

June, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Our commitment to your children's academic excellence has led us to prepare summer work that allows them to enjoy reading and practicing math at their own comfort levels. We hope you find that these assignments help your children sharpen their skills while also allowing for time to relax and enjoy the break.

Reading: This summer we ask that your children continue to incorporate reading into their daily routine. By regularly reading during the summer months, your children will build on their successes from this year and avoid the "summer slide." Book selections for summer reading are up to each student and family. This is an opportunity for your children to finish a favorite series, explore different genres, discover new interests, and read for FUN! Information you've received about your children's guided reading levels (A-Z) can be a useful guide for choosing good-fit books, but we do not expect our students to read books only at those levels.

Please have your children keep a record of the books they read over the summer, and have them bring their lists with them to school in August. Students will have the opportunity to share their reading lists and recommendations with their classmates during the first weeks of school through writing and/or class discussions.

Looking for more? Here are some tips for challenging your children with summer reading:

- Start a book club with friends, and meet a few times to discuss it. Hold meetings at the pool, Starbucks, your backyard, anywhere!
- Be a journalist and write a book review. Practice summarizing the book, and then evaluate it. Was it good? Why or why not? Interpret significant scenes and use quotes as evidence in your writing.
- Parents, engage your children in discussion about the books they read this summer. Here are some examples of conversation starters:
 - Tell me about the book you're reading!
 - How would you describe the main character? What admirable qualities or weaknesses does he/she have?
 - How do the characters change from the beginning of the book to the end?
 - Would you like to visit this place? Why or why not? (for fantasy or historical fiction settings)
 - What lessons can we learn from reading this book? How did the author teach us those lessons?
 - Did you like the author's writing style? (the way the author uses language, dialogue, descriptions, etc.)
 - Show me a memorable scene in the book. What strategies did the author use to make it so powerful?

Math: Math skills may be practiced through the IXL website. Please see the detailed instructions below.

To get your child started on your home computer, please follow these easy steps:

1. Go to <https://www.ixl.com/signin/stanneps>
2. Enter your child's username and password and click *Sign in*.
3. Click on *Math or Language arts* at the top of the page and navigate to your child's suggested level of practice. **Please see the [attached summer recommendations](#) for each grade level. Summer expectations for IXL are only in math. However, your child is free to navigate through the website not only in math but language arts as well.**
4. Find the skill to practice by doing one of the following:
 - Select a specific skill to practice from the list of skills. You can place your mouse over any skill to see a sample question and click on the link to begin.
 - Go to the *Awards* section. Each grade level presents challenges for your child to conquer and virtual prizes to be uncovered. Place your mouse over any challenge to begin.

We hope that you and your children find this “less is more” philosophy of summer work to be both enjoyable and purposeful.

We wish you a safe and happy summer.

Warmly,

Mrs. Dawn Kapka, Principal

Mrs. Lisa Torrence, Assistant Principal