



Dear Parent/Guardian:

We encourage students to keep reading all summer long! The Cobb County School District Library Media Education Department is partnering again with Cobb and Smyrna Public Libraries for our Summer Reading Challenge 2022. The student challenge is to read 20 minutes each day and at least 10 hours this summer. Students earn digital badges by logging reading in Beanstack, our year-round reading engagement platform – it's like a “fitbit for reading!” **Please help Cheatham Hill be in the Top 10 schools for reading over the summer! You may keep track digitally in Beanstack or on paper (see attached log from Cobb County Public Library).** The program runs from June 1<sup>st</sup> thru July 31<sup>st</sup>. If you are doing the paper log, please turn in a copy to the Learning Commons on the first day of school, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022.

Reading throughout the summer for at least 20 minutes a day helps students maintain learning gains made in school and start the upcoming new school year off right. These resources can help:



**CCSD Library Media Education:** Visit [www.cobbsummerreading.com](http://www.cobbsummerreading.com) for reading resources, ebooks, reading suggestions, and links to learning resources, such as Cobb Digital Library.



**Cobb and Smyrna Public Libraries:** Visit <http://www.cobbcat.org/summer/> to sign up for Summer Reading, where students can log summer reading activities and minutes using Beanstack. City of Smyrna residents may also participate through the City of Smyrna Public Library.



**Beanstack:** Students use Beanstack to log minutes (see backside for “how to”), earn badges, and win prizes! Students are automatically enrolled in the school Beanstack Summer Reading Challenge, and can sign up for Summer Reading at Cobb Public Library at <http://www.cobbcat.org/summer/>. Beanstack is available online and as a free app. CCSD students can sync their Beanstack school and Cobb County Public Library Beanstack parent accounts. Log once; count for both!



**Sora:** Cobb students can read ebooks and e-audiobooks all summer long with Sora. With hundreds of great titles, you'll have plenty to choose from! Additionally, the “Sweet Reads” collection makes it easy to read the same books with friends. Visit [soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com) or download the free app on your device.

Current 5<sup>th</sup> grade students may participate and their minutes will count towards Cheatham Hill. We hope they will read over the summer to help get them ready for Middle School! If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me at [Marla.Buro@cobbk12.org](mailto:Marla.Buro@cobbk12.org).

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## How to find Beanstack

You may:

- 1) Use the free Beanstack App

**OR**

- 2) Go to Cobbk12.org – go to the “Find it Fast” drop down on the red ribbon and click on Cobb Digital Library.

Login with your student’s email address ([firstname.lastname@students.cobbk12.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@students.cobbk12.org)) and secret password {for grades K thru 3, the password is the student’s 4 digit birthday (MMDD); for grades 4 and 5, the password is the 6 digit birthday (MMDDYY)}. Once inside, look at the menu on the left and click on Databases. Then scroll down to Beanstack.

**OR**

- 3) Go to **Clever.com/in/cobb** and choose **LOGIN WITH ACTIVE DIRECTORY** (not Clever).

## How to use Beanstack

Once inside Beanstack, you should see your child’s name under **Your Reader Profile**.

Click on the **Summer Reading Challenge** icon, and then at the top left of the page, click the red button that says **Log Reading and Activities**.

--If you want the timer to count the minutes you are reading, click the timer and it will record the minutes for you. Click START, then END when done and fill out the date, title and author of the book. Finally CLICK the red button at bottom that says LOG READING. Reviews are optional.

--If you just want to log your minutes, click on Log Minutes, click on the date, enter title of the book, author and number of minutes read. Reviews are optional. (**Shortcut** – if you have a camera in your device, hold the ISBN barcode on the back of the book in front of the camera and it will enter the title and author for you.) Click the red button that says LOG READING.

--If you want to do activities, click on the Complete an Activity, click on a Badge, then follow the directions given.

If you sync our school Beanstack with the Public Library Beanstack when you login the first time, it will enter your minutes and badges into both programs at the same time! If you have any questions about how to do that or have problems over the summer with Beanstack, contact or visit your local Cobb library – they are trained in using the program.

I will be celebrating students who complete 10 hours of reading over the summer – if they are participating in Beanstack, I will be able to see their minutes. If you do the paper log, students need to bring me a copy of the completed form (How Deep Into Reading Can You Go?) on the first day of school, August 1<sup>st</sup>. (Don’t forget to also take the form to your public library for possible prizes – more info at [cobbcat.org/summer](http://cobbcat.org/summer).)

Best regards,

Marla J. Buro, MLM  
Media Specialist  
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**Keep reading and have fun this summer!**