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## RO Summer Recommendations

June 2024

Dear RO Students and Families:

Summer is a special time to enjoy the outdoors, play, explore and have fun with our friends and family. At our school, we value the whole child. We want our students to experience a stress-free vacation with their family, enjoy a summer camp or enjoy the simplicity and creativity that come from just playing outside.

We also are mindful that it is important to practice our reading and math over the summer so that we keep our learning minds fresh and sharp and ready for next year. Attached to this letter are a list of suggested books that would help your student build background knowledge ahead of their first literacy unit of the school year. Research is clear that the more background knowledge a student has, the stronger the comprehension of a text will be. It is not suggested or expected that your student reads all the selections on the attached list. Feel free to pick and choose.

This packet also includes a list of 'summer math resources' including books, games, and websites that we encourage your student to select from to keep their math thinking sharp over the summer.

We also strongly encourage regular trips to the Ames Free Library to allow your student to pick books of interest. Easton is fortunate to have one of the best public libraries in the state and their children's literature selection (and space) is phenomenal.

What we think is most important for your student's readiness for school is decreasing screen time and increasing time playing and talking with family and friends. We are noticing a decreasing trend of interpersonal skills, communication, problem solving, particularly in unstructured social settings, within our student population. We believe in the power of face-to-face communication, play, using your imagination, sharing your thinking, seeking different perspectives, and listening. These are opportunities that we should be actively seeking and facilitating for our students. Please set time limits for screen time for your students and try to increase time where your student is talking, playing, listening, sharing, reading and exploring the world around them.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and thank you, in advance, for supporting your student with this summer work. We look forward to welcoming your student back to school on August 29, 2024.

Have a wonderful summer!

Chris Getchell