



## AMERICAN OVERSEAS SCHOOL OF ROME

Summer 2018

Dear Middle School Students and Families,

Congratulations! You've made it to the end of the school year and have the entire summer in front of you. Even though the academic year has come to an end, it isn't time to turn off your brain and store it away until September 2018.

Summer vacation is an important time to maintain your vocabulary and reading comprehension, particularly for students who do not speak and read English as their first language. The best activity over the summer is reading, both for students and their parents. Students learn reading behaviors from their family and parents can encourage reading patterns by helping to select books, talking about current books and modeling good reading habits themselves.

The Middle School English teachers want to guide you in this process by offering lists of books you may enjoy. After all, enjoying the books which you read is the most important step to keep you reading! This year for the first time as part of our "Everybody Reads" initiative, school will give all enrolled students for 2018-2019 the book, *Sticks and Stones*, by Abby Cooper, to read over the summer. We will then have activities and group work across the Middle School next year based on the book.

It is suggested that each student read *at least* two (2) books this summer and we encourage you to read more! Upon return to school in September, the English teachers will have class activities that focus on your summer reading. All students are expected to bring their copy of *Sticks and Stones*, as well as their two books' Summer Reading Assignments (back of the book list).

In addition to reading, it is important to keep your math mind active. Returning Middle School students can continue to use Freckle (formally Front Row), students joining us from Grade 5 can continue with their Mathletics accounts and all students new or returning can find great guidance for these topics with Khan Academy. It is very important to review the following topics for mastery: multiplication, division, fractions and problem solving. For that, all families can work together on the attached Getting Ready for Grade 6, 7 & 8 Summer Math Fun documents with differentiated problem solving calendars to keep students' minds sharp for the year ahead!

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable summer and remember to keep your mind active while experiencing adventures both near and far by reading and problem solving your way through the vacation!

Sincerely,

Sarah Ellyson

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