



Summer Reading Requirements

Grades 1st - 5th

Ascension Classical School believes that learning to read well is essential to a child's education. Reading is more than a skill—it is the foundation for clear thinking, strong communication, and a lifelong love of learning. Studies show that students who read daily build vocabulary, strengthen comprehension, and grow in confidence across all subjects. Over time, even a few minutes of consistent reading makes a meaningful difference. In the classical tradition, we encourage students to read what is good, beautiful, and true—works that shape both the mind and the character. For this reason, we are pleased to provide a Summer Reading Program, inviting students to continue growing as readers and to cultivate both discipline and delight in reading throughout the summer.

We encourage your child to not only complete the required reading assignment, but also read beyond that requirement by reading more books from the reading list provided for each grade level. We also encourage you as a family to share in reading time together. The books listed may be found in public libraries, Amazon, local bookstores and thrift stores. The Reading lists and report instructions are attached and will be posted on our school website for future reference. Anchor Book Lists are also available on our website to provide more reading opportunities.

Books read and listed on the Reading Record that are also on the Anchor Book List will qualify for our 2026/27 school year Anchor Awards.

SUMMER READING REQUIREMENTS

- READ the REQUIRED books assigned.
- Turn in a completed Reading Record that includes parent signatures.
- Turn in one completed Book Report for one of the required books listed.
- Turn in the Reading Record and Required Book Report on the first day of school.

READING BEYOND THE READING REQUIREMENTS

- If you choose to read beyond the required books, you will be eligible for A Summer Reading Award! Award levels and award requirements are listed on each grade level page.



REQUIRED SUMMER READING + PROJECT

Parents, please read with your child

**ENTERING
FIRST
GRADE**

1. Choose 1 set of readers from the list:

- Bob Books Set 2 Advancing Beginners (12 books in a box)
- Usborne Phonics Readers (choose 10 books from the series)
- Real Kid Readers Level 1 (choose 10 books from the series)
- I Can Read- Level 1 or 2 Readers (choose 10 from I Can Read series)
- Dick and Jane- Level 1 or 2 Readers (choose 10 from series)

2. Read at least two of the following Dr. Seuss Early Readers:

- The Cat in the Hat
- Green Eggs and Ham
- One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish
- Hop on Pop
- Fox in Socks

3. Read at least one of the following to or with your child-

- A Tree is Nice by Janice May Udry
- The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
- Have You Seen My Cat? By Eric Carle
- Stuart Little by E.B.White

Illustration Book Report: Students will complete **one** illustration book report: On an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper, students should draw a picture of a favorite part of one of the books they read. Students should sign their artwork using their best penmanship.

Reading Record: Complete Reading Record Form including parent signatures.

Reading Record and Illustration Book Report are due on the first day of school.

**1ST GRADE
BEYOND THE
REQUIREMENT
AWARD
QUALIFICATIONS**

BLUE AWARD

- Read 35 books+ with parent assistance.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Illustration Book Report completed

RED AWARD

- Read 25 books with parent assistance.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Illustration Book Report completed

WHITE AWARD

- Read 15 books with parent assistance.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Illustration Book Report completed

ENTERING SECOND GRADE

REQUIRED SUMMER READING + PROJECT

Reading:

- *Egyptian Cinderella* by Shirley Climo
- *Henry and Mudge in the Family Trees* by Cynthia Rylant

Book Report and Illustration: Students will complete **one** book report on the form provided. Remember to use your best penmanship, correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation. On an 8.5 x 11 piece of paper or on the back of the Book Report form, students should draw a picture of a favorite part of the book included in the report. Students should sign their artwork using their best penmanship.

Reading Record - Complete Reading Record Form including parent signatures. Parents can help their student complete the reading record.

Reading Record and Illustration Book Report are due on the first day of school.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST:

- *Corduroy* by Don Freeman
- *Owl at Home* by Arnold Lobel
- *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* by Peter Roop
- *Egyptians* by Stephanie Turnbull
- *Tale of the Three Trees* by Angela Elwell Hunt
- *Bartholomew and the Oobleck* by Dr. Seuss

2ND GRADE BEYOND THE REQUIREMENT AWARD QUALIFICATIONS

BLUE AWARD

- Read both required books with parent assistance.
- Read four additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Book report and Illustration completed.

RED AWARD

- Read both required books with parent assistance.
- Read three additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Book Report and Illustration completed

WHITE AWARD

- Read both required books with parent assistance.
- Read two additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- Book Report and Illustration completed

REQUIRED SUMMER READING + PROJECT

Reading:

- *The Trojan Horse* by Emily Little
- *Henry Huggins* by Beverly Cleary

**ENTERING
THIRD
GRADE**

Book Report: Complete **one** notecard book report for **one** of the required books. Remember to use your best penmanship, correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Book Reports are due the first day of school and will be part of the first quarter's literature grade. Book Reports are not required for the additional books read.

Reading Record - Complete Reading Record Form including parent signatures.

Reading Record and Book Report are due on the first day of school.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST:

- *On the Banks of Plum Creek* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- *Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary
- *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* by Judi Barrett
- *Encyclopedia Brown* by Donald Sobol
- *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame

**3RD GRADE
BEYOND THE
REQUIREMENT
AWARD
QUALIFICATIONS**

BLUE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read three additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- One Book Report completed.

RED AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read two additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- One Book Report completed

WHITE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read one additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record completed by parent.
- One Book Report completed

REQUIRED SUMMER READING + PROJECT

ENTERING FOURTH GRADE

Reading:

- *Ink on His Fingers* by Louise A Vernon
- *The Making of a Knight* by Patrick O'Brien

Book Report: Complete **one** notecard book report for **one** of the required books. Remember to use your best penmanship, correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Book Reports are due the first day of school and will be part of the first quarter's literature grade. Book Reports are not required for the additional books read.

Reading Record - Complete Reading Record Form including parent signatures.

Reading Record and Book Report are due on the first day of school.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST:

- *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
- *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls
- *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell
- *The Sword in the Stone* by T.H. White
- *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers

4TH GRADE BEYOND THE REQUIREMENT AWARD QUALIFICATIONS

BLUE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read three additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed.

RED AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read two additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed

WHITE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read one additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed

REQUIRED SUMMER READING + PROJECT

ENTERING FIFTH GRADE

Reading:

- *Alone, Yet Not Alone* by Tracy Leininger Craven
- *Ben and Me* by Robert Lawson

Book Report: Complete **one** notecard book report for **one** of the required books. Remember to use your best penmanship, correct spelling, capitalization and punctuation. Book Reports are due the first day of school and will be part of the first quarter's literature grade. Book Reports are not required for the additional books read.

Reading Record - Complete Reading Record Form including parent signatures.

Reading Record and Book Report are due on the first day of school.

ADDITIONAL BOOKS LIST:

- *Pedro's Journal* by Pam Conrad
- *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone
- *And Then What Happened, Paul Revere?* by Jan Fritz
- *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott
- *Fever 1793* by Laurie Halse Anderson
- *Old Yeller* by Fred Gipson
- *Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss

5TH GRADE BEYOND THE REQUIREMENT AWARD QUALIFICATIONS

BLUE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read three+ additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed.

RED AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read two additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed

WHITE AWARD

- Read both required books.
- Read one additional books from the list provided.
- Reading Record signed by parent.
- One Book Report completed