



Jackson Public Schools
www.jackson.k12.ms.us



Jackson Hinds Library
www.jhlibrary.com



United Way of the Capital Area
www.myunitedway.com

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Jackson Public Schools, Jackson Hinds Library System, United Way of the Capital Area and other partners Team Up to Launch *One Jackson, Many Readers* Summer Reading Program

Jackson, MS--One Jackson, Many Readers is a Jackson Public Schools' initiative to recruit 30,000 readers across the entire city of Jackson to read 100,000 books over the summer. The partnership includes Jackson Public Schools, Jackson Hinds Library System, United Way of the Capital Area, and the City of Jackson, who have been joined by sponsors BancorpSouth, BankPlus, State Farm, America Reads Mississippi, Parents for Public Schools, Jackson Friends of the Library, Jackson Zoo, Mississippi Children's Museum, Lemuria, Afrika Book Café, The Book Rack, and others.

Mayor Harvey Johnson, JPS Superintendent Lonnie J. Edwards Sr. and other partnership leaders will announce more details about this exciting partnership at a press conference at 10 a.m., Thursday, May 19, 2011, in the meeting room of the Eudora Welty Library at 300 North State Street. Kindergarten students from Poindexter Elementary, the city's adopted school in JPS, will be participating in summer reading activities in the children's area of the library following the press conference. There will be opportunities for interviews with students, teachers, and summer reading volunteers.

Research shows that students who do not read can lose up to three months of academic growth. By launching *One Jackson, Many Readers*, additional summer reading books will be available at local libraries, summer reading workshops will help students complete the books, and organizations and churches will encourage students to keep reading. Students are required to read at least three books and are receiving instructions this week on how to complete written reflections on the books they read. This makes it crucial for students to have access to summer reading books, receive help from reading tutors, experience high expectations from parents, and encouragement from their communities. Jackson Public Schools and its partners invite the entire community to help reach the goal of 30,000 readers and 100,000 books read. Parents and citizens can also help their favorite school win the summer reading competition by reading and logging onto the JPS website to count their books toward their favorite school.

This unique partnership is seeking additional supports to provide incentives, books, and volunteer readers. For more information, contact Rhoda Byler Yoder at 601-960-8302 or ryoder@jackson.k12.ms.us.