



The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

Prevent the Summer Slide by Creating a Summer Bucket List

By Naomi Gilbert, Counselor, Bright Star Elementary School

During the summer break, students can lose some of the information they have gained over the school year. This loss of knowledge has been named the “summer slide.” According to Scholastic, “students lost, on average, about 20 percent of their school-year gains in reading and 27 percent of their school-year gains in math during summer break” (Austrew, 2022). There are some things that parents can do to counteract this loss of knowledge. One fun way to encourage summer learning is with a summer bucket list.

A summer bucket list is like a checklist or bingo card that your child works to complete over the summer. This list can be built as a family, or the child can pick and choose the items they want to add to their list themselves. Items that can be added to a summer bucket list are endless. Googling summer bucket list ideas will result in many creative and fun things you can do over the summer months, like build a sand castle, have a water balloon fight, learn to do a cartwheel, build a fort, etc. Here is a [link](#) to over 100 ideas. To help prevent the summer slide, add some of the following fun and educational ideas to their list.

Visit the library

Create and nurture a love of books and reading. Let kids pick and read the books that they want to read. They can also get a stuffed animal friend that can be their reading buddy and read to it daily.

Find books that have been made into movies. You can read the book together and then watch the movie. Develop their critical thinking skills by discussing the differences between the book and the movie. Talk about what they liked better in the book and what they liked better in the movie.

Tie reading to real life by finding nonfiction books based on historical events or locations near you. Visit the site to help link the literature to the place. A great example would be reading a book about animals and visiting the zoo. The West Georgia Regional Library System has a zoo program with Zoo Atlanta offering three free zoo tickets every year if you watch the Zoo DVD at the library. Contact your local library for more information.

The library also offers several fun things for children to do over the summer, such as craft projects, guest readers, and more. You can learn more about these programs [here](#).

Cook together

Pick up a cookbook or two with fun recipes you can make together. There are several children’s cookbooks that help with reading fundamentals. As the children age, the reading and recipe itself become more challenging. Follow this [link](#) for a list of children's reading cookbooks. Cooking is another great way to help children develop and strengthen their math skills.

Allow time for fun educational games

Playing video games, tablets, and other electronic devices is a favorite pastime for children. Children can play many fun and educational games over the summer to help sharpen their skills in reading and math. There are online games for every subject area, from math to STEM and everything in between. [Here](#) is a comprehensive list compiled by teachers of some recommended educational games.

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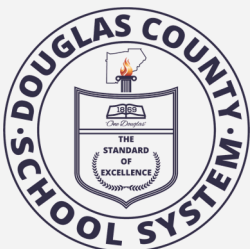
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Get messy and creative

Conducting science experiments, crafting, or doing hands-on activities is another great way to decrease the summer slide. Several fun science experiments can be found online. Here is a [link](#) to 50 fun and engaging science experiments. Children love to get messy and see what happens during science experiments. To start the experiment, discuss what a hypothesis is and have them develop their own ideas of how they feel the experiment will go.

Nature walk

It's always a good idea to get outside, get some fresh air, and run out some energy. Taking a nature walk can not only help with those things, but it can also be educational. Create a nature walk scavenger hunt. Look for items that begin with a particular letter, tally mark how many you see of a specific item, use your five senses to discuss what's outside, etc. Some scavenger hunt lists and other fantastic fun and educational nature walks ideas can be found [here](#).

The ideas and ways you can use bucket list activities are endless. Not only does the summer bucket list help bridge the learning gap over the summer, and it is also a great way to create lasting memories.

References

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- West Georgia Regional Library System <https://wgrls.org/>



JOB OPPORTUNITIES WITH SCHOOL NUTRITION AT THE DOUGLAS COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Are you looking for work in Douglas County? Click [here](#) for more information and to go to the School Nutrition section of the Douglas County School System website!

Continue Learning this Summer

By Dr. LaTonya Martin Rogers, Teacher, Factory Shoals Elementary School

Summer vacation is around the corner. Although it is time for your child to relax and have some fun, it is important to make sure that what they have learned the previous year has not been forgotten. You can easily review information from the previous school year to help prevent learning loss and ensure that your child is up to date on the information that they should know for the upcoming school year. Below are a few tips to help you:

- Speak with your child's teacher about the materials to review over the summer. Request suggestions about reading, mathematics, projects and much more.
- Try finding workbooks, flashcards, projects and puzzles.
- Listen to your child read every day for 30 minutes. Signing up at the library and going every week to check out books is also a great way to make learning fun.
- If you and your family are planning to travel, encourage your child to journal and draw pictures about what they learned on the trip and the most exciting part about the trip.
- The best way to encourage your child's academic interests in subject matter is to find ways to help them explore these topics.

The best way to encourage your child's academic interests in subjects that they learn about in school is to help them find ways to continue exploring these topics. Summer does not mean learning stops, so be sure to learn and discover new things every day.

Learning Fun in the Summertime

By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

As the end of the year approaches, it is time to celebrate all that our English Learners have accomplished! Students have made great progress in reading, writing, understanding, and speaking English. We are so proud of them! Even though school ends on May 24, we do not want our English Learners to stop learning! Your child can continue to make progress while enjoying the summer break.

- ✓ English Learners will still have access to Lexia, Flocabulary, and Nearpod. If you have a computer or tablet and internet access, these programs are a great way for your child to build reading skills and increase vocabulary. Just 1 hour each week is enough to help your child to be ready for next year. Ask your child's ESOL teacher for log in information.
- ✓ There are many free online activities that can help your child retain the skills that he or she has learned in school. [Abcya](#), [Starfall](#), and [Teach Your Monster to Read](#) are excellent choices for elementary school students. Students (and even adults) can use [Duolingo](#) to work on English skills. [Duolingo ABC](#) is a great app for helping younger English Learners improve reading skills. [Khan Academy](#) is a great site to help students learn new skills or practice the skills they learned this year.
- ✓ Reading is so important! Reading to or with your English Learner and discussing books is the best way to help your child. Encourage your child to read. The Lithia Springs Public Library and the Douglas County Public Library are excellent resources for FREE books. They also offer story time and other activities during the summer. Reading to your child in your native language is also great for building reading skills.
- ✓ Summer is a great time to make writing fun! Your child could write a letter to a friend or family member, write a story, or keep a journal of summer activities. Ask your English learner to write a grocery list!
- ✓ Spend time talking with your child. We want your child to be a Multilingual Super Hero! Encourage your child to have conversations in his or her first language as well as in English.

Help your students spend some time learning, but make sure they have time to relax and play! We hope that all of our English Learners will have a safe summer full of sunshine and fun. We look forward to seeing you on August 2, 2023, for the first day of school!

Resources for Parents of English Learners!

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child's education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.



Get help with Medicaid Redetermination here: <https://staycovered.ga.gov/>

Title I Parents: Your Input is Needed!

The Douglas County School System Title I Department is in the process of reviewing and revising the district's Parent and Family Engagement Plan. This plan will establish the district's expectations for parent and family engagement and how the district will carry out the federal and state parent and family engagement requirements. Parent input into the revision of this plan is requested and required. To review the draft version of the plan and to provide input, please scan the QR code or follow the link. <https://tinyurl.com/ybcyza9ya>



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, July 22, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

**Games, Food, Prizes,
School Supplies, and more!**



**2023
Back to School Kick-Off**

A FREE Event
*for Douglas County School System
Students & Families*

**Community agencies offering a variety of resources will
be onsite to provide information and assistance**

DCSS Central Office
11490 Veterans Memorial Hwy., Douglasville, GA 30134

Summer Meals

are available at no cost to children 18 & under

at the following locations:



School	Dates	Times
Bill Arp Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Bright Star Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Chapel Hill Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Eastside Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Lithia Springs Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Mason Creek Elementary	June 5 - June 29 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
New Manchester Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Mt Carmel Elementary	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:30am - 12:00pm
Factory Shoals Middle	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:30am - 9:00am Lunch: 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Mason Creek Middle	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:30am - 9:00am Lunch: 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Turner Middle	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:30am - 9:00am Lunch: 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Yeager Middle	June 5 - June 22 (Mon. - Thurs.)	Breakfast: 8:30am - 9:00am Lunch: 12:00pm - 12:30pm
Lithia Springs High	May 31 - July 13 (Mon. - Thurs.) Closed July 3 - 7	Breakfast: 8:00am - 8:30am Lunch: 11:00am - 11:30am



For Additional Information, please call 770-651-2300

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.