



# GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SOARING THROUGH SUMMER

**Dear GRCS Parents,**

Congratulations! Your child has made it through an exciting 2nd grade year and into the summer! It's time to head outdoors, enjoy nature, build forts, make s'mores, and do all those other quality, summer-time activities. Rest well, we know your child has worked hard throughout the past school year.

Along with the thrills of summer, we look forward to the coming school year! As we look ahead, we are happy to offer an opportunity to keep your child learning throughout the summer season! We hope to hit the ground running this August as we explore and learn in 3rd grade. To do so most effectively, we'd love for our students to continue reading and keeping their math skills sharp throughout the summer. The following is a collection of fun activities and books for you and your child to enjoy. We ask that you and your child would invest some time and effort in working through the suggestions in this packet.

We are so excited to see you in 3rd grade next year. Until then, take flight and soar through the summer!

See you in August!

Your GRCS 3rd grade teaching team

# THIRD GRADE SUGGESTED SUMMER READING

- ❑ *Doodle Adventures: The Search for Slimy Space Slugs!* (series) by Mike Lowery
- ❑ *Myth-O-Mania* (series) by Kate McMullan
- ❑ *Bad Kitty* (series) by Nick Bruel
- ❑ *Lunch Lady* (series) by Jarrett J. Krosoczka
- ❑ *Wayside School* (series) by Louis Sachar
- ❑ *The Terrible Two* by Mac Barnett and Jory John
- ❑ *The Year of . . .* (series) by Andrea Cheng
- ❑ *Ellie, Engineer* by Jackson Pearce
- ❑ *STAT: Standing Tall and Talented: Home Court* by Amar'e Stoudemire
- ❑ *The Kicks* by Alex Morgan
- ❑ *Ivy and Bean* (series) by Annie Barrows
- ❑ *The Vanishing Coin (Magic Shop Series)* by Kate Egan and Mike Lane
- ❑ *I Survived* (series) by Lauren Tarshis
- ❑ *Diary of a Minecraft Zombie Book* by Herobrine Books
- ❑ *Secret Agent Jack Stalwart* (series) by Elizabeth Singer Hunt
- ❑ *The Great Shelby Holmes* by Elizabeth Eulberg
- ❑ *Zoo Camp Puzzle* (series) by Gail Herman
- ❑ *Nick and Tesla's High-Voltage Danger Lab* by Bob Pflugfelder & Steve Hockensmith
- ❑ *The Misadventures of Salem Hyde Spelling Trouble* (series) by Frank Cammuso
- ❑ *Dragonbreath* (series) by Ursula Vernon
- ❑ *Of Giants and Ice* (series) by Shelby Bach
- ❑ *Whatever After* (series) by Sarah Mlynowski
- ❑ *Pip Bartlett's Guide to Magical Creatures* (series) by Jackson Pearce and Maggie Stiefvater
- ❑ *The Imaginary Veterinarian* (series) by Suzanne Selfors
- ❑ *Jenny and the Cat Club* (series) by Esther Averill
- ❑ *The Critter Club* (series) by Callie Barkley and Marsha Riti
- ❑ *Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen* by Candace Fleming
- ❑ *Dolphin Rescue (Animal Planet Adventures #1)* (series) by Catherine Nichols
- ❑ *The Rescue Princesses* (series) by Paula Harrison
- ❑ *Puppy Place* (series) by Ellen Miles

Topic	Discussion prompts
<b>Fiction: Characters</b>	<p>What is the character like?</p> <p>How did the character change throughout the book?</p> <p>How are you similar to the character? How are you different?</p>
<b>Fiction: Plot</b>	<p>What happened at the beginning of the story?</p> <p>What was the most exciting part of the story? Why was it exciting?</p> <p>What happens at the end?</p>
<b>Fiction: Setting</b>	<p>Why did the author choose the setting?</p> <p>What would happen to the story if you change the setting?</p>
<b>Informational Text:</b>	<p>What is the topic of the book?</p> <p>What illustration (graph, timeline, pictures, etc.) gave you more information about your topic?</p> <p>Why do you think the author wrote the book?</p> <p>What new information did you learn while reading this book?</p> <p>What new wonderings do you have?</p>
<b>Any books</b>	<p>What have you been wondering as you read?</p> <p>What does this book remind you of?</p> <p>Were there parts that surprised you?</p> <p>What are you going to read next?</p>

Use the 5-finger rule to tell if a book's a good fit!

Use *Common Sense Media* to ensure books are appropriate for your child and to find other great book recommendations:

<https://www.common sense media.org/book-reviews>

# REWARD YOUR READER: WEST MICHIGAN SUMMER READING PROGRAMS

*Grand Rapids is full of great resources for summer reading! Check individual sites to read further plans. Below is the list of libraries and bookstores that have offered programming over the past few years.*

**Baker Book House:** [bakerbookhouse.com/](http://bakerbookhouse.com/)

While they are yet to advertise a summer reading program, Baker Book House is a great place to stock up on books! Keep an eye on their website for possible programming.

**Barnes and Noble:** [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) [Summer Journal Download](#)

Track your reading to earn a free best-selling book of your choice using B&N's summer reading journal.

**Grand Rapids Public Library:** [www.grpl.org/summerreading/kids/](http://www.grpl.org/summerreading/kids/)

Earn great prizes and participate in free events throughout the summer. Stop by your local GRPL branch to sign up!

**Kent District Library:** [www.kdl.org/summer-reading](http://www.kdl.org/summer-reading)

Earn free books and other great prizes through your reading this summer. KDL will host a variety of free, family-focused events you won't want to miss.

**Schuler's:** [www.schulerbooks.com/summer-reading-club](http://www.schulerbooks.com/summer-reading-club)

Earn up to \$15 of store credit through your summer reading. Check out schulerbooks.com for information about cool events to enjoy on hot summer days.

Know of other reading opportunities in the Grand Rapids area? Be sure to connect with others and feel free to email Graham Schultze ([gschultze@grcs.org](mailto:gschultze@grcs.org)) to include them in Soaring through Summer next year.

# MATH IN THIRD GRADE

## IXL in 3rd Grade

IXL is available for students this summer! Students can use IXL to practice math skills and stay sharp. We've selected our top skills for 3rd Graders below. Follow these directions to make the most of this awesome website!

Login Instructions:

1. Go to <https://www.ixl.com/signin/grcs>.
2. Use your child's username and password to log in (this can be obtained from your child's 2020-21 classroom teacher).

Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Password: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Go to the Math tab.
4. Choose 3rd grade math by clicking the rounded tab with a 3 or E on it.
5. Click on the suggested skills below.
6. Get practicing!

Try working on each skill until you achieve a Smartscore of 80!

Category	Skills							
Numbers and Comparing	A3	A4	A5	A7	A9	A10	A11	
Place Values	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	B8
Understand Multiplication	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8
Logical Reasoning		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
Money		S1	S2	S3	S5	S6		

Finished? Head to the recommendations tab and keep learning!



## Using Math in Everyday Life

Just because school is done, doesn't mean math disappears until fall. Seek out opportunities to use math in real world ways throughout your summer together. Take a look at all the different ways you can connect the things you're already doing with math concepts students learn in school.

- Bake together to practice fractions, addition, and time.
- Go grocery shopping together and compare prices, weigh items and count change.
- Plan, measure out and build something together.
- Host a lemonade stand
- Practice telling time
- Sort and count change collected at home
- Complete puzzles or play games like, Uno, Monopoly, Battleship, Yahtzee, Chess, Checkers, Sudoku, Tangrams, or your own favorite card games.

## Build Skills Using Math Games

There are so many great math skill games available. Here are some teacher approved games that are definitely worth checking out:

**Box Cars and One-Eyed Jacks Math Games:** Using just dice and a deck of playing cards, try one of many games listed on this site to reinforce skills! [www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/archives/boxcars.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/archives/boxcars.shtml)

**Xtramath.org:** In just 10 minutes a day, kids can practice basic facts tailored to them. They'll only practice the ones they haven't yet mastered instead of wasting time practicing what they already know. The app is \$5 but the website is always free. Reach out to your child's 2020-21 teacher for account information.

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Username:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Password :** \_\_\_\_\_

**Abcya.com:** Abcya is a fantastic collection of ELA and math games covering math skills in a variety of engaging ways. Like an arcade, kids can jump in and out of games as they like. So many choices, there's bound to be something they'll love.

**Prodigy.com:** Kids love Prodigy because it feels more like a video game than a math review website. Kids explore new worlds, meet interesting characters and compete against other characters all powered by answering correct math questions.

Also, check out Mr. McWhertor's website for great math games at all grade levels!

[sites.grcs.org/cmchwertor](http://sites.grcs.org/cmchwertor)