Dear Incoming Fifth Graders,

Wow! Summer vacation is just around the corner. In fourth grade, you have practiced the habits and skills of good readers. To help you prepare for fifth grade, it is important that you continue to read this summer so you can advance in your journey towards academic success and becoming strong independent readers. Vacation is the perfect time for visiting with family and friends, travelling, relaxing, and curling up with a good book.

Although I am sure you will read many books, I would like you to select two books to use for this assignment, preferably new books (ones that you have not already read). If you need help deciding on titles, a suggested reading list has been provided for you. This is just a suggested reading list, as you may choose any book. (Please make sure you choose a book that is on your reading level.) Select books that you will love, and want to share with your classmates. It is perfectly acceptable to abandon a book that isn't your cup of tea (idiom – we will spend time interpreting figurative language next year)! Your goal is to get other kids interested so they will want to read your book too!

You will be talking about your books during our first reading class together. Since this means you need to really know your book, you may wish to prepare by keeping track of your thinking. You can do this by recording your thoughts down in a notebook or on post-its. If you decide to take notes, be sure to bring them with you when you come to school on the first day.

Enjoy your summer and happy reading!

Miss Goldsmith
Book Suggestions

*The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate

*Wonder* by PJ Palacio

*Because of Mr. Terupt* by Rob Buyea

*The Name of this Book is Secret* by Pseudonymous Bosch

*Spy School* (or any book in the Spy School or Fun Jungle series) by Stuart Gibbs

*Warriors* (any book in this series) by Erin W. Hunter

*The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (*Any books on Percy Jackson series*)

*El Deafo* by Cece Bell (This graphic novel is a 2015 Newberry Medal Honor book)

*Smile* by Raina Telgemeier (Another popular graphic novel)

*Where the Mountain Meets the Moon* by Grace Lin

*The Report Card* by Andrew Clements (*Any Andrew Clements*)

*Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo

*Flora and Ulysses* by Kate DiCamillo

*Jack on the Tracks: Four Seasons of Fifth Grade* by Jack Gantos

*Any Baseball Card Adventures* by Dan Gutman

*The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall

*Close to Famous* by Joan Bauer

*The Thief Lord* by Cornelia Funke

*Ida B.* by K. Hannigan

*The Hypnotist* by Gordon Korman (*Any Gordon Korman series books*)

*Rules* by Cynthia Lord

*Hatchet* by Gary Paulson (*Any books in the Brian series*)

*Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Patterson

*A Tangle of Knots* by Lisa Graff

*Liar and Spy* by Rebecca Stead

*The Sign of the Beaver* by Elizabeth George Speere

*Any "I Survived"* books by Lauren Tarshis
Dear Incoming Fifth Grade Math Students & Parents,

As your 4th grade school year comes to a close, we are sure your teachers have shared the expectations of the fifth grade teachers. We will not only be there to support you through your transition into the departmentalized structure of the grade, we are also there to guide you academically. After week one, you will feel quite confident with the routine as you and your homeroom travel to classes together. You will also become a “pro” not only at opening your locker, but at writing down your homework in your planners, as you do now, and finding time to complete your assignments every evening. Many students find practicing with circular combination locks over the summer is quite helpful in preparation for opening your locker on the first day of school.

Fifth grade math students of the past will share their experiences with Five Minute Frenzies (see website below). Research shows that students who are fluent with their math facts work more efficiently when problem solving. I am therefore strongly recommending you practice your math facts a few times a week with five minute frenzies and by using the educational and entertaining math game websites below. You should work toward 100% accuracy with these resources by the end of August. The Five Minute Frenzy website is provided at the bottom of the page. You can time yourself and check your work through the answer keys provided on the website.

Please keep a log (on the following page) of the time you spend taking Five Minute Frenzies, as well as the time you practice on the math game websites. When using the websites, select topics related to fractions and operation facts. I will collect this log on the first day of school.

http://www.mathdrills.com/multiplication/multiplication_five_minute_frenzy_right1_02_12_001.html
A+ Math Game Site
www.ixl.com