

Dear Parents,

Summer break is officially in full swing! I hope you and your children are getting some extra rest and taking things a bit slower than the pace at which we move during the school year.

While we certainly want the children to rest and have lots of FUN, we also want them to keep their academic skills sharp this summer. We have strived to instill a love of learning in all of the students, and it is our hope that you will help them continue this work over the summer so as not to lose valuable skills they have acquired this year.

We have compiled a list of activities for each grade level that we think are fun ways to keep skills fresh. Each grade level has a required reading activity; we do not have any required math activities, but we have provided a review packet for each grade level (entering 1st and above) and several suggestions for additional ways to practice skills. Where appropriate, we have also suggested workbooks, websites, or apps that you can use with your children.

In addition to the academic practice we are providing, we have also created an “I can...” chart for each grade level. These are not necessarily academic skills but are practical skills that we believe children should have as they enter the next grade level. Things like tying shoes, knowing their address and phone number, etc. As students prove to you that they CAN do these things, please put a sticker over the item and have the child bring the chart back to school in August to show off their growth to their new teacher!

In general, because students have worked so hard during the school year, we suggest you provide your children with opportunities to explore books in a fun and relaxed manner. Summer is a great time to develop that love of reading; students have time to find books that really interest them, and they can spend quality time reading with you in a comfortable environment. As you read together, engage your children in casual conversations about the books, asking questions such as, “Why do you think...?”, “What do you think will happen next?”, How do you think (character) is feeling about...?, etc. The goal is to get students thinking, inferring, and talking about text, adding new vocabulary and knowledge to their repertoire.

We also highly recommend taking time this summer to play board games, giving children the opportunity to take turns, learn strategy, and win and lose graciously; Bake and cook together, having children follow a recipe closely; Take your child grocery shopping with you and give him/her a budget and a list of items to buy within that budget; Start collecting loose change today. On the last day of summer, estimate how much change you’ve collected, then count it up and buy something special; Have your child try a new product or activity and write about it. Create a commercial to sell it to others.

There are unlimited ways to keep the learning going in fun and exciting ways, and we are looking forward to hearing about the approach you take this summer. We hope you have a fantastic summer, full of family, friends, and adventures!

Ps - Please look out for an email from the school on or around June 14th with additional information (lunches, uniforms, etc). These summer work packets will also be posted online, on the parent portal, for you to access after that June 14th email. Handbooks will be emailed in July.

Warmly,

Raini Jewell