



GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS SOARING THROUGH SUMMER

Dear GRCS Parents,

Congratulations! Your child has made it through an exciting 3rd grade year and into the summer! It's time to go hiking, ride bikes, eat ice cream, 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 4th 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 4th grade next year. Until then, take flight and soar through the summer!

See you in August!

Your GRCS 4th teaching grade team

FOURTH GRADE SUGGESTED SUMMER READING

FICTION

- A Boy Named Bat* by Elana K. Arnold
- The Wild Robot* by Peter Brown
- The Last Last-Day-of-Summer* by Lamar Giles
- Charlotte's Web* by E.B White
- Diary of an Awesome Friendly Kid: Rowley Jefferson's Journal* by Jeff Kinley
- Stella Diaz has Something to Say* by Angela Dominguez
- The Magician's Elephant* by Kate DiCamillo
- Sisters* by Raina Telgemeier
- Tuesdays at the Castle* by Jessica Day George
- Jada Sly, Artist & Spy* by Sherri Winston
- Power Forward* by Hena Khan
- One-Third Nerd* by Gennifer Choldenko
- The Terrible Two* by Mac Barnett and Jory John
- Fortunately, the Milk* by Neil Gaiman
- The Vanishing Coin* by Kate Egan and Mike Lane
- Zoo Camp Puzzle* by Gail Herman
- The Imaginary Veterinarian* by Suzanne Selfors

NONFICTION

- Rocket to the Moon: Big Ideas That Changed the World* by Don Brown
- Beavers: The Superpower Field Guides* by Rachel Poliquin
- 2020 National Geographic Almanac*
- Weird But True! Greek Mythology* by Sarah Wassner Flynn
- Escape This Book! Titanic* by Bill Doyle

SERIES/COLLECTIONS

- Percy Jackson and the Olympians* by Rick Riordan
- The Babysitter's Club* by Raina Telgemeier
- Amulet* by Kazu Kibuishi
- The Little House Collection* by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- The Bad Guys* Aaron Blabey
- American Girl Mysteries* by various authors
- Hero* by Jennifer Li Shotzv
- Diary of a Minecraft Zombie* by Zack Zombie
- I Survived* by Lauren Tarshis
- Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis
- Wayside School* by Louis Sachar

Topic	Discussion prompts
Fiction: Characters	<p>What is a character trait of the main character? How do you know this?</p> <p>How did the character change throughout the book?</p> <p>How are you similar to the character? How are you different?</p>
Fiction: Plot	<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>
Fiction: Setting	<p>Why did the author choose the setting?</p> <p>What would happen to the story if you change the setting?</p> <p>What is the setting like? Use examples from the text to show how you know!</p>
Fiction: Theme	<p>What lesson did the main character learn?</p> <p>What is the theme of the book? What is something that happened in the book that showed this theme?</p>
Informational Text:	<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>
Any books	<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 Common Sense Media to ensure books are appropriate for your child and to find other great book recommendations: <https://www.commonsensemedia.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/

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 [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/

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

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

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) to include them in Soaring through Summer next year.

SUMMER MATH PROGRAMS

IXL in 4th 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 4th Graders below. Follow these directions to make the most of this awesome website!

Students may have mastered some of these skills in the past school year, but the 4th grade team would love for their new students to be rock solid in all of the skills listed below!

Login Instructions:

1. Go to <https://www.ixl.com/signin/grcs>.
2. Use your child's username and password to log in. Reach out to your child's 2020-21 teacher to acquire login information.

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
Addition	C.1 C.3 C.9 C.11
Subtraction	D.1 D.2 D.3
Multiplication	G.1-G.20 H.1 H.2 H.6 H.7
Division	K.1-K.17 L.1 L.2 L.5
Fractions	W.1 W.4 W.5 W.8 W.12 W.16 W.17 W.18 W.19 W.20

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

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 to acquire login 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