West Allegheny School District
9th – 12th Grade Summer Bridge Learning
Promoting Literacy
Summer 2026

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,
Congratulations on completing a successful school year! We are wishing everyone a wonderful summer full of fun adventures – both in person adventures and those experienced through reading!

During the summer months many students experience a summer regression of basic reading and math skills. While this is concerning, there is an easy way to minimize the regression - by participating in the Summer Bridge Program! Similar to our golf swing or level of fitness, academic skills regress when not practiced. Research suggests that the average learning regression during the summer months for students in reading can equate to two months of instruction (Entwisle, Alexander, & Olson 2001; Cooper, H., Nye, B, et al, 1996). The Summer Bridge Program is designed to help students maintain and possibly increase their reading skills.

While participation is strongly encouraged, the Summer Bridge Program is **optional** and aimed at maintaining academic skills through reading. Students have 100 percent free choice in selecting the books they will read as long as they are grade appropriate.

Thank you for participating in the Summer Bridge Program. If you have a question regarding academic content or need support with the Summer Bridge Program, please contact the high school ELA department chair Amanda Spada at aspada@westasd.org.

Summer Bridge Learning Requirements and Rewards

Requirements: For each book read, students should complete the provided reflection sheet. Students may submit reflection sheets for up to six books. Reflections sheets can be submitted via Google Classroom (per grade/see below) or handwritten. Handwritten responses should be submitted to your ELA teacher for 2026-2027 school year. All reflection sheets should be submitted by the end of the first week of the 2026-2027 school year (8/28/26).

To access Google Classroom: Go to **classroom.google.com** and click **Sign In**. Sign in with your **school** email account. At the top, click **Add**. **Join class**. Enter the class code (below) and click **Join**.	
Grade Level:	Class Code:
Students entering 9th Grade	gaohyb34
Students entering 10th Grade	mfmx5g7j
Students entering 11th Grade	mc2qt7be
Students entering 12th Grade	a3xwi2rb

Read **three** novels of your choice and submit a reflection sheet for each by the approved deadline:	Enjoy pizza, popcorn, and slushies at the summer reading party held in the library after the start of school.
Every novel read, and reflection sheet submitted, receives one raffle ticket entry (up to six):	Be entered to receive a gift card to Barnes & Noble.

Resources

- Amazon offers over 60,000 titles free through Kindle. The Kindle App can be downloaded for free on any Smartphone or tablet through the Appstore or on any computer through Amazon.com.

- Use your local library card to gain free access to digital bookshelves through ABDO for Secondary grades 7-12 at https://www.westernalleghenylibrary.org/books-more/eresources.html. Don't have a library card? No, problem! You can register for a temporary library card at https://librarycatalog.einetwork.net/MyResearch/GetCard

ELA Summer Reading Reflection Form

Directions:

1. Select and read a book that meets your grade and/or reading level.
2. Thoroughly complete the reflection form.
3. Submit the completed form:
   a. Turn in the form via Google Classroom **OR**
   b. Handwrite and turn in to your ELA teacher at the beginning of the school year.

**Please contact Amanda Spada at aspada@westasd.org with any issues or concerns.*

**Note – Reflection forms may be submitted through the end of the first week of the 2026-2027 school year* (8/28/26).

What is the title of the book you read?	
Who is the author?	
Why did you choose to read this book?	
In your own words summarize the book in 5-7 sentences.	
Rate the book. **(ex: 2 Thumbs Up, 4 Stars, etc.)**	
Explain why you gave the book that rating.	
Who would you recommend this book to? Why?	
In 5-7 sentences, make a connection between what you read and your life and/or the world.	