have a book they want to read, that’s great! If not, our nationally recognized library has curated a list of suggestions, and we’ve also asked all staff members at Eaglecrest for their book recommendations. Those lists can be found here: <http://bit.ly/EHSRaptorsRead>. Please realize that in our attempt to suggest titles that would appeal to a wide range of students, some of the titles may be more appropriate for more mature readers. Please use your best judgment when choosing a book and feel free to consult your parents, teachers, or the EHS teacher librarians

This summer, we hope you stay safe, stay healthy, and enjoy a good book.

Sincerely,

The Eaglecrest High School Faculty

¹ Kim, James S. “Effects of a Voluntary Summer Reading Intervention on Reading Achievement: Results From a Randomized Field Trial.” *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, vol. 28, no. 4, Dec. 2006, pp. 335–355, doi:10.3102/01623737028004335.

² McGill-Franzen, Anne, et al. “Summers: Some are Reading, Some are Not! It Matters.” *The Reading Teacher*, vol. 69, no. 6, 2016, pp. 585–596., www.jstor.org/stable/44001381. Accessed 16 Apr. 2020.

³ McGaha, Julie M., and L. Brent Igo. “Assessing High School Students’ Reading Motivation in a Voluntary Summer Reading Program.” *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*, vol. 55, no. 5, 2012, pp. 417–427., doi:10.1002/jaal.00050.