SPS Launches Seattle Super Readers

Initiative Focused on 100 Percent 3rd Grade Reading Proficiency

SEATTLE – Seattle Public Schools has announced a focused effort aimed at improving the reading proficiency of all SPS students by third grade.

This summer, the program – “Seattle Super Readers” -- features a variety of partnerships and special events designed to highlight the importance of the initiative.

“We want students to build their reading superpowers this summer,” said SPS Superintendent Denise Juneau. “If all our students read just 20 minutes a day throughout the summer, it’ll really help them be ready for next school year. Most importantly, it will strengthen the reading skills that we know are so vital to lifelong success.”

Superintendent Juneau kicked the program off at the end of the 2018-19 school year by helping to give away more than 31,000 books to younger students at 13 schools. Those schools, with a high representation of students of color, are intentionally targeted because the initiative aims to reach students furthest away from educational justice, beginning with African American males.

Overall, a priority goal of the initiative is to make sure 100 percent of SPS students become strong readers by third grade.

Some events this summer that have been designed to support the program:

- July 15 – Seattle Super Readers partners with Team Read and Summer Staircase
  The Superintendent will read to young students who take part in the summer school and teen mentor-reading program at Dunlap Elementary School. **Time:** 1-2pm. **Location:** Dunlap Elementary School, 4525 S. Cloverdale St., Seattle, WA 98118
• August (date tbd) - **Seattle Super Readers partners with Seattle Public Library**
  Superintendent Juneau and Seattle Public Library Chief Librarian Marcellus Turner take part in a reading-focused SPL program.

• August 20 - **Seattle Super Readers partners with Jump Start**
  Superintendent Juneau will greet and read aloud to kindergarteners and their parents as they take part in the free week-long SPS program to prepare new students for school.

The initiative flows from the recently adopted [SPS 2019-24 five-year strategic plan](https://www.seattleschools.org/strategic-plan). Reading proficiency by third grade is a vital benchmark, as it is predictive of high school graduation and life success.

For more information about Seattle Super Readers, including tips for parents to encourage their child to read, please see the [Seattle Super Readers web page](https://www.seattleschools.org/our-learning/reading/seattle-super-readers).

**ABOUT**

[Summer Staircase](https://www.seattleschools.org/our-learning/reading/seattle-super-readers) is the SPS high quality summer learning program for students currently in kindergarten through fourth grade, offered at 18 school sites across the district.

[Team Read](https://www.seattleschools.org/our-learning/reading/seattle-super-readers) is a nonprofit organization that provides a unique, cross-age, one-on-one tutoring program after school and during the summer, in partnership with SPS and Highline Public Schools and the Seattle Public Library. Team Read’s dual-impact model enables young students reading below grade level to become confident readers, and teens to develop career and life skills through meaningful paid tutoring jobs.

[Jump Start](https://www.seattleschools.org/our-learning/reading/seattle-super-readers) is a free week-long experience for incoming kindergartners to learn about school. During Jump Start, parents/guardians will be able to meet with the school principal, and teachers can begin building relationships with students while learning about their strengths and skills.

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