

Summer Homework Letter for Rising 8th Graders

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As your child prepares to enter 8th grade, we want to ensure they continue to build upon their knowledge and skills over the summer. To support their academic growth, we have assigned mandatory summer homework in the following subjects: Math, Science, History, ELA, and Spanish. These assignments will help reinforce key concepts and prepare students for a successful transition into the next academic year.

We encourage students to complete their assignments steadily throughout the summer rather than waiting until the last minute. These assignments will be reviewed and discussed in the first weeks of school.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a smooth and productive transition into 8th grade. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out at asidani@aosj.us

For subject-specific questions, feel free to contact:

- Mr. Chris Krow: ckrow@aosj.us
- Mrs. Amanda Watermeyer - awatermeyer@aosj.us
- Mr. Christopher St-Cyr - cstcyr@aosj.us
- Ms. Martin - cmartin@aosj.us
- Ms. Patricia Millones - pmillones@aosj.us

Enjoy your summer, and we look forward to seeing you in the fall!

Best regards,

Amal Sidani

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MATHEMATICS

This summer, you'll use **Khan Academy** to sharpen your math skills and get ready for 5th grade!

How to Get Started

1. **Go to:** [Khan Academy](#)
2. **Create an account** using your AoSJ school email.
New students will receive their school email: **first initial & last name @ [aosj.us](#)**
3. Make sure you are signed into your AoSJ account.
4. Join the class on this link: [Get Ready for 8th Grade Math](#) - Class code **JHCRPTFR**

What You Need to Do

Goal: Complete at least **11 hours (or 660 minutes)** of learning over the summer.

Work at least **1 hour per week** to stay on track.

Reach at least **70% Mastery Progress Level** to show understanding.

Important!

- You **must** be signed into your **AoSJ account** while working, or your progress won't count!
- If you need help, ask a parent or teacher (Mr. Krow, ckrow@aosj.us) for support before school starts.
- Some current students may be asked to complete more than the minimum number of hours, depending on their progress at the end of this year.
- New students may be asked to complete more than the minimum number of hours, depending on an assessment of their placement test results as well as a review of their prior institution's mathematics curriculum.
- **Student completion of their required module will be their first grade of Semester 1.**

SCIENCE

Summer is a great time to explore new ideas and learn about the world around us! This summer, you will be comparing science and media in preparing for your year-long research project.

What to Read

Website: <https://www.sciencejournalforkids.org/articles/lesson-ideas/myth-busting-science/>

What to Do

Assignment Overview:

In this assignment, you will write a 4-page critical essay. Your essay will compare research findings from the Science Journal for Kids and two other sources with current media reports on a topic. You will explore how public perceptions align or differ from scientific findings.

Step-by-Step Instructions:

Step 1: Choose Your Topic

- Read some topics from the website link and select a topic that interests you.

Step 2: Gather Your Sources

- **Source 1:** Read the Science Journal for Kids article related to your topic.
- **Source 2:** Find another three reliable scientific sources (like a research paper or reputable website).
- **Source 3:** Look for at least one current media report (like a news article or video) that discusses your topic.

Step 3: Take Notes

- While reading each source, take detailed notes.
- Focus on key findings, arguments, and how the information is presented in each source.
- Write down any important quotes that you may want to use in your essay.

Step 4: Outline Your Essay

- Create an outline to organize your thoughts. Include the following sections:
 - **Introduction**
 - Introduce your topic and its importance.
 - Include a thesis statement (tells the reader what to expect from the rest of the paper) that outlines your main argument.
 - **Body Paragraphs**

- Compare findings from the Science Journal for Kids and your three other sources.
 - Discuss how these findings align or differ from the media report/video.
 - Provide specific examples and evidence from your sources.
- **Conclusion**
 - Summarize your key points.
 - Reflect on the implications of your findings regarding public perception and scientific evidence.

Step 5: Write Your Draft

- Using your outline, start writing your essay.
- Focus on clear and concise language.
- Make sure each paragraph flows logically into the next.

Step 6: Edit and Revise

- After finishing your draft, take a break and then start revising.
- Look for areas to improve clarity and ensure you have strong evidence for your points.
- Check for grammar and spelling errors.

Step 7: Finalize Your Essay

- Make any final adjustments based on your revisions.
- Ensure that your essay meets the 4-page requirement - any font, 12pt. Double spacing.
- Include citations for all sources used
(<https://www.citethisforme.com/citation-generator/apa>).
- Your citations should be footnotes, i.e., ¹ Elitsa (2025). *How does limiting sugar early in life affect adult health?*, *Science Journal for Kids and Teens*. Available at: [https://www.sciencejournalforkids.org/articles/how-does-limiting-sugar-early-in-life-affect-adult-he](https://www.sciencejournalforkids.org/articles/how-does-limiting-sugar-early-in-life-affect-adult-health/)alth/ (Accessed: 30 May 2025).

Final Step

- Bring your completed work to school in the fall! **Due on the first day of school.**

HISTORY

Learning about current events will enrich your overall History experience at AOSJ. Read 1-2 newspaper/magazine articles each week. There's nothing better than a hard copy. For each article, highlight the 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why). We ask that adults help guide the process of accessing [relatively unbiased and valid news sources](#). Conversations surrounding media literacy are pivotal in developing critical thinking skills.

In addition to analyzing current events and news, AOSJ requires about 20 minutes per week of History work for each grade level on <https://www.khanacademy.org/>. Students will use the same account for Math and History. New students can email cstcyr@aosj.us with any questions.

Students must be logged into their **AOSJ SCHOOL** account for their progress and activity to be recorded. **Students are required to complete the assignments found on Khan Academy, which will be their first grade of Semester 1.**

8th grade → There are fourteen (14) videos, articles, and exercises assigned on our class page.

- Use your AOSJ account to sign in <https://www.khanacademy.org/join/HZRNBAWE>
- Or visit www.khanacademy.org/join and enter our class code [HZRNBAWE](https://www.khanacademy.org/join/HZRNBAWE)

1. Dred Scott, the Lincoln-Douglas debates, and the election of 1860
2. Juneteenth
3. An overview and the 13th Amendment
4. Life after slavery for African Americans
5. Black Codes
6. The First KKK
7. The Freedmen's Bureau
8. The 14th Amendment
9. The 15th Amendment
10. The Compromise of 1877
11. Failure of Reconstruction
12. Comparing the effects of the Civil War on American national identity
13. Reconstruction Exercise
14. The Civil War era (1844-1877): Unit test

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA)

Welcome to 8th grade! This summer, you'll dive into some exciting books to get ready for the new school year. **The books you read over the summer will be the first two novels we study together in class.**

Novel 1: *The Old Man and the Sea* by Ernest Hemingway

- While you read *The Old Man and the Sea*, complete the graphic organizer [linked here](#). **Please print it out and handwrite on paper.** Thorough directions are included in the organizer. Be prepared to turn it in on the first day of school.

Novel 2: *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

- While you read *The Lord of the Flies*, complete the graphic organizer [linked here](#). **Please print it out and handwrite on paper.** Thorough directions are included on the organizer. Be prepared to turn them in on the first day of school.

Your Reading Log

Keep a simple list of the books you read this summer, including:

- **Title and Author** of your choice book.
- Any other books you read for fun!

Need Help Picking a Book?

Check out these websites for book recommendations:

- [Read Brightly – Summer Books for Tweens](#)
- [New York Public Library – Book Suggestions](#)

Enjoy your summer reading, and we can't wait to hear all about your books in the fall!

SPANISH

Rising to 8th Grade Spanish Summer Work

Book: ¡Arroz con cosas! by Patricia Martí Torres and Margarita Pérez García

This summer, you will read this book and complete the following activities. The goal is to help you strengthen your reading, writing, and vocabulary skills in Spanish. Please take your time, stay organized, and do your best work!

1. Reading Practice

- Read the entire book: ¡Arroz con cosas! (Spanish edition).

2. Vocabulary Practice

- As you read, use a dictionary (online, such as WordReference, or a paper version) to look up any unfamiliar words.
- Write the definitions in pencil directly in your book, keeping your notes neat and organized.
- If you prefer, you may also keep a separate vocabulary list with definitions and example sentences in Spanish.

3. Writing Practice

- Answer the following prompts **in Spanish** on a separate sheet of paper or typed document. These will be collected on the **first day of class**.
- Important: You may only use dictionaries for support. **Do not use Google Translate or AI tools**—they will complete the task faster, but you will learn much less.

Writing activities:

1. Summarize the story in 10-20 sentences.
2. Imagine a sequel: What happens next? Write a paragraph (5–7 sentences).
3. Share your favorite part of the story and explain why you liked it (3–5 sentences).
4. Share an interesting fact you learned from the book (3–5 sentences).
5. Create an alternative book cover. Draw a new cover that reflects the story's message. Include the title and author(s). Be creative!

Final Notes:

- All written work must be submitted on the first day of school.
- Be thoughtful, creative, and neat. This will be your first impression as an 8th-grade Spanish student!

**¡Feliz verano! Have fun reviewing Spanish!
Haz lo que puedas, no te preocupes por ser perfecto.
Try your best and enjoy it!**

Ms. Millones