

June 8, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Incoming Fifth-, Sixth-, Seventh-, and Eighth-Graders,

In our continuing efforts to maintain and improve academic performance among our students, we have prepared summer reinforcement activities for all students entering fifth, sixth, seventh, or eighth grade in August 2018. This summer, the activities have three components as outlined below. Students must bring the completed activities to their homeroom teacher no later than Friday, September 7, 2018.

2018 Fifth Grade Summer Reinforcement Activities: Academic Skills

1. Students must review academic skills using the school-provided Bridge Books (Scholastic Success With ___ Grade) for grades PK-4 (entering KG-Grade 5 next year). These books were selected and purchased for their all-around skills review. Please try to complete one page per week in each section/subject, and feel free to focus on identified areas of need based on your child's progress report for the year.
2. Thirty to 60 minutes per week should be spent on www.Mathletics.com web site (your child has their login ID and password) doing math review, games, and tutorials. Students will need to complete 15 assignments on basic skills in their grade accumulating 1200 points. Activities may be repeated as many times as necessary to accumulate up to 100 points each. Teachers will be able to see the time spent and the activities done as site administrators.
3. Websites such as www.khanacademy.org, <http://www.sadlier-oxford.com/math/student.cfm> (choose the grade you just completed), <http://sheppardsoftware.com/math.htm>, <http://coolmath.com/> and <http://www.aplusmath.com/> are other good sites for practice and review tutoring.
4. Parents or other responsible persons can drill students using flashcards or written math problems.
5. **Timed** skill drills will be given the first few weeks of school. These drills will be counted as part of the first trimester grade.

2018 Summer Reinforcement Activities:

Reading entering Grade 6, 7, 8: Items 2-5 as listed above for Primary Grades (but no Bridge Books), PLUS:

1. Choose **ONE** of the following books to read: *Me and Marvin Gardens* (Amy King); *A Long Pitch Home* (Natalie Dias Lorenzi); *Chester and Gus* (Cammie McGovern), *An Eagle in the Snow* (Michael Morpurgo), *Greeting From Witness Protection* (Jake Burt), *Slider* (Pete Haufman), *Up From the Sea* (Leza Lowitz), or *The Evil Wizard Smallbone* (Delia Sherman)
2. Students should take notes on the book. A story map is attached that may be used for this purpose.
3. Students will use the book and their notes to complete a three-paragraph essay on their chosen book. A rubric is attached to guide your child. A language arts grade will be assigned for this essay. **Be sure to use the rubric!**
4. A quiz (based on the book your child read) will be given during the first weeks of school, and a reading grade will be assigned for this quiz.

NON-FICTION READING SKILLS

Our school is focusing on non-fiction reading skills, as this has been identified as an area of improvement for our students. *We have subscribed to "Tween Tribune", a website similar to the Scholastic Magazine and Time for Kids periodicals that we use during the year.* We are asking each student entering Grades

6-8 to read and respond to (via written blog entry and/or the short quizzes pertaining to the articles) FIVE articles during the summer. This activity will probably take no more than 15 minutes per article, and will reinforce reading for detail and “close reading” skills that are a key component of what they will be expected to do next year. Students will be provided with their login and password names for this site before the end of the school year, and the office will have a copy of this information also – just as we have done for Athletics.

We wish you a restful, safe summer and hope you are looking forward to next year and the progress your children will make as they move to the next grade at Our Lady of Victory Catholic School.

Sincerely,

Upper Department Teachers

Our Lady of Victory Catholic School

Student Name _____ Homeroom _____
 Title and author of chosen book _____

Our Lady of Victory Summer Book Report Grading Rubric

Points	1	2	3	4	Total
PART 1: INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH					
Introductory Paragraph	No description or setting and inadequate details of plot summary	Incomplete or inaccurate description of setting and incomplete sentence stating main idea	Adequate description of setting and adequate sentence stating main idea, including some events	Complete description of setting (time and place); includes clear descriptions and examples; has a complete sentence stating main idea ; includes main events	
PART 2: BODY OF THE REPORT					
Brief Summary of Plot and Characters	Inadequate plot summary and/ or no description of main characters	Incomplete or inadequate plot summary and/ or description of main characters	Adequate plot summary including some examples of events and/ or description of main characters	Complete plot summary including main events, conflict and conflict resolution; complete description of main characters	
PART 3: CONCLUDING PARAGRAPH- WOULD YOU RECOMMEND THIS BOOK?					
Conclusion (Would you recommend this book to another student? Why or why not? Give specific reasons and details!	Inadequate or missing personal recommendation	Incomplete personal recommendation	Adequate personal recommendation including some of the story's strengths and weaknesses	Complete personal recommendation including strengths, weaknesses and examples from the book	
PART 4: GRAMMAR AND MECHANICS					
Spelling and Grammatical Errors	More than eight errors in grammar or spelling	Five to eight errors in grammar or spelling	One to four errors in grammar or spelling	Zero spelling or grammar errors	