

Dear Rising Class of 2026 Families,

Children acquire new skills throughout the school year, but they can lose ground if learning stops during the summer break. Fortunately, learning never has to stop. Children who read throughout the summer gain skills and develop a better understanding of language and the world around them. Please encourage them to experience the joy of reading, the doorway to all other learning.

This summer, students will read a minimum of one book from either the ***Virginia Mystery Series, Brother Wars, or The Final Kingdom Series*** by local Richmond author **Steven K. Smith**. In the fall, we plan to have Mr. Smith as a guest speaker at All Saints Catholic School. In preparing for this visit, students will need to be familiar with his writing. Ms. Devany will introduce his first book, ***Summer of the Woods***.

There will be a summer reading “file folder” project due on the first day of school. Directions will be found on the reading Google Classroom Page.

Reading doesn't have to be the last step! Once your child has finished the book, you can build upon that experience by talking to them about it and if you're not sure what to say, you can use some of the following and I also will be asking these questions:

- What were some of the differences between this book and books you normally read?
- Were you surprised about anything that happened or that you learned from this book?
- Now that you've read this book, is there anything that it makes you want to do or learn more about?

Happy Summer Reading!

Mrs. Detrick

