

2025-2026 BCS 7th & 8th Grade Summer Packet

Dear 7th & 8th Grade Students and Parents,

As the 2025-2026 school year comes to an end, the 7/8 teachers would like to wish you all a safe and happy summer. We would also like to see you exercise your brain, while enjoying fun in the sun. **This summer packet will enrich your vacation and help you to prepare for the fall. You will be held accountable for the following activities as they will be reviewed and checked in with your Academic Lab teacher.**

This packet includes the following required activities:

- ☐ Independent Reading
- ☐ Community Service
- ☐ Goal Setting
- ☐ Favorite Summer Memory
- ☐ Math Khan Academy



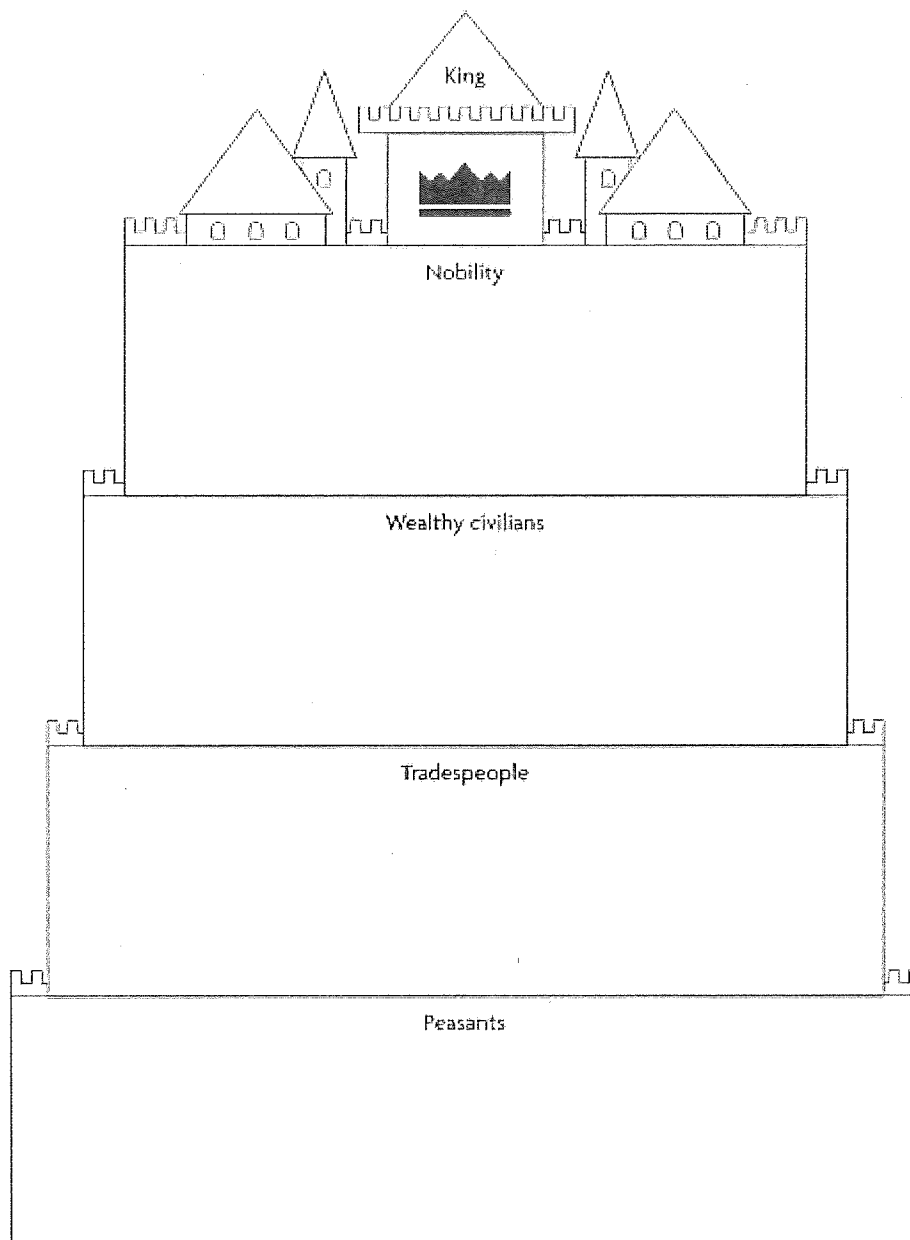
Please read the directions carefully and we look forward to seeing you again so we can continue to learn and grow together.

Language Arts Independent Reading

Before school ended you received a copy of *Good Masters, Sweet Ladies* by Laura Amy Schlitz. Please keep track of this copy as it will need to be turned in to your language arts teacher in the fall. This novel is the **required read** for the summer. The novel is a collection of dramatic monologues featuring 23 characters living in an English village in 1255. The vignettes provide a humorous glimpse into young medieval inhabitants. While reading, please complete the activities provided below.

When we come back in the fall, we will focus on these activities and continue to work with the text as well as other works from the Middle Ages. Both assignments will be a part of your Language Arts grade. It is your choice if you would like to complete the activities paper/pencil or digitally.

Before reading, research the hierarchy of medieval society. Make notes about your research in the castle below.



In the chart below list examples of direct and indirect characterization.

Hugo	Taggot	Will	Thomas

Summer Math Work

Math Khan Academy Challenge: Your challenge is to complete at least 2 units associated with your incoming grade level. Work through each unit by completing each lesson and passing the quizzes. Any work beyond the 2 units will be appropriately recognized. Create an account so you can go back to where you left off. Take a screenshot of your completed units to show your math teacher for credit in the fall.

Getting ready for 7th Grade Math:



Getting Ready for 8th Grade Math:



Getting ready for Integrated 1:



Getting Ready for Integrated 2:



Getting Ready for Integrated 3:



Community Service

RESPECT- INTEGRITY- KINDNESS- EMPATHY - RESPONSIBILITY

"Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier and better." ----Mother Teresa

This summer, we ask that you provide your children with opportunities to practice our core RIKER values through community service.

Community service is work done by a person or group of people that benefits others. Community service can be done near the area where you live, so your own community reaps the benefits of your efforts. That means your community service can be done within your own neighborhood or within your broader community. Before you decide upon your community service this summer, think about what is important to you as an individual. What are your passions? The time you devote to your community service is up to you.

There are many diverse needs in our community, so try to choose a community service project that is close to your heart. You can provide a service to your neighbors, local children and families in need, senior citizens, people with disabilities, and more. Your passions may drive you towards helping animals, such as those at a shelter, or you may feel compelled to improve places, such as a local park, historic building, or scenic area as well. You can even recycle to support our local veterans and our BPS Schools Offer Support program at the same time. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to clean out their closets this summer and donate to the Disabled American Veterans Bin located in the BCS parking lot.

However you choose to serve your community, we want you to have fun and stay safe. You will learn about your own character strengths and may meet people who view the world very differently than you do. We hope that while you are doing your community service, you will gain a new understanding of yourself and an appreciation of our diverse community and the good fortune you have living in the Birmingham Schools' community.

Assignment: After you complete your community service project, you will put together a visual representation that documents your activities. Please include pictures of your community service project. Share how this experience has allowed you to practice our RIKER values and explain how your community service project represents who you are as an individual. You may choose one of the following visual representations, or you may come up with something original! You will share your projects with the students in your academic lab class. Your teachers will inform you of the dates for the presentations when you return in the fall.

You may work with a partner or alone. If you choose to work with a partner, you should both have a visual representation. You may use the same visual or have two copies of it. You might ask a former BCS student or your friends, parents and neighbors for suggestions. Many people need extra help during the summer and throughout the entire year.

Examples of Visual Representations:

Scrapbook
Infomercial
Infographic

Photo essay
Webpage
Other

Movie
Journal
Poster

Community Service Visual Representation Project Rubric

Category	4 - Excellent	3 - Good	2 - Developing	1 - Needs Improvement
Connection to Core Values	Clearly and thoughtfully demonstrates all 5 core values in action.	Shows connection to at least 3-4 core values.	Shows evidence of 1-2 core values.	Limited or no connection to core values shown.
Visual Representation	Creative, detailed, and visually engaging. Strong effort and thought are evident.	Organized and neat. Shows effort and some creativity.	Some visuals included; limited effort or creativity.	Lacks visuals or is incomplete.
Reflection & Explanation	Deep and thoughtful reflection on experience and identity. Clearly explains personal connection.	Good reflection with some explanation of personal connection.	Basic reflection with minimal explanation.	Lacks clear reflection or explanation.
Documentation of Activity	Includes several photos and/or detailed descriptions of the service project.	Includes at least one photo or description.	Includes limited documentation.	No documentation included.
Presentation Readiness	Ready for presentation with clear message and polished format.	Mostly ready to present; minor improvements needed.	Partially ready; needs clarification or formatting.	Not ready for presentation.

Goal Setting

When writing your goals, please follow the SMART goal steps below. For the 2026-2027 school year, you will be required to draft two goals - one academic goal and one character goal. Your Academic Lab teacher will spend some time revising and editing with you when you return to help you bring these goals to their final form. Bring your goals with you on the first day of school!

1. **Goal:** Write the goal you want to achieve.
2. **Specific:** Ask the relevant 'w' questions. What do you want to achieve? Why do you want to achieve it? When do you want to see results? How will you achieve it? Who can help or guide you to achieve your goal?
3. **Measurable:** What metrics will you use to measure progress? What marks that you were successful or not.
4. **Achievable:** Can you achieve this goal with your current skills and experiences? Do you have the resources to succeed? If not, how do you plan to get the things you need to accomplish the objective?
5. **Relevant:** How will it contribute to your academic or personal life? What is your motivation for setting this goal?
6. **Time-based:** By what time will you achieve this goal? Is this a realistic goal to achieve within this timeframe? Is this a short-term or a long-term goal?

Academic Goal

I WILL _____

Action Steps:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Challenges

What problems might you encounter in reaching your goal?

Strengths and Resources

What strengths do you have that will help you reach your goal, or what do you need to help you reach your goal?

Character Goal

I WILL _____

Action Steps:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Challenges

What problems might you encounter in reaching your goal?

Strengths and Resources

What strengths do you have that will help you reach your goal, or what do you need to help you reach your goal?

Favorite Family Summer Memory

Do you have a FAVORITE summer memory with your family? Did you go on a trip to a new place? Did you cook and share your favorite family recipe? Or just stay home and spend time with your family?

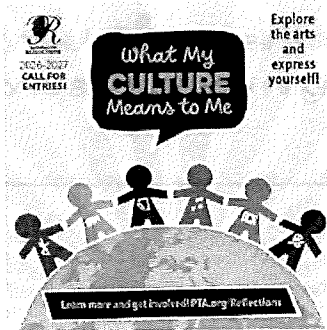
We want to hear all about your favorite family summer memory! Fill out this page, including a photo(s) and a detailed summary of what you did. These will be hung in classrooms and halls to celebrate a wonderful BCS Summer.

Place Photo(s) Here

Write a paragraph about your family memory with lively detail using any/all of the five senses. Remember to use complete sentences with proper capitalization and punctuation.



PTA National Reflections Art Program



The 2026-2027 Reflections program theme is **"What My Culture Means to Me."** This theme was created by Sophia Partola from Wilton High School PTSA in Connecticut.

Artists, photographers, dancers, composers, filmmakers, and authors are invited to enter the PTA Reflections Art Program. This program offers all BCS students to create works of art for fun and recognition. Reflect on the theme, create an original work, for a chance to win and be recognized.

Reflect on the theme and submit an original work in any of these categories:

Visual Arts

Photography

Literature

Music Composition

Film Production

Dance Choreography

*Students may submit multiple entries, but only one per category

Collection instruction to be announced by the PTSA chairperson in September 2026.

Join the 2026-2027 Reflections Theme Search Contest! The winning student will receive \$100 and recognition at the national PTA Awards Celebration.

See <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/reflections/awards> for more information about awards and events.

Questions? Please contact your BCS PTA