

2021 Summer Recommendations for Students Entering 6th, 7th, and 8th Grade



As your student transitions from one grade to another this summer, we ask that you continue to have your student read, write, and practice his/her math skills in order to keep his/her brain sharp and ready for the next grade. Here are some suggestions for how to do this:

RELIGION: Please continue to watch Mass live or take your student to Mass each week.

MATH: All students should be proficient with their general math facts ESPECIALLY MULTIPLYING. All students are expected to be proficient in all operations with decimals: addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. The students should be able to add, subtract, multiply, and divide (incoming seventh and eighth graders) with fractions having like and unlike denominators. Incoming eighth graders need to know how to add and subtract with integers.

To maintain, reinforce, and strengthen current skills and develop better number sense with fractions and decimals, it is recommended to practice through real life activities. Here are some suggestions:

Fractions:

- Recipes:
 - Double, triple, $1/2$, $1/3$, etc. the recipe to serve more or less people.
 - Do the work mentally. Ask questions as you work. How many cups do you need to double a recipe if the original asks for one-fourth cup?
 - Do the work on paper. Show the work like you do for school.
 - Both methods are good to know.
 - Actually make some recipes.

Decimals:

- Shopping:
 - Compare your computations with what the actual cost of family purchases are or go on a virtual shopping spree of your own choosing.
 - Add up the total amounts.
 - Figure out the tax you will have to pay by multiplying the total amount by 0.0925.
 - Figure out the total amount owed.

These online resources are just some that may be helpful to prevent "summer loss" for your child in his/her math skills:

- XtraMath (students should have accounts) - basic math fact practice <https://xtramath.org/#/home/index>
- Khan Academy - lessons and videos on the full range of math concepts <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- FactDash - basic math fact practice
- <https://www.mhschool.com/math/2009/ca/assets/factdash.html>
- There are many other online programs that your students can easily access for fun and extra practice

TYPING: Please have your student practice his/her typing skills. A good free website that he/she can use is typing.com.

WRITING: Over the summer, have your student keep a journal of what he/she does each day. Have him/her try to use good descriptive words in his/her writing and focus on proper use of spelling and grammar. Please have your student reread what he/she writes each day in order to get into the habit of making sure what he/she is writing makes sense and is made up of complete thoughts. Have him/her read what he/she wrote to you so that you can help your student to be successful.

READING: Over the summer, please have your student read novels at his/her Lexile level*, preferably with YOU! If you've ever read a book and have been dying to talk to someone else who read the book about what you read, you can understand how important it is to have dialogue with others around literature.

- As you read with your student (and you can do this however you feel is best: read the story out loud together, have your student read to you, each of you read independently, but then sit down at a designated time and discuss what you've read so far), have your student stop and look up words in the dictionary that he/she doesn't understand the meaning of. Help him/her figure out which definition would best fit the word in that sentence (if you have a Kindle or other device that you are reading the book on, sometimes, you just have to click on the word, and the definition will pop up!). It's important for students to stop and make sure that they are understanding what they are reading and not just barrel through the book.
- While reading, stop every once in awhile and have your student retell what has happened in the chapter so far to check to make sure that he/she is understanding the story. If your student seems unsure about part of the story, talk out what happened in the book to help him/her to understand.
- When you are done with a chapter, ask your student to recount to you what the important events were in the chapter. Ask if any of the characters have changed in the novel. Ask your student a few questions about the chapter to see if he/she understood what he/she read.
- When you are done with the novel, have your student tell you what he/she thought that the theme of the novel was. Why would the author have written the novel? Discuss whether or not your student liked the novel or not and why.

Have your student read non-fiction text, too! This can be as simple as choosing an article from the newspaper or choosing an article online and asking your student to read it and tell you about it. What was the article about? Why is it important? What did the author want the reader to learn? Your student may login to Newsela.com with his/her Clever account and read articles if he/she would like to. All of the students should have access to Newsela.

Most importantly, help your student to enjoy reading!

*To find books on your student's Lexile level, please go to Lexile.com. You can use the "Find Just Right Books" tool to input your student's interests and Lexile level. The website will give you suggestions of books for your student to read at his/her level.