

# Happenings @ HJI

A monthly dispatch from the Hettie Johnson Institute



## FALL RESOURCE GROUPS

Written by Mary Nix Hardin, Director

Mark your calendars for the first HJI Resource Group meetings! By popular request, the first two Resource Groups for SVS and HJI Parents are aimed at enriching our community connections and increasing understanding of what our Reading Intervention programs look like! Both of these meetings will occur at SVS in the early evening hours, with September's meeting featuring a presentation on back-to-school tips while also serving as a networking opportunity for parents. October's meeting will offer greater insight into Reading Intervention lessons and will feature a live demonstration and question panel with teachers!

For students, the first Resource Group will occur online, and will feature student-friendly back-to-school tips and a "craftivity"! Students will be able to learn more and pick up supplies for this online event in the week leading up to their meeting.

For Educators, September's meeting will investigate ways in which to better promote high-level learning skills from the HJI Book Club's current read: *Make It Stick*.



**FIRST PARENT RESOURCE GROUP: MEET & GREET + BACK TO SCHOOL TIPS**

**September 7, 2021,  
6:00 p.m. @ SVS**

**FIRST STUDENT RESOURCE GROUP: BACK TO SCHOOL + CRAFTIVITY**

**September 16, 2021,  
6:00 p.m., Online**

**FIRST EDUCATOR RESOURCE GROUP: UTILIZING MIS TEACHING METHODS**

**September 8, 2021,  
6:00 p.m., Online**



## RESOURCE GROUPS

- For Parents - For Students - For Educators - For All -

@ THE HETTIE  
JOHNSON INSTITUTE

## SUMMER READING TIPS

It's true: according to Harvard Education Professor Dr. James S. Kim, summer reading really does help students become better prepared for their return to school in the fall. But when your student has a learning difference such as dyslexia or ADHD, the struggles in helping them complete their assignments can feel like more trouble than they're worth. Here, we break down some tips and tricks that can help all students stay on track and complete their summer reading with ease.



- 1. Encourage books your child shows interest in.** While *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* might not be your favorite, encouraging your child to choose books for pleasure can change their mindset about the task of reading.
- 2. Get engaged with their books.** Asking your reader questions about story events or for a quick summary of their previous chapter can help them gain skills that strong readers engage in automatically.
- 3. Try utilizing audio books, or reading aloud together!** Children are never too old to be read to, and sometimes, their print-related anxiety can be a huge roadblock in summer reading. Audio books still promote skills such as connection-making and story predictions.

Know a friend who could benefit from joining our community?

Pass our newsletter along or email us!

[hjiinfo@springvalleyschool.org](mailto:hjiinfo@springvalleyschool.org)

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## SUMMER READING TIPS, CONT.

4. **Set a strong example.** Your student is always looking to you as a model for behaviors and habits. Encourage their own journey in reading by picking up a book to read alongside them! Better yet...

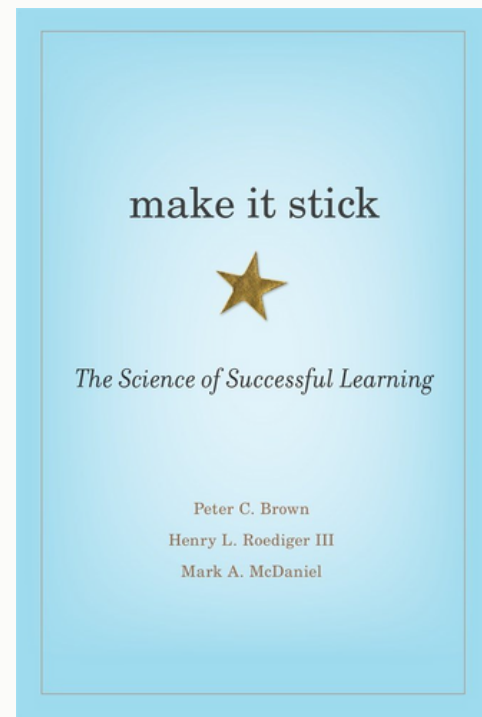
5. **Read the same book as your student.** If you find your learner struggles more than most, choosing to read and discuss their books with them could help encourage the process and ensure that discussions are insightful and relevant.

6. **Purchase children's magazines for your student.** For younger students, publications such as *Highlights* or *Sports Illustrated Kids* can help growing readers gain a reading habit that feels like a real-world skill while also growing their vocabulary and current event awareness. For older students, tuning in to a kid-oriented news website such as *dogonews.com* can help them learn about interesting topics and stay connected to their world.

7. Lastly, but perhaps most importantly, **help your child choose books at the right level.** While summer reading can certainly be a way to help your child grow their skills, there should be no more than 5 words per page that are a struggle for your child to read. Choosing books that allow for a moderate amount of effort can prevent reading burnout.

**OUR SUMMER READING:  
MAKE IT STICK**

**The reviews are in!**



**"So many of these skills could make a huge difference for the students of SVS, and I'm glad we have the chance to discuss them." -Faculty Member**