

SUMMER MATH/READING EXPECTATIONS

May 2021

Dear Parents,

Did you know that over the summer vacation students can lose up to 80% of what they learned during the school year? Blessed Sacrament School has developed Summer Expectations in the areas of Reading and Math to help bridge the gap during the summer.

Math Expectations for Rising Kindergarten through 8th Graders:

Students are required to complete *Summer Solutions* book.

- *Summer Solutions* books are designed to revisit skills and concepts that have already been introduced. The purpose is to allow your child to retain what was taught over the past year and in previous years.
(See attached details.)
The cost of \$15.00 per book will be deducted from FACTS.

Reading Expectations:

Students are required to complete their grade level *Summer Reading* and project before the first day of school, August 9. Attached you will find your child's reading requirements.

We appreciate your support and are confident that Blessed Sacrament School's children will benefit from this wonderful opportunity.

Math Requirements for Rising K – 8th graders *Summer Solutions*

Students will complete *Summer Solutions* and turn it in on the first day of school, **August 9**. Summer Solution books are designed to be used three times per week during the 10- week break.

Completion of the book will be taken as a **quiz grade** with the following taken into account:

- **All work must be shown** in the space provided on each page
- All work must be **completed in pencil**

Grading Rubric:

30 pages completed = 100

25-29 pages completed = 94

20-24 pages completed = 90

15-19 pages completed = 80

10-14 pages completed = 70

0-9 pages completed = 60

An **assessment** will be given to the students during the **first week of school** following the same format of practice in *Summer Solutions* and taken as a quiz grade.

Guided help pages can be found in the back of *Simple Solutions*.

Additional resources may be found at:

www.khanacademy.com

www.artofproblemsolving.com

www.wyzant.com

www.patrickjmt.com

Blessed Sacrament Middle School Required Summer Reading Rising 8th Grade Students

Over the summer, rising 8th grade students are required to read I Will Always Write Back by Caitlin Alifirenka.

The first few weeks of school, we will review the novel, take the AR test, and take a written test on the novel. **Bring your novel to school with you, with annotations, the first day of school, Monday August 9.**

As you read the novel this summer, you will continue to practice the annotating skills learned last school year. Please annotate the ENTIRE novel according to the guidelines below. **Your annotations will be graded.** Be sure to use each technique at least once in the novel. Each chapter in the novel should be annotated in some way.

1. **Circle** unknown words and write their definition.
2. Put a **question mark** next to areas of uncertainty or parts that are unclear.
3. Put a **star** next to something you think is important.
4. Put an **exclamation point** next to key turning points or something you want to come back to.
5. **Circle** or mark character names the first time you see them.
6. Keep a running **list of characters** and their **descriptions**. Add to this list as you learn more about the characters.
7. **Summarize each chapter** right after you read it. Write only a few sentences.
8. Write down **questions** as they arise. No question is too small!
9. Give each chapter a **title**, even if it already has one.

Summer Reading Choice Novel Rising 8th Grade

In addition to your required grade-level novel, choose one book from the grade-level list that follows to read for pleasure as your CHOICE novel. **You do not have to annotate this novel.**

Based on your reading of the novel, choose **SIX** of the questions below to answer. Type your responses and print them to turn in on the first day of school, August 9. Type the question, then write a paragraph (at least 6 sentences) to thoroughly answer the question. Use evidence (direct quotes) from your novel to support your answer.

1. Identify the main conflict in the novel and then create a possible solution (something different from what is presented in the novel) to solve the problem.
2. What influence will this novel have on your life? In other words, how has this novel made you look at your own life in a different way?
3. Choose two themes that are woven throughout the novel. Analyze how the author develops these themes (through character development, setting, mood, plot, point of view, figurative language, symbolism, irony, etc.) to create a complex narrative.
4. Analyze the choices the author made regarding story elements (plot order, characters, setting). How did these choices drive the narrative? Were there inconsistencies in development?
5. How would the novel change if you were to remove a certain character or change the setting entirely?
6. Closely examine how the author chose to introduce the novel. What impact did that very first paragraph have on the development of the novel?
7. Closely examine how the author chose to conclude the novel. Are all plot points resolved, or does the ending leave you pondering "what might have been"? How does the ending contribute to the overall impact of the novel?
8. Choose two complex characters (a character who undergoes an important change) and examine their interactions with each other. How does the relationship between these two characters develop the plot?
9. Identify the point of view of the narrative. What biases might this narrator exhibit in the telling of the story? Who/What is responsible for these biases?
10. Evaluate the title the author chose for this particular text. What is the significance behind it?
11. Create another appropriate title for this work. How does your choice convey the heart of the text?
12. Choose another literary work (poem, novel, short story) that has a similar theme. Compare and contrast the author's strategies for conveying that theme. Which author's strategies were more effective? Why?

**Summer Reading Choice Novel
Rising 8th Grade (Choose 1)**

Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream by Tanya Lee Stone

The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Call of the Wild by Jack London

Woods Runner by Gary Paulsen

Cold Sassy Tree by Olive Ann Burns

The Martian ****Young Readers Edition**** by Andy Weir

Night by Elie Wiesel

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare