

Ty Ankrom's Here's What I Think ...

In a few weeks, school will be out and students will have hours of free time. But if some of that free time isn't put to good use, students are at risk of summer learning loss.



Studies have found that many students return to school after summer break showing a loss in what they learned the previous year. Further, the loss can be compounded based on socio-economics and rural vs. urban environments.

According to the National Center on Afterschool and Summer Enrichment, "Summer learning loss in the elementary school years alone accounts for at least half of the ninth-grade reading achievement gap" (NCASE Summer Learning Brief 2016).

The best way to prevent or reduce summer learning loss is by encouraging summer learning.

The National Summer Learning Association, a nonprofit organization that seeks to close the achievement gap, provides some tips for parents on things that they can do before school ends.

Among the tips are to request a summer reading list from their child's teacher and to get the

teacher's input on high-quality online programs. For the full list of tips, go to <http://summer-learning.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Tip-Sheet-Plan-for-Summer-Learning.pdf>.

Also, parents can take advantage of resources in the county, such as Pickaway HELPS' Kids on Campus program, taking place June 5-9 and June 12-16.

The deadline to register has been extended to May 26 and more information can be found at www.pickawayhelps.org/images/stories/2017_KidsOnCampusBrochure.pdf.



The Pickaway County District Public Library will start registration May 30 for its summer reading program, open to youth 6 and older. In addition to reading books, the library schedules a craft activity at 1 p.m. each Monday and a special presenter at 1 p.m. each Wednesday.

More information is available



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at the library or on its Web site: <http://pickawaylib.org/>.

At the Pickaway County Family YMCA, youth can take part in several camps, beginning June 5.

A summer preschool is available to 3- to 4-year olds; a Kiddie Camp is for children age 5 who are entering kindergarten; Summer Fun Club is for children in first through eighth grades (up to age 14); and Camp Can Do is for children and young adults with disabilities (up to age 21).

Additionally, the YMCA offers free summer lunches for any child age 18 and younger.

For more information, call the YMCA at (740) 477-1661.

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