

June 24, 2020

Dear Families of Gilbert Stuart Middle School Students,

I hope you are all well. I want to thank you for the sacrifices you made this year, to support your student during this unprecedented school year. Without your support and guidance, your student may have had a more difficult time coping with the closing of schools, a pandemic, stay at home orders, and the unfortunate events that have occurred which have resulted in protests and demands for change all over the world. Once again, thank you so much. However, we are not done yet! We need you now, more than ever.

This year, more than in past years, we are very aware of the possibility of students losing some of the important skills they will need to be successful in the fall. We refer to this as “summer loss”. To help prevent summer loss, **please encourage your student to do the following:**

1. Read daily for at least 20 minutes each day and complete the **Gilbert Stuart Summer Reading Assignment**.
2. Practice math skills using Khan Academy. It’s free at [www.khanacademy.com](http://www.khanacademy.com).
3. Complete the goal setting requirement in Naviance.
4. Research his/her goals to find out what it takes to achieve that goal. For example, if your student wants to be a teacher, principal, or doctor, help him or her do some research to find out what it will take to accomplish this goal.
5. Register your student in one of the free summer programs that are starting all over the city such as Inside-out for Summer. This program is a result of a collaboration between the Providence Public Library, PVD Young Makers, PASA (middle school focus) and the Office of Economic Opportunity (high school focus).
  - The program and materials are designed so that students can spend time outdoors making, exploring PVD Young Maker's online resources, and connecting with mentors for support. Details of the program can be found at [www.insideout.org](http://www.insideout.org).
6. Review the school website <https://www.providenceschools.org/Stuart>, for updates and information.

To ensure that ALL students have access to the **Gilbert Stuart Summer Reading Assignment**, we have decided to allow students to pick from a wide number of books under the theme of Racial Justice: Reading for Change. Many of these books are available at the Providence Public Community Library for loan. Some can be checked out and read online, others can be picked up using their curbside service. The GS Summer Reading Assignment and directions (attached here) can be found on the Gilbert Stuart website at <https://www.providenceschools.org/Stuart> under Summer Reading, as well. It includes a link to suggested books available through the Providence Community Library at <https://www.booklistreader.com/2020/06/05/books-and-authors/reading-for-change-booklist-recommended-antiracism-titles-for-all-ages/>. Once you get to the site, scroll down to Books for Youth and you will find a large assortment of books that fall under the theme Racial Justice: Reading for Change.

We will continue to communicate with you throughout the summer. As of today, all students have been scheduled. Students will receive their schedules in early August. Information regarding transition for incoming grade 6 students and PTO meetings will be available soon. Please make sure your student is subscribed to the Google Classroom. The class code is v6czupj. Also, if you need me you can send a text to 401.996.1602 or email me at [Nkoli.onye@ppsd.org](mailto:Nkoli.onye@ppsd.org). Until then, please be well.

Sincerely,

Nkolika E. Onye  
Gilbert Stuart Middle School