



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN ENGLAND

Dear Middle School Students:

We hope you enjoy your summer holiday and have the opportunity to relax and refresh in preparation for a new school year! Be sure to take some time to ensure you are well-prepared to start school by doing a few simple things over the summer:

- Read widely and often (books, newspapers, magazines, short stories)
- Write (travel or stay-cation journal, postcards, thank you notes, poetry, song lyrics, short stories, emails to friends/grandparents/cousins)
- Practice touch keyboarding (without looking); there are lots of online programs to help you
- Brush up your math facts and operations. Review packets are available for all MS math courses: [Math 5 Review](#), [Math 6 Review](#), [Math 7 Review](#), [Pre-Algebra Review](#). You should do the review packet for the course you completed in 2019/20.
- Take a break from screens

We have included some specific assignments that you will need to complete before you return in August:

- Fifth Grade Summer PreparationPages 2-3
- Sixth through Eighth Grade Required Summer Reading.....Page 4
- Summer Reading Log (Grades 5-8).....Page 5
- Recommended Books List—Grades 5-6.....Pages 6-7
- Recommended Books List—Grades 7-8.....Pages 8-9
- Summer Math Facts Practice.....Pages 10-11
- Math Facts Flash Cards.....Page 12

We look forward to seeing you in August. Have a great summer!

Ms. Erickson
Head of Middle School

Mr. Stover
Middle School Dean of Student Life

Rising Fifth Graders' Summer Preparation

Math:

- Know the multiplication facts by memory through the 12s. See the instructions and tracking sheet at the end of this document, pages 10-11. Suggestions for printing, making or purchasing a set of math facts flash cards are found on page 12.

Reading:

- Read one or both of the following novels by Katherine Applegate:
 - ***The One and Only Ivan***, which is inspired by a true story, tells the story of how an easy-going gorilla living in a shopping center wins his freedom. The book has been adapted into a film with a planned August 2020 release date. If you have not read this wonderful book, start here.
 - ***The One and Only Bob*** is the sequel to the Ivan book and this is your required reading if you have previously read *The One and Only Ivan*. The adventure continues in ***The One and Only Bob***, as Bob, Ivan, and Ruby set off to find Bob's long-lost sister.
- Read at least two other books of your choice. A list of recommended books can be found at the end of this document, but you may select any books you like. It is not necessary to bring these books to school.
- Complete the Summer Reading Log (see page 5).

Language Arts:

- Answer the question on the next page about *The One and Only Bob/Ivan*. Write your answer on the lines provided in a paragraph with complete sentences.
- Each student will have access to a Chromebook at school and keyboarding will be used with increasing frequency. As such it is important to develop accuracy in keyboarding, with special emphasis on correct finger placement (rather than speed.) There are numerous free online keyboarding programs. Some that we like are *BBC Dance Mat Typing* or *TypingClub*, both of which are free. We can also recommend *Nessy Fingers*, though there is a fee for this program.

Name _____

Rising Fifth Graders' Summer Preparation

***The One and Only Bob (or Ivan)*, by Katherine Applegate**

The characters in both books have been transformed through their relationships with others, both humans and other animals. For example, Bob is a scrappy, independent little dog who knows how to take care of himself because of the way he was dumped alone in a muddy ditch as a pup. Generally, he is distrustful of humans and instead has found his “family” with his animal friends. With this in mind, write a paragraph below, answering the question: **“How are people (and in this case animals) transformed through their relationships with others?”** Base your answer on either of *The One and Only...* books, but also consider the people who have made an impact on your life. Who are the people who have helped to shape your character? Be sure to use textual evidence in your response by giving specific examples from the book(s) about individual characters and their interactions with others.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, text, or other markings on the page.

Summer Reading for Middle School Students entering Grades 6-8

Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th graders are required to read a total of **five texts** over the summer.

- Read the **two books specified in the table below** for your grade level.
 - Bring the two books (e-reader or paperback) with you to school in August.
 - Come prepared to discuss and write about the **required** books within the first week of school.
 - Some suggestions for you to reflect upon as you read are listed below, but it is not required for you to write a written response to the prompts.
- Read an **additional three books**, selected from the recommended book list or others according to your interests. (It is not necessary to bring these to school with you.)
- Keep a record of the books (see log on page 5), which should be signed by you and your parents. **This will count as your first homework assignment.**

REQUIRED READING

| Rising 6th Graders | Rising 7th Graders | Rising 8th Graders |
|--|---|---|
| <i>Percy Jackson and The Lightning Thief</i> by Rick Riordan | <i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Muñoz Ryan | <i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck |
| <i>Among the Hidden</i> by Margaret Peterson Haddix | <i>Boy</i> by Roald Dahl | <i>Goodnight Mr. Tom</i> by Michelle Magorian |

Reflections as or after you read:

1. **Initial Understanding.** What are your thoughts and questions about the story? You might reflect upon characters, their problems, the title, or other ideas in the story.
2. **Interpretation.** Think about one passage from the book that you think indicates an important change or realization in the main character from the beginning of the story to the end. What do you think causes this change and how does the passage show this change?
3. **Connection.** What does this story say about people or human nature in general? In what ways does it remind you of people you have known or experiences you have had? Can you make connections to other stories you have read or movies, works of art, or

television shows you have seen? Think of examples from the book to explain your thinking.

SUMMER READING LOG – all Middle School students

Name: _____ Grade: _____

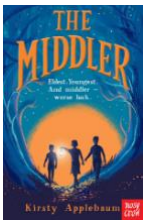
| Title | Author | Dates | Pages | Your initials | Parent's initials |
|-------|--------|-------|-------|---------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |

5th/6th Grade 2020

Recommended Summer Reading




What Stars Are Made Of by Sarah Allen
Twelve-year-old Libby, born with Turner Syndrome, is determined to win a science contest and use the money to help her older sister's growing family, while surviving middle school. *Realistic Fiction*



The Middler by Kirsty Applebaum
Beyond the mysterious boundary of eleven-year-old Maggie's town, the Quiet War rages and the dirty, dangerous wanderers roam. Maggie, a middle-born child where only the eldest are valued, has her world turned upside-down by forbidden friendship with a wanderer from outside the boundaries. *Dystopian*



Pixie Pushes On by Tamara Bundy
Following the death of her mother, Pixie moves with her father and older sister Charlotte to her grandparents' farm. Struggling with her grief, adjusting to farm life, and getting off on the wrong foot in a new school, she is now consumed with worry as Charlotte, is hospitalized with polio. *Historical Fiction*



Each Tiny Spark by Pablo Cartaya
It's hard for Emilia to follow along at school, and sometimes she forgets to do what her mom or abuela asks. But she remembers a time when her family was whole and home made sense. When Dad returns from deployment, Emilia expects that her life will get back to normal. Instead, it unravels. *Realistic Fiction*



Greystone Secrets: The Strangers by Margaret Peterson Haddix
Told from separate viewpoints, Chess, Emma, and Finn Greystone, ages twelve, ten, and eight, investigate why their mother went missing and uncover their ties to an alternate world. *Mystery/Adventure*



Scary Stories for Young Foxes by Christian McKay Heidicker
When Mia and Uly are separated from their litters, they discover a dangerous world. In order to find a den to call home, they must venture through field and forest, facing unspeakable things, too scary to mention. *Horror/Fantasy*



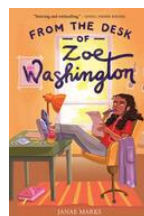
How We Got To Now by Steven Johnson
The story of how how accidental genius, brilliant mistakes, and unintended consequences shape the way we live in the modern world. *Nonfiction*



Song For A Whale by Lynne Kelly
Twelve-year-old Iris is a tech genius. But she's the only deaf person in her school, so people often treat her like she's not very smart. When she learns about Blue 55, a real whale who is unable to speak to other whales, Iris understands how he must feel, and sets off to help him. *Adventure/Realistic Fiction*



The Apartment by Alexandra Litvina
Originally published in Russian. The Muromtsev family have been living in the same six-room apartment for more than a century, generation after generation. Each room illustrates how each generation lived through the actual social and political changes in Russian history. *Historical Fiction*



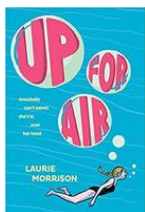
From the Desk of Zoe Washington by Janae Marks
What does a girl say to the father she's never met, hadn't heard from until his letter arrived on her twelfth birthday, and who's been in prison for a terrible crime? A crime he says he never committed. Could Marcus really be innocent? *Realistic Fiction*



Tristan Strong Punches a Hole in the Sky by Kwame Mbalia
Tristan is on his way to spend the summer with his grandparents. In his pocket he carries the journal of his best friend Eddie, killed in a bus accident. When the journal is stolen, Tristan races to retrieve it, breaking a bottle on his grandmother's bottle tree and falling through a flaming hole into a parallel world.
Fantasy/Adventure



Anya and the Dragon by Sofiya Pasternack
Headstrong eleven-year-old Anya is a daughter of the only Jewish family in her village. When her family's livelihood is threatened by a bigoted magistrate, Anya is lured in by a friendly family of fools, who promise her money in exchange for helping them capture the last dragon in Kievan Rus.
Fantasy/Adventure



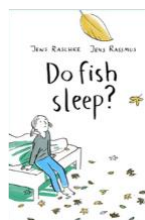
Up for Air by Laurie Morrison
Thirteen-year-old Annabelle struggles in school, no matter how hard she tries. But as soon as she dives into the pool, she's unstoppable. When she's asked to join the high school team over the summer, everything changes. Annabelle thinks she'll finally stand out in a good way. After a prank goes wrong, Annabelle can no longer swim. Who is she without the one thing she's good at? *Realistic Fiction*



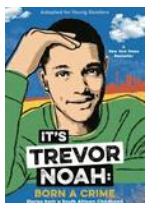
The Distance Between Me and the Cherry Tree by Paola Peretti
Originally published in Italian. When Mafalda learns she will go blind in six months from Stargardt Disease, she needs the help of family and friends to retain what is essential to her. *Realistic Fiction*



Orphans of the Tide by Struan Murray
When a mysterious boy washes in with the tide, the citizens believe he's the Enemy, returning to cause untold chaos. Only Ellie believes he's innocent. But the Enemy can take possession of any human body and the citizens are determined to destroy it forever. To save the boy, Ellie must prove who he really is, even if that means revealing her own dangerous secret. *Fantasy/Horror*



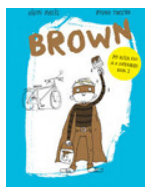
Do Fish Sleep? by Jens Raschke
Originally published in German. Ten-year-old Jette wrestles with the death of her younger brother, Emil, recalling special times they had together, his long-term illness, and his funeral, as well as her parents' grief. *Realistic Fiction*



It's Trevor Noah by Trevor Noah
Trevor Noah, host of The Daily Show, shares his remarkable story of growing up in South Africa, with a black South African mother and a white European father at a time when it was against the law for a mixed-race child like him to exist.
Memoir



The Red Zone by Silvia Vecchini
Originally published in Italian. Matteo, Giulia, and Federico have ordinary lives: they spend time with friends, help out their families, go to school, and deal with the many mood swings that come with growing up. Then, in a single night, everything changes. The ground shakes. An earthquake devastates their town and their security. But after everything is gone, life must go on. *Graphic Novel/Realistic Fiction*



Brown by Hakon Ovreas
Winner of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, 2020. Originally published in Norwegian. With help from his recently-deceased grandfather, new friends and their superhero alter egos, and some paint, Rusty stops the bullies who have been terrorizing their small town.
Adventure/Humor



Other Words for Home by Jasmine Warga
Jude never thought she'd be leaving her beloved older brother and father behind, all the way across the ocean in Syria. But when things in her hometown start becoming volatile, Jude and her mother are sent to live in Cincinnati with relatives.
Realistic Fiction



7th/8th Grade 2020

Recommended Summer Reading




The Candle and the Flame by Nafiza Azad
Fatima lives on the Silk Road, which is currently protected by the Ifrit, djinn of order and reason. When one of the most important Ifrit dies, Fatima finds herself drawn into the affairs of the djinn, and the very real dangers of a magical battlefield. *Fantasy*



Code Name: Butterfly by Ahlam Bsharat
Originally published in Arabic. With irony and poignant teenage idealism, Butterfly draws us into her world of adult hypocrisy, sibling rivalries, girlfriends' power plays, and unrequited love... not to mention the political tension of life in Palestine. *Realistic Fiction*



The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins
The highly-anticipated prequel to *The Hunger Games*. Revisit the world of Panem sixty-four years before the events of *The Hunger Games*, starting on the morning of the reaping of the Tenth Games. *Dystopian*



Furious Thing by Jenny Downham
Shortlisted for the Costa Book Awards. A remarkably affecting story of a girl who burns with anger for reasons she can't understand, and the power and risk that comes with making noise. *Realistic Fiction*



Dress Coded by Carrie Firestone
An eighth grader starts a podcast to protest the unfair dress code enforcement at her middle school and sparks a rebellion. *Realistic Fiction*



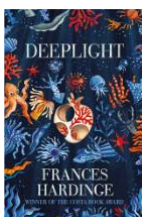
The Silence Between Us by Alison Gervais
Deaf teen Maya moves across the country and must attend a hearing school for the first time and has to adjust to the hearing culture. But when people in her life ask her to question parts of her identity, Maya never gives in to the idea that her deafness is a disadvantage. *Realistic Fiction*



Castle in the Clouds by Kerstin Gier
Originally published in German. In the Swiss mountains, there is an old hotel steeped in tradition. Sophie, a hotel intern, is busy making sure everything goes according to plan for the New Year's Eve Ball. But some of the guests are not who they pretend to be, and Sophie finds herself right in the middle of a perilous adventure. *Mystery/Adventure*



The Book Jumper by Mechthild Glaser
Originally published in German. Amy doesn't know what to expect when she and her mother move from Germany to Scotland. It turns out Amy is a book jumper and can leap into a story and interact with the world inside. As exciting as her new power is, it also brings danger. *Fantasy/Adventure*



Deeplight by Frances Hardinge
The gods are dead. Decades ago, they turned on one another and tore each other apart. But are they really gone forever? When 15-year-old Hark finds the still-beating heart of a terrifying deity, he risks everything to save the life of his best friend, Jelt. But Jelt gradually and eerily transforms. How long should Hark stay loyal to his friend when he's becoming a monster, and what is Hark willing to sacrifice to save him? *Fantasy*



Almost Autumn by Marianne Kaurin
Originally published in Norwegian. As autumn approaches, Ilse Stern is thinking about her infatuation with Hermann Rod, and whether his determination to be a painter will interfere with their romance. But the reality of being Jewish in occupied Oslo is about to turn her whole world upside down, as the deportation of the Norwegian Jews begins. *Historical Fiction*



The Kingdom of Back by Marie Lu
Two siblings. Two brilliant talents. But only one Mozart. Desperate to be forever remembered for her music, Nannerl Mozart makes a dangerous pact with a mysterious stranger from a magical land, which may cost her everything. *Fantasy/Historical Fiction*



Discovering Wes Moore by Wes Moore
Two different people from the same area with the same name. One graduated with honors from military school and was the first African American graduate of Johns Hopkins to become a Rhodes Scholar. The other landed in prison, serving a life sentence for murder. Both men were children of single mothers who worked hard to keep their sons out of trouble and keep food on the table. Why and where did their paths diverge? *Memoir/Nonfiction*



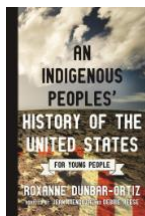
Free Lunch by Rex Ogle
Winner of the 2020 YALSA Excellence in Nonfiction Award. Rex Ogle recounts his first semester in middle school in which he often went hungry, wore secondhand clothes, and was on his school's free lunch program. *Memoir/Nonfiction*



The Agony House by Cherie Priest
Seventeen-year-old Denise and her family are moving back to New Orleans, into the Argonne house, which is over 100 years old. But old houses have histories, and a mysterious old comic book in the attic may hold the answer to the terrifying things that keep happening. *Mystery/Graphic Novel*



The Taste of Rain by Monique Polak
Thirteen-year old Gwen lives in a boarding school in northern China. For the last two years, the Weihsien mission school has been used as an internment camp by the Japanese, who closely guard the students and staff. Gwen follows the Girl Guide rules to mitigate the effects of the harsh living conditions. *Historical Fiction*



An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Debbie Reese
A history of the United States for young people told from the perspective of Indigenous peoples, revealing how Native Americans actively resisted expansion of the United States. *Narrative Nonfiction*



Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds
A National Book Award finalist. This story was going to begin like all the best stories. With a school bus falling from the sky. But no one saw it happen. They were all too busy. Ten tales about what happens after the dismissal bell rings. *Adventure/Realistic Fiction*



They Called Us Enemy by George Takei
Actor, author, and activist George Takei recounts his childhood imprisoned within American concentration camps for Japanese Americans during World War II and the impact the experience had on his later life. *Biography/Graphic Novel*



Rebelwing by Andrea Tang
At New Columbia Preparatory Academy in a near-future Washington, D.C., black market smuggler Prudence Wu and friends Anabel, Alex, and Cat become key players in a conflict with the United Continental Confederacy. *Science Fiction*



The Beast Player by Nahoko Uehashi
Originally published in Japanese. Elin's family care for the fearsome serpents that form the core of their kingdom's army. Elin discovers that she can talk to the serpents and beasts that guard her queen. Can she save herself and prevent her beloved beasts from being used as tools of war? *Fantasy*



Math Facts Practice

Name: _____ Start Date: _____

Practice your math facts as often as you can. To track your progress, at least once a week complete the following steps and record your progress in the table on the next page.

Instructions:

1. Set a timer for 5 minutes.
2. Using a set of randomly ordered addition flashcards, test your math facts.
3. Place the ones you get correct in one pile and the ones you get wrong in another pile.
4. Stop when the timer sounds, count the number of correct facts and record the number in the chart.
5. Repeat for each of the other operations (subtraction, multiplication, division).
6. Set a timer for one more set of facts of your choice to challenge you, maybe a mix of operations or choose the type that gives you the most trouble. Record that number in the last column.

Extension (optional):

1. Using squared paper, make a graph that shows your progress from week to week.
2. The y axis (vertical) is the number you got correct.
3. The x axis (horizontal) is the week number.
4. Use a different color pencil to plot all 4 operations on the same chart.

If you're getting faster, your plots will climb each week. If you aren't getting faster, add an extra practice day each week!

Bring your tracking sheet (and graph, if you made one) with you to school during the first week and give to your new Fifth Grade teacher!

Math Facts Flash Cards

1. Print a set (using the links below), OR
2. Make a set (writing the facts out is a good recall exercise in itself), OR
3. Purchase a set (links to very inexpensive sets on Amazon Prime are below).

Printing:

If you cut horizontally through the entire page, then fold along the vertical dotted line, the answer is on the back for self check.

- [Addition](#) 16 pages.
- [Subtraction](#) 16 pages.
- [Multiplication Flashcards](#) 16 pages.
- [Division Flashcards](#) 25 pages.

Purchasing:

- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Addition-Brighter-Child-Flash-Cards/dp/0769677118/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3G6EYJDLB5HFT&dchild=1&keywords=addition+flash+cards&qid=1587148389&srefix=addition%2Caps%2C141&sr=8-1
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Subtraction-Brighter-Child-Flash-Cards/dp/0769677215/ref=sr_1_1?crd=3PZSJ6CD7NTY&dchild=1&keywords=subtraction+flash+cards&qid=1587148436&srefix=subtraction+flash+cards%2Caps%2C245&sr=8-1
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Division-Brighter-Child-Flash-Cards/dp/0769677231/ref=sr_1_2?dchild=1&keywords=maths+facts+flash+cards&qid=1586855493&sr=8-2
- https://www.amazon.co.uk/Multiplication-Brighter-Child-Flash-Cards/dp/0769677436/ref=sr_1_3?dchild=1&keywords=maths+facts+flash+cards&qid=1586855632&sr=8-3