

Dear Rising 8th Grade Parents,

As we begin summer and approach a new school year, we want to keep our students on a path of growth and success—even during the summer months! To help maintain their academic progress, we are asking all students to complete summer reading and some math practice.

Summer Reading

Students are expected to read at least two books of their choice over the summer. We encourage them to select something enjoyable and at or near their reading level. To support comprehension and engagement, students will complete an activity related to the books they read. Additional reading is always encouraged!

Summer Math Practice

To help students retain their math skills, we are asking students to complete a 4-week IXL Summer Review. These activities are designed to review key concepts and prepare students for the next grade level. Just a little practice each week can make a big difference in confidence and readiness.

Thank you for supporting your child's learning. If you have any questions or need suggestions for books or math resources, please feel free to reach out. We hope you and your family have a restful and fun summer!

Ms. O'Neil

Summer Reading Assignments

Students need to read 2 books of their choice (that they haven't previously read) that are at or above their grade level. Book grade levels can be checked using <https://bookwizard.scholastic.com/>.

For one book, they need to come to school prepared to give me a verbal summary of the book and to answer a couple of questions about the book.

For the other book they read, they need to create a book trailer (like a movie preview) to promote their book. Your goal is to capture interest, highlight key elements of the story, and persuade others to read it—without giving away the ending!

You may choose to:

- **Create a digital trailer** (video using apps like iMovie, Adobe Spark, Canva, or Google Slides).
- **Design a storyboard** (drawn or digitally designed frames with descriptions of each scene and dialogue or narration).

Your Trailer/Storyboard Must Include:

- ☐ **Title and Author**
 - ☐ **Main Characters** (without giving spoilers)
 - ☐ **Setting** (time and place)
 - ☐ **Conflict/Problem** (without revealing the ending)
 - ☐ **Theme or Mood** (e.g., suspenseful, funny, adventurous)
 - ☐ **Visual Elements** (images, colors, music/sounds for digital; drawings, captions for storyboard)
 - ☐ **Persuasive Hook** (end with a reason others should read the book)
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Trailer Length:

- **Digital Trailer:** 1–2 minutes
- **Storyboard:** At least 6–8 detailed panels with written descriptions

Book Trailer/Storyboard Rubric

20 Points Total

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Needs Improvement	1 - Incomplete
Content (5 pts)	Clearly presents title, author, main characters, setting, and conflict	Mostly complete; minor details missing	Key elements are missing or unclear	Missing most required elements
Creativity (5 pts)	Exceptionally engaging, original, and persuasive	Some creativity and effort shown	Lacks originality or effort	Minimal effort, not engaging
Visual Appeal (4 pts)	Highly effective visuals that match the tone and enhance the message	Generally effective visuals with some connection to the story	Some visuals present but limited effort or relevance	Poor or no visual representation
Organization & Flow (3 pts)	Trailer/storyboard is well-organized and flows logically	Mostly organized; minor transitions needed	Hard to follow or disorganized	Disconnected or confusing presentation
Mechanics (3 pts)	Few or no spelling/grammar errors	Some minor errors	Frequent errors that distract	Many errors, unclear writing

Summer Math Assignments

IXL is our online platform for personalized review and practice. We use this platform throughout the year and are expecting students to begin school having completed the 20 IXL skills to proficiency (a SmartScore of 80 or higher).

In order to access the IXL summer boost skills go to the IXL app or website (<https://www.ixl.com/>), login using your child's IXL login from 6th grade, and enter a 3-character skill code in the search box (see the following chart for skill codes). This is the fastest way to locate each skill on their 8th grade summer boost plan. The best part: your child will not need to turn anything in when we return to school; all scores will be saved in your child's account. If your child does not know their IXL login information from 6th grade, please contact the school office.

IXL Skills

Day	Skill	Skill Code	Completed
1	Convert between decimals and fractions or mixed numbers.	8XE	
2	Identify proportional relationships from tables.	6V7	
3	Multiply using the distributive property.	NUY	
4	Area of compound figures with triangles.	MRG	
5	Add and subtract positive and negative fractions.	SD2	
6	Complete multiplication and division equations with integers.	K94	
7	Write and solve equations for proportional relationships.	VKK	
8	Add and subtract linear expressions.	6BT	
9	Circles: word problems.	P56	
10	Solve two-step equations.	QEB	
11	Evaluate numerical expressions involving integers.	7YN	

12	Complete a table for a two-variable relationship.	2LU	
13	Factors of linear expressions.	J9G	
14	Find measures of complementary, supplementary, vertical, and adjacent angles.	CST	
15	Interpret charts and graphs to find mean, median, mode, and range.	CYK	
16	Identify equivalent linear expressions	DRB	
17	Write equations for proportional relationships from graphs	JKH	
18	Solve two-step inequalities	XGQ	
19	Triangle inequality	5Rx	
20	Experimental probability	9AA	

Recommended Reading

*Please note that our recommended reading list is simply a recommendation. While we have not read every book on the recommended reading list, we have made every effort to research and read reviews of the books listed. We encourage parents to exercise discretion. We also encourage students to read books that they find interesting, even if it is below their reading level or not on the list.

Author	Title
Adams, Richard	<i>Watership Down</i>
Alcott, Louisa	<i>Little Women</i>
Austen, Jane	<i>Emma</i>
Austenn, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
Bronte, Charlotte	<i>Jane Eyre</i>
Burnett, Frances Hodgson	<i>The Lost Prince</i>
Burnford, Sheila	<i>The Incredible Journey</i>
Butler, Beverly	<i>Light a Single Candle</i>
Cisneros, Sandra	<i>The House on Mango Street</i>
Choldenko, Gennifer	<i>Al Capone Does My Shirts</i>
Christie, Agatha	<i>And Then There Were None</i>
Christie, Agatha	<i>Murder on the Orient Express</i>
Crane, Stephen	<i>The Red Badge of Courage</i>
Creech, Sharon	<i>The Wanderer</i>
Cushman, Karen	<i>The Ballad of Lucy Whipple</i>
Dana, Richard	<i>Two Years Before the Mast</i>
Dann, Colin	<i>The Animals of Farthing Wood</i>
Defoe, Daniel	<i>Robinson Crusoe</i>
Doyle, Arthur Conan	<i>The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes</i>
Draper, Sharon M.	<i>Out of My Mind</i>
Field, Rachel	<i>Hitty: Her First Hundred Year</i>
Forbes, Esther	<i>Johnny Tremain</i>
Forester, C. S.	<i>Horatio Hornblower (series)</i>
Frank, Anne	<i>Diary of a Young Girl</i>
Frtiz, Jean	<i>Traitor, the Case of Benedict Arnold</i>
Funke, Corneila	<i>Inkheart</i>
Gibson, William	<i>The Miracle Worker</i>
Grahame, Kenneth	<i>The Wind in the Willows</i>
Green, Bette	<i>Summer of My German Soldier</i>

Hobbs, Will	<i>Jason's Gold</i>
Holm, Ann	<i>North to Freedom</i>
Jimenez, Francisco	<i>The Clrcuit</i>
Keller, Helen	<i>The Story of My Life</i>
Kidd, Ronald	<i>Monkey Town: The Summer of the Scopes Trial</i>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>Captains Courageous</i>
Kipling, Rudyard	<i>The Jungle Books</i>
Konigsburg, E.L.	<i>From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler</i>
L'Engle, Madeleine	<i>Meet the Austins</i>
Landon, Margaret	<i>Anna and the King of Siam</i>
Lasky, Kathryn	<i>True North: A Novel of the Underground Railroad</i>
Llewellyn, Richard	<i>How Green Was My Valley</i>
Lowry, Lois	<i>Gathering Blue</i>
Lowry, Lois	<i>Number the Stars</i>
Lynn, Joseph	<i>The Color of My Words</i>
MacDonald, George	<i>At the Back of the North Wind</i>
MacDonald, George	<i>The Princess and the Goblin</i>
MacDonald, George	<i>The Golden Key</i>
Martell, Yann	<i>Life of Pi</i>
Marsden, John	<i>Tomorrow, When the War Began</i>
Marshall, Catherine	<i>Christy</i>
McCloskey, Robert	<i>Homer Price</i>
McKinley, Robin	<i>The Outlaws of Sherwood</i>
McKinley, Robin	<i>The Hero and the Crown</i>
Merrill, Jean	<i>The Pushcart War</i>
Murphy, Jim	<i>The Boy's War: Confederate and Union Soldiers</i>
North, Sterling	<i>Rascal</i>
Paolini, Christopher	<i>Eldest</i>
Paolini, Christopher	<i>Eragon series</i>
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Dogsong</i>
Paulsen, Gary	<i>Hatchet</i>
Peck, Richard	<i>A Year Down Yonder</i>
Spinelli, Jerry	<i>Stargirl</i>
Spyri, Johanna	<i>Heidi</i>
St. George, Judith	<i>Dear Dr. Bell. . . Your Friend, Helen Keller</i>
Steele, William	<i>The Perilous Road</i>
Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Treasure Island</i>

Stevenson, Robert Louis	<i>Kidnapped</i>
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>Lord of the Rings Trilogy</i>
Tolkien, J.R.R.	<i>The Hobbit</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>
Twain, Mark	<i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i>
Verne, Jules	<i>Around the World in Eighty Days</i>
Verne, Jules	<i>20,000 Leagues Under the Sea</i>
Voight, Cynthia	<i>Homecoming</i>
Washington, Booker T.	<i>Up from Slavery</i>
Whelan, Gloria	<i>Miranda's Last Stand</i>
White, T.H.	<i>The Sword in the Stone</i>
Wyss, Johann	<i>Swiss Family Robinson</i>
Yep, Laurence	<i>Dragonwings</i>