

GRADE 8
SUMMER
PACKET

Dear Mercymount Families,

Research spanning 100 years has proven that students lose ground academically when they are out of school for the summer- a phenomenon known as “the summer slide.” Here are some facts about this achievement gap:

- When no work is done over the summer, it can take up to **2 months** from the first day of school for students’ brain development to get back on track.
- Teachers spend an average of **4-6 weeks reteaching** material that students have lost during the summer.
- Failing to read over the summer results in an academic loss equivalent to **2.6 months** of reading skills. Similar statistics apply to math as well.
- Third graders who can’t read on grade level are **4 times less likely to graduate** by age 18 when compared with proficient readers.
- A study conducted at Harvard’s Center for Evaluation found that reading **4 or 5 books** over the summer months had an impact on fall reading achievement comparable to attending summer school.
- **2-3 hours per week (20 minutes a day)** is all children need during the summer to prevent summer learning loss.

[\(https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics/\)](https://www.oxfordlearning.com/summer-learning-loss-statistics/)

To help prevent “the summer slide” and to aid your child’s transition into the new school year, we appreciate your support with the following summer assignments. Thank you for your partnership in learning!

Entering Grade...	Reading and Language Arts		Math
K	(Enter K-1) Read a book of your choice for 20 minutes for as many days as you can this summer. Read with a parent or read by yourself. If you can’t read the words by yourself, read the pictures.		(Entering K) Practice counting, recognizing, and writing your numbers through 20.
1	Use the attached checklist to try reading in different ways. Turn in the checklist with a parent signature during the first week of school and be ready to tell your teacher about an interesting reading experience you had over the summer.		(Entering 1) Practice counting by 1’s, 5’s, and 10’s, recognizing, and writing your numbers through 120.
2	(Entering 2) Students have received a reading packet to complete and return on the first week of school.		(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school.
3	Grades 3 and 4 will be voting for this year’s Rhode Island Children’s Book Award. To qualify to vote, you must read at least 3 titles from the attached list. All students should be prepared to complete an assessment (test or project) of the teacher’s choosing during the first weeks of school.	(Entering 3) 1. Required Read: <i>Third Grade Angels</i> by Jerry Spinelli 2. Free Choice: Read 1 book of your choice from the attached list.	All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.
4		(Entering 4) 1. Required Read: Read <i>Simon B’ Rhymin</i> by Dwayne Reed. 2. Picture Book: Read 1 picture book from the attached list. 3. Free Choice: Read 1 book of your choice from the attached list.	

5	<p>Reading <u>Required read:</u> <i>Wildfire</i> by Rodman Philbrick (RI Children's Book Award Winner 2019) <u>Free Choice Chapter-Book Read:</u> Read one chapter-book of your choice, minimum 200 pages <u>Picture Book with Moral:</u> Read one picture book from the RI Book Award List, with a moral to the story.</p> <p>All students should be prepared to complete an assessment (test or project) of the teacher's choosing during the first weeks of school.</p> <p>Grammar Complete the attached grammar practice packet. Due on the first day of school and will be assessed with an accompanying test during the week.</p>	<p>(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school. All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.</p>	
6	<p>Literature All students should be prepared to complete discussion questions and have an assessment on the book assigned by Mrs. Antone. In addition, they should complete ONE of the attached project choices for the book assigned by Mr. Cotnoir. Projects will be collected and presented during the first week of school.</p>	<p>(Entering 6) Mrs. Antone - <i>New Kid</i> by Jerry Craft Mr. Cotnoir - <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew</i> by C. S. Lewis</p>	<p>(Entering 2-8) Complete the attached math packet and turn in during the first week of school. All students should be prepared to complete a math assessment (test or project) during the first weeks of school that covers the same topics addressed in the packet.</p>
7	<p>Grammar All students should also complete the attached grammar packet. It will be collected during the first week of school.</p>	<p>(Entering 7) Mrs. Antone - <i>The People of Sparks</i> by Jeanne DuPrau Mr. Cotnoir - <i>Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> by C.S. Lewis</p>	
8		<p>(Entering 8) <i>Of Mice and Men</i> by John Steinbeck Mr. Cotnoir - <i>The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> by C. S. Lewis</p>	

Middle School Summer Reading Assignments

Grades 6-8 will be reading 2 books this summer. Your first book will be assigned by Mr. Cotnoir. After reading, you will then choose and complete one project from the attached list of choices. Projects will be due Tuesday, September 6th.

The second book will be assigned by Mrs. Antone. You will **NOT** be completing a project for this book. Instead, be prepared to have class discussions and an assessment the first two weeks of school. Please see below for assigned books:

6th grade will read:

(Mr. Cotnoir) *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew*
by C.S. Lewis

(Mrs. Antone) *New Kid* by Jerry Craft

7th grade will read:

(Mr. Cotnoir) *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

(Mrs. Antone) *The People of Sparks* by Jeanne DuPrau

8th grade will read:

(Mr. Cotnoir) *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* by C.S. Lewis

(Mrs. Antone) *Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck

Middle School Summer Reading Assignment

After reading the book assigned by Mr. Cotnoir, choose one project from the list below:

- **Piece of Artistic Expression:** If you are artistic or good with your hands, create a painting, sculpture, or other visual media object connected to your book. You will need to write a short summary (1 page typed) of the book and an explanation of the object and how it connects to the book you just read. I will not accept a drawn picture on a piece of notebook paper!!!

- **Character Journal:** Choose a character from your novel and write 7 journal entries from his or her point of view. Detail the thoughts and feelings of this character as he or she experiences the plot of your novel. Each entry should be about one page in length typed in 12 Times New Roman.

- **Poetry Journal:** If you enjoy writing poetry, you can write a collection of poems that chronicle your novel. You need to write at least 5 poems that correspond to characters, themes, events or other elements seen throughout your novel.

- **CD:** Imagine that you have been hired to develop a soundtrack to your book. Find at least ten songs that showcase the book's themes, settings, emotions, characters etc. You must include the following with your project: a list of the chosen songs, a brief explanation (5-7 sentences) for each song on how it relates to the book, and the lyrics for one of the songs that best represents the book. All songs and lyrics must be appropriate for school and should not contain unacceptable language or themes.

- **Video interview:** Using a recording, video a mock interview with the main character of your novel. You need to include a script written out for the interview (which is turned in with the video). This will be shown to the class.

Due Date: Tuesday, September 6th