

## SUMMER TASKS FOR INCOMING SIXTH GRADERS

Welcome to Sixth Grade!

Summer is a wonderful time to relax, spend time with family and friends, explore new interests, and enjoy new experiences. While we hope students take time to recharge and enjoy their vacation, we also encourage them to continue learning and growing throughout the summer.

To help students prepare for sixth grade, we are asking them to complete three tasks over the summer:

### 1. Read Two Books

Students are asked to read two books over the summer. At least one book should be selected from the Suggested Reading List. Students will complete a reading response for each book using the choice menu provided.

### 2. Keep a Math Journal

Students should complete at least ten math journal entries over the summer. The journal will be brought to school in September and will continue to be used throughout the year.

### 3. Write a Letter to Your Teacher

Before school begins, students should send a letter or email introducing themselves and sharing a little about who they are as learners and people. This will help us begin getting to know one another before the first day of school.

**Parent Tip:** Consider setting aside 20-30 minutes a few times each week for reading, journaling, or writing. A little progress each week can make summer tasks feel much more manageable and leave plenty of time for family, friends, camps, vacations, and relaxation.

### Suggested Summer Timeline

**June:** Select your two summer reading books. Begin your first book. Complete 2-3 math journal entries.

**July:** Finish your first book and begin your second book. Complete 4-5 math journal entries. Begin working on your reading responses.

**August:** Finish your second book. Complete your reading responses. Finish remaining math journal entries. Send your letter or email to Ms. Matregrano by August 18.

## Summer Reading Requirements

- Read **two books** during summer vacation.
- At least **one book must be selected from the Suggested Reading List.**
- Your second book may come from the list or may be a book of your own choosing that is appropriate for middle school readers.
- Students are encouraged to read additional books beyond the minimum requirement.

## Summer Reading Response

For **each book**, complete **three response options** from the list below. You may choose different options for each book. Responses may be handwritten, typed, artistic, or digital depending on the option selected.

## Response Choices

### Option 1: Plot Snapshot

Write a brief summary of the story.

Include:

- Setting
- Main characters
- Major conflict
- Resolution

### Option 2: Character Spotlight

Choose a character from the book.

Discuss:

- Strengths
- Weaknesses
- Important choices they make
- How they change throughout the story

### **Option 3: Favorite Scene**

Describe your favorite scene or chapter.

Explain:

- What happened
- Why it stood out to you
- How it affected the story

### **Option 4: Theme Detective**

What message or lesson do you think the author wanted readers to learn? Use examples from the text to support your thinking.

Examples might include:

- Courage
- Friendship
- Identity
- Perseverance
- Justice
- Family
- Belonging

### **Option 5: Connections**

What connections can you make?

You might connect the story to:

- Yourself
- Another book
- History
- Current events
- Something happening in the world today

### **Option 6: Rewrite It**

Rewrite a scene, change the ending, add a missing chapter, or write what happens next.

Include a short explanation of your choices.

### **Option 7: Visual Response**

Create one of the following:

- New book cover
- Comic strip
- Character sketch
- Timeline
- Map
- Digital presentation

Include a brief written explanation.

### **Option 8: Questions for Discussion**

Write three thoughtful questions you would ask:

- The author
- A character
- Another reader

Questions should encourage discussion rather than simple yes/no answers.

### **Due Date**

Please bring your reading responses to school on the **first day** of sixth grade.

We will spend time sharing books, discussing our summer reading, and recommending books to one another.

**SUMMER MATH WORK**

This summer we are asking your students to keep a math journal. Each student will be asked to complete at least 10 journal entries. This can be kept in a spiral notebook or composition book and we will continue to journal in it over the 2026-2027 school year.

Students need to recognize math in the world around them and make connections between their everyday experiences and math. Attached are some ideas for entries, but these are not the only options students can write about. Each entry should be at least half a page detailing the connections between the experience and math; or the entry can be a collection of data represented in a chart, table, or graph with some observations about the data. Students are encouraged to use illustrations/pictures to support their solutions/explanations.

Here are some ideas for math journal entries. These are ideas, you are welcome to complete them, or you can use them to spark ideas of your own!

- Ice Cream Math- You want to get a 2-scoop ice cream from an ice cream shop. How many different kinds of 2-scoop cones can be made with 10 flavors?
- More Ice Cream-What ice cream is the best deal, the cheapest price per scoop (take the price and divide by the number of scoops you are buying? What is the cost per scoop in the 2, 3, 4, etc scoops?
- Mini Golf- If you go mini golfing, be sure to keep an accurate score card. Create a line plot with your score on each hole. What score did you get most often (mode)? What was your maximum score? What was your minimum score? What was your average number of shots per hole?
- A Day in the Life- Keep a time schedule of everything you do for 24 hours (not every little thing like I tied my shoe, but all of the major activities for the day) with a start and end time. Be sure a complete 24 hours are recorded. Then group each activity into a category (such as sleep, leisure, eating, chores, movement, etc). Find the total time (in hours and minutes) of each category. What activity did you spend the most time doing? Least? How much more time did you spend on the longest activity versus the shortest? Include other observations about the time you spend on activities.

- Sleeping- Record the time you go to bed and the time you wake up each day for a week, and calculate the number of hours and minutes you spent sleeping each night. Create a table and bar graph to represent this data.
- Sports- playing a sport this summer? Keep track of one of the statistics in your sport. Examples- for each game record the number of hits and at bats you had, and at the end of the summer, calculate your batting average by dividing the number of hits by the number of at bats. Basketball- record the number of points you score each game, and at the end of the season, find your average points per game by dividing the number of points by the number of games played.
- Road trip? Going on a trip this summer? Predict what color car you will see most often, then create a tally chart to record the color of each vehicle you pass. Are all the colors about the same? Which color was most often? Least often? What was the difference between the most often and least often? Did the most popular color surprise you?
- Beach-record the water temperature each day for the week. What was the average temperature? What was the range in temperatures (highest minus the lowest)? Was there a mode? If you record for longer than a week, put the temperatures on a line plot. Were any of the temperature outliers (not fitting in with the others)?
- Sudoku- print and cut out a sudoku for your journal and complete it!
- Extreme Tic Tac Toe- teach someone at home how to play extreme tic tac toe and keep the game boards in your notebook. Have a family/friends tournament if there are enough people around to play!
- Geometry- Go on a continuous geometry scavenger hunt. Take photos of different geometry concepts, print them out, glue them into your math journal and write what they are showing. See a tree branch that connects to the trunk forming an acute angle? See symmetry out in nature? Do you see things that are parallel or perpendicular? Are there any 2-D or 3-D shapes you see? Include angles, rays, parallel lines, perpendicular lines, shapes, lines intersecting, etc. Be observant!

## **LETTER TO YOUR SIXTH GRADE TEACHER**

Before school begins, I would love the opportunity to get to know you a little better.

Please send your teacher a letter or email by **August 18**. Your letter does not need to be formal. Think of it as an opportunity for us to begin getting to know one another before the first day of school.

Your letter may be typed or handwritten and should be approximately one page in length.

Please include the following:

### **1. Tell me a little about yourself.**

You might include:

- Hobbies and interests
- Sports, clubs, or activities
- Favorite books, movies, games, or television shows
- Pets
- Favorite school subject
- Favorite thing to do during summer

### **2. What is one thing you wish teachers understood about you?**

You might include:

- How you learn best
- Something that helps you focus
- Something that makes school difficult or frustrating
- Whether you enjoy working independently or with others
- Something people often misunderstand about you

### **3. What is something you hope to learn, do, or experience in sixth grade this year?**

You might include:

- A topic you hope to study

- A skill you hope to improve
- A field trip you would love to take
- A project you would enjoy doing
- A goal you have for yourself as a student

**4. Is there anything else you would like me to know before school begins?**

You might include:

- Something you are proud of
- Something you are nervous about
- A challenge you have overcome
- A talent or interest you have
- Something important about your family or culture
- **A question you would like to ask me**
- Anything else you think would help me get to know you

I look forward to reading your letters and getting to know each of you before we begin our sixth-grade adventure together!

Have a wonderful summer!

***INCOMING SIXTH GRADE SUPPLY LIST***

8 folders with 3 hole punch	4 glue sticks
5 notebooks with 3 hole punch	3 rolls of clear scotch tape
1 clipboard, labeled	2 colored highlighters
3 inch hardcover binder, labeled	2 black Sharpies
1 pack of binder dividers	2 thin black Sharpies
2 dry erase markers	Colored markers
1 pack of pink erasers	Crayons
Black and blue pens, 2 each	Colored pencils
1 set of headphones, labeled, wired	Scissors, labeled
1 computer mouse, labeled, wired	1 bottle of sanitizer
2 packs of presharpended pencils	2 boxes of tissues
Post-it notes	2 containers of Clorox wipes
1 box of Ziploc bags, small or large	1 roll of paper towels

Thank you very much for gathering these items together for the first day of school. The more things that are labeled, the better!