

June 25, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

With the successful implementation of our **fREADom** Independent Reading Program over the last several years, we have decided to incorporate free choice into your child's summer reading experience. Starpoint English teachers believe **fREADom** is a valuable learning program. According to Don Bolger, a human development professor at the University of Maryland, "It's like a snowball effect. The better you are at reading, the more words you learn. The more words you learn, the better you are at reading and comprehending—especially things that would have been outside your domain of expertise."

Therefore, students entering grades 9-12 should challenge themselves to continue **fREADom** reading over the summer. Studies have shown that **15 minutes per day** of independent reading of printed materials (not on devices) is the most effective tool in aiding students' cognitive growth. Independent reading supports students' development of reading fluency, stamina, and vocabulary acquisition. Daily reading has also been proven to decrease stress levels.

Summer of fREADom 2026

Suggested titles can be found in the High School LMC and specific teacher recommendations and reviews can be found online at: [fREADom Reading Initiative](#)

AP Summer Reading

In keeping with the national trend of moving away from assigning common texts for AP summer reading, students enrolled in either AP English Language (grade 11) or AP English Literature (grade 12) are also being asked to continue **fREADom** reading over the summer.

If your goals for summer reading include preparing yourself for AP-level reading, incoming Language students may want to explore some narrative nonfiction titles and Literature students should seek out college-level literary fiction (no YA). Lists of recommended titles for both courses are readily available online.

Active reading (i.e. annotating the text, using Post-its, taking notes) is also strongly encouraged for students pursuing honors/AP coursework.