



1701 Mountain Industrial Boulevard
Stone Mountain, GA 30083-1027
678-676-1200

Board of Education
Dr. Melvin Johnson, *Chair*
Mr. James L. 'Jim' McMahan, *Vice Chair*
Mr. David Campbell
Dr. Karen Carter
Mr. John W. Coleman
Dr. Michael A. Erwin
Mr. Thad Mayfield
Dr. Joyce Morley
Mr. Marshall D. Orson

Superintendent
Mr. Michael L. Thurmond

Greetings Parent or Guardian,

In order for students to reach their fullest potential, they need a strong foundation in reading and writing. Reading outside of the classroom is critical for maintaining and expanding a child's literacy skills especially during the summer break. According to the International Reading Association and The Children's Reading Foundation®, research suggests that students should spend a minimum of 20 minutes per day reading outside of the classroom.

On behalf of the DeKalb County School District, I am pleased to announce DeKalb's participation in the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge, a free online reading program. The goals of the summer reading program are as follows:

- Help students develop reading and writing skills through different types of reading experiences
- Teach students how to think critically
- Connect students and families with local libraries, book stores, and community organizations
- Encourage students to become lifelong readers

In an effort to promote reading, this year's theme is *Reading Under the Stars*. As students read and record their reading minutes, they will unlock star constellations and learn interesting facts. Parents, guardians, and mentors will have the opportunity to help children strengthen their reading comprehension, vocabulary, critical thinking, and conversation skills.

Visit www.scholastic.com/summer to access free articles, activity sheets, book lists, and innovative ideas to motivate your child to read. Please help our children accept the summer challenge to read daily and enrich their lives. Your engagement and support are needed as we launch the new summer reading program.

Regards,

Mr. Michael L. Thurmond
Superintendent