Summer Readathon 2026

What is the Summer Readathon?

It is very important that children read throughout the summer. Reading skills encompass every aspect of your child's school day ~ whether that be math, social studies, science or smart lab. Numerous studies show that reading over the summer has a direct correlation to school success. The readathon is an incentive program that encourages and rewards summer reading.

There are two ways to meet your St. Joe's Readathon challenge!
Decide which way works best for your family.

Count By the minute:
Use the calendar sheet to record the number of minutes read each day. There are three levels of prizes for reaching 500, 1000, and 1500 minute reading goals during the summer.

Keep track by the book:
Decide if you want to complete the 15, 20, or 35 book challenge. The 35 book challenge has been given to you. If you decide to do the 15 or 20 book challenge, just write that many on the 35 book sheet or go to the St. Joe's website and print that specific sheet off. There are different prize levels for each challenge.

General Guidelines (parents, please monitor) :

- All books should be at the student's reading level
- Books over 200 pages may count as two selections
- Current Grade 4 and up - All books should be at least 90 pages long
- Have fun with reading lots of books! ☺

• Going into first grade? If you are just beginning to read, your parents can read some of the books to you. Make sure you read at least half of the books or half of the minutes though! Find some books at your level where there are many words you can sound out and blend at least half of the words. Those little paper books that were sent out during the year are great to reread and use for their own reading!

If you have any questions, please contact Miss Gelhar:
vgelhar@stjosephwaconia.org (612) 910-6358

Dear Kindergarten families,

There are a few special rules for the Readathon regarding our beginning readers. Parents can read some of the books to you, but you do have to read at least half of the books or minutes by yourself.

You will need to find books that are at your level where you can sound out and blend at least half of the words. To help with that, I am sending home some passages that you can tap and read by yourself. There are also many pages in the reader that you can read yourself! Those little paper readers that were sent home are also wonderful to reread this summer! If you want or need more options, our library is open this summer, and I am very happy to be a lending station and you can borrow more of those decodable phonics readers I have been sending home since January that they can read themselves. We can find a pick up and return spot by the office. Just please make sure to return anything I give you. ☺

This is a very important summer in their reading development. Studies have proven that during this time where they are just beginning to decode and become more fluent with those short vowel words, they need to continue to practice or a lot will be lost in these 100 days of summer. They are doing so well!! Even as little as 10 minutes a day will be amazing, especially if you then add in nighttime read aloud with a parent for just pure literature enjoyment.

Thank you for being the number one support in this reading adventure! Let me know how I can continue to assist you

Virginia Gelhar

Reading Specialist

vgelhar@stjosephwaconia.org

612-910-6358 to contact me for information or to get books!

Summer Readathon Prize Sheet

For _____

Prize list for each level of reading

- 15 book challenge completed or 500 minutes read -
  Donut, 1 spirit wear pass, extra recess

- 20 book challenge completed or 1,000 minutes read –
  Donut, 2 spirit wear passes, extra recess,
  a $5 gift certificate from below, and a Mini blizzard from DQ

- 35 book challenge completed or 1,500 minutes read –
  Donut, 3 spirit wear passes, extra recess,
  3 chances in the grab bags (earn extra gift cards, lunches, etc.),
  a $5 gift certificate from below, and an ice cream treat at lunch

Select Gift certificate option if earned:

_____ Dairy Queen _____ Target _____ Dollar Store

_____ Subway _____ Mocha Monkey _____ Waconia Theater

Please attach your 15, 20, or 35 book challenge form or the calendar of minutes for verification of reading.

_____

Parent Signature
(parent must sign to verify reading)

Child's Name_____ Grade (26-27) _____

Summer Readathon Calendar

Record the minutes read in each calendar square and this in with your prize information sheet by Thursday, September 3rd

May/June 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 29	30
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 28	22 29	23 30	24	25	26	27

June Total=

_____

July 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

July Total=

_____

August/ September 2026						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2	3	4	5	6	7	1 8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	1	2	3 FORMS DUE TODAY!	NO SCHOOL	

Aug./Sept. Total = _____

Grand total of minutes read: _____

I verify that my child read the minutes shown above and qualifies for a prize in the Summer Readathon.

_____

Parent Signature

Please turn in this calendar with the Readathon prize sheet to claim your prize! Thank you!

Name: _____

St. Joe's Readathon

15 Book Challenge

5 fiction books

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

5 non-fiction books

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

1 mystery book, poetry, or biography/autobiography

1 _____

4 free choice

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

Name: _____

St. Joe's Readathon

20 Book Challenge

6 fiction books

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

6 non-fiction books

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

1 mystery book, poetry, or biography/autobiography

1 _____

7 free choice

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

Name: _____

St. Joe's Readathon

35 Book Challenge

10 fiction books

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

10 non-fiction books

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____

1 book using technology

1 _____

4 mystery, poetry, fantasy or a biography/autobiography

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____

10 free choice

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____
6 _____
7 _____
8 _____
9 _____
10 _____