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MEDIA RELEASE

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Hopkinsville, KY May 19, 2020 - Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library (HCCPL) is going virtual with its annual Summer Reading program. HCCPL is introducing "**Beanstack**" to the community as virtual option for the annual summer read program. The program is sponsored by Planters Bank and begins on Tuesday, May 26, and ends Saturday, July 11.

The Summer Reading program is an opportunity to encourage reading for children and teens and to prevent "summer slide". It combines reading challenges and activities for participants of all ages, from 0 to 100. Each Summer Reading Program has a theme, and this year's theme is, "Imagine Your Story."

"We wanted to find a way to offer Summer Reading during this season of social distancing," said Jennifer Annis-Domenech, youth services librarian. "**Beanstack** is a tool that will allow participants to track reading and rewards earned on the web or through an app."

Each age group has different goals and rewards that can be earned based on the amount of time spent reading. New this year, is a pre-reader summer challenge, which encourages caregivers to engage in early literacy activities with their babies, toddlers and preschoolers," Annis-Domenech said. "These activities can encourage children to become lifelong readers and learners." Participants also earn raffle tickets, which provides an opportunity to earn bonus prizes. "We're excited about our prizes this year," Annis-Domenech said. "We have fine forgiveness coupons, gift cards from local retailers, color-changing cups, and much more."

The library is also offering grab and go activities every Tuesday and Thursday between 8 -12 noon, now through July 9. Additional virtual activities may be accessible on social media throughout the summer.

While use of the on-line site and the app are encouraged, physical Summer Reading challenge forms will be available by request and can be picked up via the library's curbside pick-up program.

DeeAnna Sova, HCCPL Executive Director shared, "The library continues to manage through limited services and activities. We are excited to continue to partner with Planters Bank to provide the community with a virtual reading program."

Visit www.hccpl.beanstack.org to register or email jennifer@hccpl.org for more information. To learn more about Hopkinsville-Christian County Public Library, visit their website at www.hccpl.org or follow them on their social media accounts through Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram.