



Al Ihsan School of Excellence

Summer Reading Program 2018  
For Students Entering 1st through 5th Grade

Assalamu Alaikum Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to roll-out a brand new elementary summer reading program. We are providing our students with Reading BINGO Cards that will provide suggestions for summer reading and literacy activities. We hope that your children will look forward to reading this summer and take the opportunity to engage in many rich and rewarding activities that allow them to discover books they will truly enjoy.

As an incentive to read in the summer, Chipotle is sponsoring a summer reading rewards program. Students who get BINGO (across, down or diagonal from top to bottom) on the Summer Reading BINGO Card and turn in their reading logs will be awarded with a certificate for free Chipotle at the beginning of the school year.

The philosophy underlying our summer reading program supports best practices in literacy instruction ...

- The research tells us that students need to read during the summer to maintain their independent reading levels. In the fall, the impact of a student not having read during the summer months, combined with the fact that many of his or her new classmates did read during the summer may result in a reading ability gap that could potentially widen each year making it difficult for students to keep up with grade level reading expectations.
- Research also tells us that we should encourage students to choose from a wide variety of books that will allow them to select books that appeal to their individual interests. We want your children to look forward to the luxury of time that summer will provide and allow them to experience the joy of reading books they will love. We hope our students will anticipate the publishing of a new book by a favorite author with the same enthusiasm they await the release of a new movie or video game!

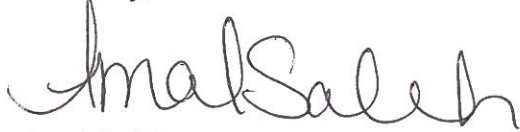
Instead of a written assignment or test based upon summer reading, we ask that students entering 1st - 5th grades simply keep a reading log, listing the title and the author of each book they read. (A copy of a grade appropriate "reading log" is provided). As an alternative to the written assignment and test, students will be asked to bring in their reading bingo cards and reading logs, listing the books they have read over the summer to school in August. Our goal is to offer more student-centered opportunities that will allow for more creativity. With your guidance, they will select their favorite book and present a "**book talk**" for their class. Some of our older elementary students may opt to create a book trailer or use an alternate presentation format. Classroom teachers will work with their students to help them decide how they would like to present their favorite book. The presentations will take place sometime during the first few weeks of school and do not need to be completed before students return to school.

We encourage parents and guardians of students entering 1st - 5th grades to be actively involved in the book selection process and we want you to know that with parental/guardian approval, your children may select books that are not included on the Reading BINGO Cards to fulfill the summer reading assignment. We encourage students to borrow books from Cuyahoga County Public Libraries. Parents and students may also want to consider trading, swapping, or borrowing books from friends or relatives.

With your support we want to make this a summer that encourages your child to fall in love with reading! We hope that by including many titles and authors, and by encouraging parents to be involved in the selection and approval of high interest books, our students will read many, many books this summer. The door is open for you and your child to choose from fiction, non-fiction, informational, and how-to-books. Texts may be the traditional print or eBook versions. Have fun, read to each other and talk about books during dinner or while riding in the car. Help your child to see the summer as a time when they can dive into books that feed their imagination and special interests. Think about some of the books you read and loved as a child and consider presenting a book talk for your child to spark their interest in reading the book to create a shared memory.

Wishing you a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amal Saleh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Amal Saleh  
Head of Curriculum and Instruction