

May 22, 2020

TO: Parents of Rising 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

FROM: Lorrie Steele  
OLV 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher

RE: SUMMER PACKET FOR RISING 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

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As a parent, I feel strongly that you and your children should enjoy the summer. After managing hectic family schedules from August through May, the next ten weeks provide a much-needed chance to rest and recharge. As a teacher, however, I need the students to keep their brains active to some degree and occasionally revisit those skills on which their success in 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be based. Therefore, the rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders will need to do the following:

- All rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders are required to read *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio. Upon entering 5<sup>th</sup> grade in August, we will complete several activities based on this novel. It would be beneficial for each student to have a copy when school starts. There will also be a test shortly after school begins. Please keep in mind that watching the movie is not the same as reading the book. The school activities as well as the summer reading test will be based on the book, not the movie. Attached you will find guided reading questions to go with the book—**completing the questions is not mandatory**. I am providing these as a guide for those that want to make sure the book is thoroughly read.
- In addition to the required summer reading, all students should read for a minimum of 30 minutes every day. While choosing material from a variety of genres would be nice, what is most important is that children enjoy what they are reading. Without engagement, the true benefits of reading will not be realized. Please keep the following in mind:
  - Provide access to a variety of reading materials. Magazines, graphic novels, non-fiction texts, and anthologies of poetry, short stories, and/or biographies are fine.
  - Read aloud to your child for the purpose of modeling fluent reading and monitoring his/her comprehension by talking about what you read.
  - Realize that independent, sustained, silent reading **directly correlates** to better reading comprehension, a broader vocabulary, and higher standardized test scores.
  - Consider having your child read some of the books listed on the attached “Scholastic Summer Challenge Book List” that includes a variety of popular and award-winning literature for children ages 10-12. Find the list and other ideas at <https://www.scholastic.com/summer/home/>.
- Complete the attached math handouts that include fundamental skills that your children will need to master to ensure optimal success in 5<sup>th</sup> grade math. These handouts are

optional, but extra credit will be given—and extra credit opportunities are rare in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.

- If your child is weak in a particular area, please help him/her improve those skills by using supplemental resources (e.g., iPad apps, websites, and workbooks).
  - Make sure your child is proficient in his/her knowledge of basic math facts (e.g., multiplication, division, addition, and subtraction). **The importance of this cannot be understated.**
  - Have your child use his/her Moby Max account on a regular basis. Moby Max is great for remediation as well as enrichment. All OLV students have access to a premium Moby Max account, so please use it!
- In addition for focusing on reading and math, other worthwhile skills that you may want to have your children practice are:
    - Keyboarding
    - Knowledge of Microsoft Word as well as Google Docs.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. I look forward to meeting you and your children in August!

*Lorrie Steele*  
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