St. Michael's
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Dear Parents of Incoming Seventh Graders,

At St. Michael's, we believe that learning is a year-round journey, and we want to ensure our students are well prepared for the exciting challenges of the coming year. To support that goal, **all students entering first through eighth grade are required to complete a summer math and reading program.** The following information outlines the expectations for students entering seventh grade:

Math
Each student will complete a summer math workbook designed to reinforce concepts learned in sixth grade. This workbook will be sent home with your child on the last day of school.

- Please **remove the answer key** from the back of the book and use it to check your child's work throughout the summer.
- **Calculators should not be used**; we encourage students to practice their mental math skills.
- Once completed, the workbook should be **signed by a parent** and returned to your child's homeroom teacher on the **first day of school: Tuesday, September 1**.

Reading
Students are also expected to:

- **Read at least three books over the summer - two books of their choosing as well as the required book, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L'Engle, assigned by Mr. Buccola.**
- *A Wrinkle in Time* should be read last, as the class will begin the school year discussing this book.
- Prepare a written response on *A Wrinkle in Time* due to Mr. Buccola by **August 24** by emailing him at nickbuccola@smeds.com.

A suggested reading list and all necessary directions for the written response are attached to this letter and can also be found on our website on the **Summer Homework** page.

Grading and Support
Students who do not submit their completed summer work will receive an **Incomplete** in math and/or literature on their first report card.

We encourage families to establish a regular routine that balances summer fun with time for learning. Starting early and spreading the work out over the summer will make the experience more enjoyable and effective for your child. Waiting until the final weeks of summer can make it harder for students to retain and apply their skills.

If you have any questions about the summer homework requirements, please feel free to contact Mr. Buccola at nickbuccola@smeds.com for questions about the reading homework and Ms. Arnould at isabelarnould@smeds.com for questions about the math homework.

Thank you for your partnership in your child's education. We look forward to welcoming your child to seventh grade in the fall!

Sincerely,

Olivia Keffer
Director of Curriculum and Instruction
St. Michael's Episcopal Day School
a California Independent School
oliviakeffer@smeds.com
916-485-3418

St. Michael's
EPISCOPAL DAY SCHOOL

Summer Reading 2026
Incoming Seventh Grade

Dear Parents:
Students entering seventh grade are to read at least three books over the course of the summer, one of which must be the all-class read, which is **Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time***. See page three for specific details on the required written response for this title. Please note that audiobooks are acceptable and count toward summer reading goals.

Below are suggested titles for incoming seventh graders. They may select other titles that are not included on this list. Please note that audiobooks are acceptable and count toward summer reading goals.

Fiction Suggestions
Across So Many Seas by Ruth Behar
Alex Rider (Series) by Anthony Horowitz
Allies by Alan Gratz
Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed
Artemis Fowl (series) by Eoin Colfer
Booked by Kwame Alexander
The Call of the Wild by Jack London
Chomp by Carl Hiaasen
Code Talker by Joseph Bruchac
The Eyes and the Impossible by Dave Eggers
The First State of Being by Erin Entrada
Flipped by Wendelin Van Draanen
Gallagher Girls (series) by Ally Carter
Ghost by Jason Reynolds
Harbor Me by Jacqueline Woodson
Heat by Mike Lupica
The Hobbit by J. R. R. Tolkien
Hunger Games (Series) by Suzanne Collins
I, Funny by James Patterson
Jeremy Fink and the Meaning of Life by Wendy Mass
Land of Stories (series) by Chris Colfer
Legend (series) by Marie Lu
Linked by Gordon Korman
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park
Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All by Chanel Miller
One Big Open Sky by Lesa Cline-Ransome
The Unwanteds (series) by Lisa McMann
Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Westing Game by Ellen Raskin

When You Reach Me by Rebecca Stead
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
The Wrong Way Home by Kate O'Shaughnessy

Nonfiction Suggestions
Dewey the Library Cat: A True Story by Vicki Myron
Hidden Figures (Young Reader's Edition) by Margot Lee Shetterly
I Am Malala (Young Readers Edition) by Malala Yousafzai
I Will Always Write Back by Martin Ganda and Caitlin Alifirenka
Torpedoed by Deborah Heiligman
Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation) by Laura Hillenbrand

MIDDLE SCHOOL READING RESPONSE, SUMMER 2026

Incoming Seventh Grade:

Please respond to each of the following comprehension questions about Madeleine L'Engle's *A Wrinkle in Time*. The response for each question should be <u>one properly formatted paragraph</u>. You must type your responses and <u>use complete sentences as well as direct evidence from the text to support your answers</u>. You must type your responses in double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font. Do not turn in multiple documents, but rather, make sure all five responses are numbered and part of the same document. Your answer will be graded based on depth of analysis, use of textual evidence, as well as mechanics, spelling, and grammar.

1. Choose one character from *A Wrinkle in Time* and explain how he or she grew and changed throughout the story? What was he or she like at first, and how did events and experiences change the character by the end? Explain the character in detail and relate your answer about growth/change to particular experiences he or she went through during the novel.
2. Good vs. Evil is a key idea throughout the novel. Give at least one important example of characters and/or events that represent the struggle between good vs. evil, and explain what the author is trying to say about good vs. evil in her writing. What lessons can the reader learn from your chosen example(s) of the representation of good and evil?
3. Describe in detail the character Charles Wallace. What makes him so extraordinary? How do these traits both help AND hurt him on Camazotz?
4. How is love depicted in *A Wrinkle in Time*? What role does love play throughout the story and in how the story turns out? Based on this, what might L'Engle be trying to tell readers about the power and the importance of love in our lives and in the world (even the universe!) overall?
5. Overall, what do you think the point of reading *A Wrinkle in Time* is? I hope you found it entertaining, but beyond that in terms of life lessons and deeper meaning, why might this be a good, powerful book for someone to read? Based on your answer, what kind of audience/person do you think would get the most out of it, and why?

Due Date for Responses: Monday, August 24
Please electronically share the final draft of your responses with Mr. Buccola by August 24 by emailing him at nickbuccola@smeds.com.