

June 2020

Dear St. Rose Families and Friends,

Congratulations to you and your Kindergarten Graduate and **Welcome to First Grade!**

I am so excited to welcome you into our first grade family as we work together to educate your child during the upcoming school year.

As we begin our summer vacation, I would like to share with you some fun activities and links to websites you can visit to help your child continue to practice and enrich their reading, math and handwriting skills they have learned in kindergarten. Daily practice of these key skills will ease their transition into first grade and build their self-confidence as the new school year approaches.

Reading Practice Fun:

Attached is a compilation of first grade reading lists: books, book series, authors, and genres; both fiction and nonfiction. These resources are only meant as a guide for your child's reading pleasure; they are *not required* books. I have also attached a Reading Log you may use to help your child track the books they have read. While many of these books can be found in your local library, due to our current social distancing situation, at home and/or online access of books may be a temporary option.

At this early stage of their education, your child may not be reading on their own; but it is important that they have books of interest available to them. You will be amazed at how quickly your child's decoding and comprehension skills can improve over the summer with a regular reading routine where your child either reads independently *and/or* you both read together. When you read to your child, it can be ANY book that interests them. When your child is reading independently, it should be a book that can be read aloud by them with very few or no decoding errors. Rereading a book is absolutely fine to improve or sustain fluency; or to improve comprehension. If you are reading together, be sure to take a "picture walk" before reading to make predictions about the story and to create a "discussion" about the characters, the setting, and the sequence of events in the plot. After reading, you can have your child retell the story in order, talk about a favorite character, or a favorite story event. In a nonfiction story, after reading, ask your child one or two things they may have learned from the book; find a new vocabulary word or two and discuss its meaning. You can also practice your Dolch Pre-Primer and Primer Sight Words (lists attached.) Have your child write a sentence for each word; this also reinforces spelling and handwriting practice. You

may also: discuss word meanings, opposites, rhyming words, homophones (words that sound the same but are spelled differently and mean different things: *see/sea; ate/eight.*)

I have attached a “*Helping Your Child Learn to Read*” guide for many more fun and creative ways to practice reading; it also contains some reading websites.

While there is no required number of books your child must read during the summer, it is recommended to read between 10-15 minutes per day (either independently or with a family member.) Most importantly, have fun!

I have also attached a blank book cover activity sheet. I would like your child to pick 1-2 of their favorite books from their summer reading. They should pick a favorite part of the story and use it to illustrate the book’s cover. They should also write the book title and the author’s name at the bottom of the page; remember to use proper capitalization. These covers will be due the first week of school and used as we share as a class: “My Favorite Books I Read During Summer Vacation.”

Math Practice Fun:

Write your numbers from 0 to 25.

Practice skip counting by 2s to 20 and 5s to 50.

Have your child tell you numbers that are missing in a sequence. Start with numbers to 20.

Make a number line on the driveway with chalk. Hop forward as you count to 10; hop backwards as you count back to 0.

Ask your family to save their extra pennies and nickels. Practice counting them and make exchanges.

While taking a walk (around the house or outside) or riding in a car, see how many different shapes you can find.

Make a grid of numbers from 0 to 25. When riding in a car, cross off each number as you see it on a sign, license plate, mailbox, etc. to see how fast you can find all of the numbers.

Handwriting Practice Fun:

Send a postcard to a friend.

Help mom or dad write a shopping list.

Write a special note to a family member.

Practice your handwriting using the attached chart.

Practice writing your first and last name, making sure to use uppercase and lowercase letters.

Other “things to do” if you are traveling or busy around town:

Keep a daily journal of places you visit - using a notebook, let your child create a page for each letter of the alphabet. As they enjoy summer activities, let them keep a list of things they do and see. Draw a picture and or write a sentence about your adventures. See if they can come up with at least one idea for each letter of the alphabet by the first day of school. You can even record the daily weather.

Take pictures of your favorite vacation spot(s), friends, family; let them create a picture book and write their own captions for each photo.

Visit the grocery/clothing/general store and shop for words: before going to a store, make a list of five to ten easy-to-find words for your child to look for while shopping. Review the list with your child prior to shopping and challenge your child to find each word/item before you leave. Cross off/highlight each word as you find it.

Keep a weekly calendar. Let them write in the days of the week and then draw/write the activity that is planned for each day; or let them write it later that evening. This is great practice for learning the days of the week; number order.

Review “Wh” question words: *Who, What, Where, When, Why, Which?* During a family conversation, challenge your child to identify the number of times these words are used in conversation. Have them write their own question sentence; reinforce proper punctuation.

Online Websites:

Edmentum: <https://www.clever.com/in/diobpt/student/portal>

The Diocesan learning platform on CLEVER will be monitored by the diocese and available to all students over the summer to support/enrich their skills in each of the three key areas: math, reading, and language arts. The following link explains how your child works on their learning path. Please watch this together with your child to help them navigate this platform. This site offers tutorials, practice activities, games, (even quizzes) and allows your child to earn rewards for completing key skills. Here is the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-sluHmRjjs4&feature=youtu.be>

Here are some additional websites that we have been using in first grade to enhance our learning, especially during distance learning. Some of these sites are offering free trials for families to explore their sites; have fun exploring some of my favorites:

Epic! Amazing Children's Books: <https://www.getepic.com>

Fiction and Nonfiction Leveled by DRA; videos, activities.

Readworks: <https://www.readworks.org>

I have attached a summer reading activity packet from this site.

Education.com/Brainzy: <https://www.education.com>

Offer summer boost activities in Math and ELA skills; games.

Freckle.com: <https://freckle.com>

Math and ELA skills practice.

Xtramath: <https://www.xtramath.org>

Math skills practice.

Highlights@Home: <https://www.highlights.com/highlights-at-home>

Miscellaneous ideas for summer fun.

Summer Skills Workbooks

Here is another important link that was posted in the School Weekly Newsletter for the Summer Skills books that are available for you to purchase by grade level:

https://www.summerskills.com/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=SS-SCHOOL-4-9

Wishing you a summer filled with safety, peace and joy!

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