

Dear 4th grade parents!!

During summer vacation, all students are highly encouraged to continue reading 30 minutes (or more) each day. In addition to this, students should be working on and practicing their Math skills to keep their minds sharp over the break. Below you'll find some suggestions to keep your child working on grade level and beyond.

Stop the Summer Slide and Brain Drain

- Encourage your student to read at least four to six books over the summer break. Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing. Make sure the material is age appropriate and match the child's interests and abilities.
- Read daily. Encourage your child to read something every day. Parents can help opportunities such as the newspaper, a magazine, TV guide, recipes, arts and crafts book, read to a sibling, friend or pet. While out in the car select a billboard, ad or even a license plate.
- Read to your student. Reading aloud benefits all students, especially those who need help improving their reading skills. Listening will help a child build listening comprehension skills with grade-level and above books. This will expand their knowledge with text and will help when reading alone.
- Make it fun. Get involved in The Scholastic Summer Challenge. It's a free global reading program aimed at encouraging students to read throughout the summer months. Kids read books, log their minutes and earn virtual rewards all summer.

Encourage summer learning. Try these great websites for kids.

Elementary School: Grades K-5

Game Goo – An interactive set of games designed to build upon each other. Start at the bottom for younger students and move up through the games.

FunBrain.com – Educational games that different levels of practice. Site areas dedicated to math and reading.

Smithsonian Institute for Kids – Take a closer look at engaging online exhibits from the Smithsonian Institution covering art, science and nature, history and culture and people and places.

Houghton-Mifflin Math – A fun place to play games to strengthen your math skills. Arranged by grade level.

Elementary: Grades K-2

Fishing with Phonics – Help Garfield catch the most fish, and in the process practice your beginning and ending sounds.

PBSKids.org – many activities don't require reading, but some do.

PictureMatch – Sort the pictures into the correct box based on the beginning-letter sounds, short-vowel sounds or long vowel sounds.

StarFall Phonics – Perfect for pre-readers and beginning readers. This site takes a systematic phonics approach and combines it with phonemic awareness practice.

Up to Ten – Fun site for kids “up to 10”. Solve jigsaw puzzles, color online, improve your coordination and more.

Upper Elementary Grades 3- 5

America's Story – Presented by the Library of Congress. Students will get caught up in the interactivity of the site as they meet amazing Americans, jump back in time, explore states. Hear and sing. Check it out.

FactMonster – Well organized fun facts and outstanding games and quizzes.

KidsReads – Reviews and recommendation of good books.

MathPlayground – offers games that require specific and complex skills, logic puzzles and an amazing supply of word problems. Games use manipulatives to help make even the most abstract math concepts clear.

National Park Service Web Rangers – Complete more than 4 dozen activities to earn your “WebRanger” status.

I can't wait to pick up where we left off in August!!

Have a wonderful summer! 😊

Ms. Mrdjenovich