



Renaissance Academy Middle School Recommended Reading and Suggested Summer Work

Dear Renaissance Academy Families,

These recommendations are being made to you in support of your student's growth academically over the summer. Below you will find the grade level in which your student will be entering for the 2023-2024 school year at Renaissance Academy as well as the teachers' recommendations for practice in various content areas and suggested reading. All of these recommendations are simply suggestions and will not be graded by the teachers upon your student's return to school. Please reference these suggestions throughout the summer.

Summer Reading: How to Track - The Scholastic Summer Reading Program

For all our 5-8 Students we encourage you to join the Scholastic Summer Reading- Home Base! This is how you can keep track of the books and minutes you read over the summer. Below you will also see a suggested reading list for each grade, but there is so much more to read and keep track of! Sign up for a Scholastic Summer Reading Home Base account and keep track of your summer reading and engage with fun activities and games!

It is as easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Check out the [Scholastic Summer Reading Home Base](#) website and create a log-in **(you can also download the app!)**
2. How do you sign-up? Well, it's free and if you have any questions check out this page [Home Base Help](#)
3. By creating an account on Home Base, kids can join a community of readers and will be able to read books and stories; attend author events; interact with their favorite characters; play book-based games and activities; join dance parties; and more! Sign up for Home Base and visit the Summer Reading zone to start your Reading Streak™ today!

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Study Island NWEA Learning Paths

Students should log into Study Island by clicking [here](#) and sign in using Google (their school-issued google email account)

Students are then encouraged to work through their specifically designed Learning Path on Study Island which uses their MAP results from June to determine what skills they should be practicing for ELA, math, and science.

The next slides walk you through how to find and use your personal Learning Path from NWEA on Study Island.

After Logging on:



Study Island Look for “My Classes” in the left sidebar

Welcome, [redacted]
My Profile

Home

My Classes Select My Classes

My Reports

TX Programs

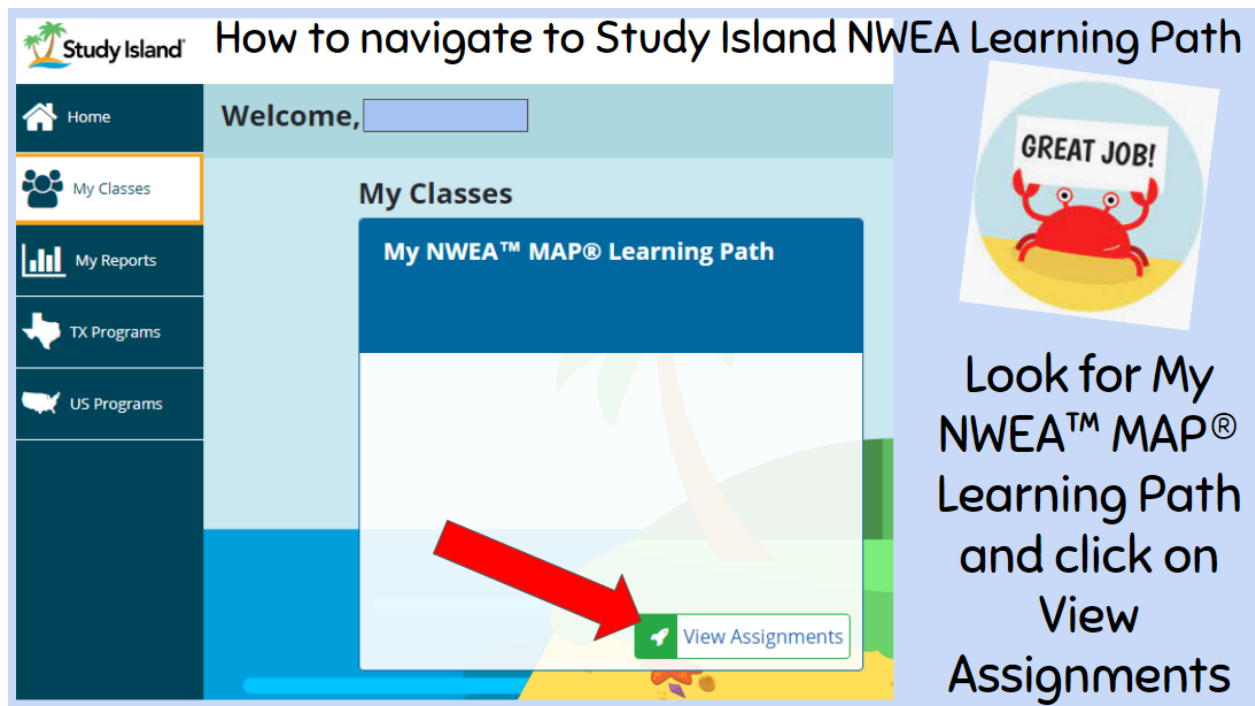
US Programs

Blue Ribbons Earned This Year

1

Math

Detailed description: This screenshot shows the Study Island user interface. On the left is a dark blue sidebar with icons for Home, My Classes, My Reports, TX Programs, and US Programs. A red arrow points to the 'My Classes' icon. The main content area has a light blue header with a 'Welcome' message and a 'My Profile' link. Below the header is a large notification box titled 'Blue Ribbons Earned This Year' featuring a gold medal with the number '1' and a palm tree. A redacted box is present below the medal, and the word 'Math' is visible at the bottom right of the notification.



Study Island How to navigate to Study Island NWEA Learning Path

Welcome, [redacted]

Home

My Classes

My Reports

TX Programs

US Programs

My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path

View Assignments

GREAT JOB!

Look for My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path and click on View Assignments

Detailed description: This screenshot shows the 'My Classes' section of the Study Island dashboard. The 'My Classes' sidebar item is highlighted with an orange border. The main content area displays a card for 'My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path'. A red arrow points to a 'View Assignments' button at the bottom right of this card. To the right of the main content area is a light blue sidebar containing a 'GREAT JOB!' badge with a red crab and a text box that reads 'Look for My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path and click on View Assignments'.

You should see something for each topic

My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path Go Back

Not Started

Mathematics Topics Start

In Progress

Reading Topics Topics Passed 2/34 % Correct 51.7% Continue

If you have topics that are on grade level, and you have already done those in your regular OK Programs tab, then they will show up here, too

Open up one of the Topics and look for **BELOW** your current grade level activities

My NWEA™ MAP® Learning Path Go Back

Mathematics Topics for [redacted] (Assigned on 10/21/2019)

Topic	My Best Score	My Overall Score	Skill(s)
1. Number & Operations (N)			
a. Multiplication and Division Facts			4.N.1.1 ⓘ
b. Multiply and Divide by 10, 100, 1,000			4.N.1.2 ⓘ
c. Multiplication and Division			4.N.1.3; 4.N.1.6 ⓘ

grade level

3. Algebraic Reasoning		
a. Symbolize Problem Situations		3.5A; 3.5B ⓘ
b. Multiplicative Comparison		3.5C ⓘ
c. Number Sentences		3.5D ⓘ
d. Patterns		3.5E ⓘ
4. Geometry and Measurement		
a. Points, Lines, Rays, & Segments		4.6A ⓘ
b. Angles		4.6A ⓘ
c. Symmetry		4.6B ⓘ
d. Classify 2-Dimensional Figures		4.6C; 4.6D ⓘ
e. Angle Measurement		4.7A; 4.7B; 4.7C; 4.7E ⓘ
f. Units of Measurement		4.8A; 4.8B ⓘ
g. Measurement Problems		4.8C ⓘ
h. Money		4.8C ⓘ
5. Personal Financial Literacy		
a. Personal Financial Literacy		6.14A; 6.14B; 6.14... ⓘ

Look for a number that is below your grade level and start with those!

Start with lowest number

Work up to the next number

Once finished with topics below your grade level, move on to topics at or above your grade level

Students Entering Fifth Grade

English Language Arts

Skills to Practice this Summer:

Reading Comprehension

After reading a short story or newspaper article, summarize what you read to a parent, sibling, or pet answering Who? What? Where? When? and How?

Cause and Effect

Come up with 3 scenarios: if this happens, then this will happen. EX. I practiced basketball every day, then I made the school team.

Vocabulary Usage

Read a book or the newspaper and when you come across an unfamiliar word, use context clues to try to determine the meaning.

Identifying Parts of Speech

Take a short passage and underline all of the nouns, circle all of the verbs, and put a star above all of the adjectives.

Determine the Main Idea

Write a short story and underline one sentence that shows what the whole story was about.

Websites to use this Summer:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Follow the Study Island NWEA Learning Path Directions at the start of this document
- [Flocabulary](#)

- If you are having trouble with any of the above skills, use this to refresh your memory. Your account should be active through the summer!
- [Newsela](#)
 - Sign up (it's free) and pick an article of your choosing. Change the Lexile (reading) level to suit your understanding. Answer the question set to help with your comprehension of the article!
- [Read Works](#)
 - Read articles of interest and answer question sets to work on comprehension
- [Poetry Website](#)
 - Find poems that suit you and try to understand how poets use figurative language and descriptions to make the reader “see” what they want! (Not tell them)
- [Writing](#)
 - Pick a prompt a day and keep your writing skills sharp. See the above writing exercises to help you!

Suggested Reading List

Maniac Magee

by Jerry Spinelli

Magee is an orphan child who lives with his aunt and uncle. One day, he decides to run away to Two Mills, Pennsylvania (based on Norristown!) and start on a series of heroic and unexpected achievements, which change his life and his town forever.

A Series of Unfortunate Events

by Lemony Snicket

The series follows the unfortunate lives of the three extremely unlucky Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Klaus, and Sunny, trying to get by in their difficult lives and survive the pursuit of their nemesis Count Olaf and his various associates who attempt to steal their inherited fortune.

The Borrowers

by Mary Norton

The story of a family of little people who live beneath the kitchen floor of a deteriorating English country home. Pod and Homily Clock care for their adventurous daughter Arrietty by borrowing what they need, and a little more, from the humans who live up above.

Bridge to Terabithia

by Katherine Paterson

Jess Aarons and Leslie Burke are two fifth-graders who become friends and create an imaginary land called Terabithia, where they can go to forget about their problems. The book deals with themes of friendship, childhood, and being an individual.

Girls Think of Everything: Stories of Ingenious Inventions by Women

by Catherine Thimmesh, illustrated by Melissa Sweet

This expanded and revised edition with Melissa Sweet's design and illustrations make the book so special. The author writes the biographies like a fictional narrative story with action and suspense but it's all true. These biographies are about women who solved problems by inventing the solution. What great models for entrepreneurs, inventors, and having a growth mindset.

Shelter Dogs: Amazing Stories of Adopted Strays

by Peg Kehret

From the award-winning author Peg Kehret comes a collection of true stories about the amazing lives of eight shelter dogs. Many of these dogs were unwanted because of their size, behavior, or medical condition. All of the dogs found owners who loved and cared for them and ultimately helped change their lives in tremendous ways. The dogs have changed the owners' lives, too. There's Tracker, a mixed breed, who began life as an unwanted puppy, but ended up becoming a movie star. Joey, a German shepherd/mixed breed, became a service dog trained to help a woman with multiple sclerosis. Tyler was just a sweet border collie who couldn't see, but after his owner agreed to pay for eye surgery, he regained his sight completely.

Mistakes That Worked

by Charlotte Jones

Popsicles, potato chips, Silly Putty, Velcro, and many other familiar things have fascinating stories behind them. In fact, dozens of products and everyday items had surprisingly haphazard beginnings. *Mistakes That Worked* offers forty of these unusual tales, along with hilarious cartoons and weird and amazing facts. Readers will be surprised and inspired!

Math

Here are some websites that students can use to practice math skills over the summer. Students are recommended to use the Rising 5th Grade Specific Skills review 2-3 times a week for at least 30 mins. On these websites students can work through each topic presented, getting as far on any given topic as they can during the week, or pick and choose as they feel they need the extra practice.

Rising 5th Grade Specific Skills:

- [Study Island](#) - My Learning Path
- If you have a [Prodigy](#) account, log in and play!
- [Khan Academy - Get Ready for 5th grade](#) - This website is a great combination of lessons and assessment.
- [IXL Summer Boost Skill Plan - 5th grade](#) - Practice 10 questions per day
- Complete any unfinished Step Up to 5th Grade workbook pages.

Science and Social Studies

Science

- [Study Island](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [SciShow Kids](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)
- Finish any incomplete pages in your Science workbook

Social Studies

- [U.S. Geophysical regions practice](#)
- [U.S. Rivers practice](#)
- [North America Great Lakes practice](#)
- [U.S. 13 Colonies practice](#)
- [U.S. 50 States practice](#)

Students Entering Sixth Grade

English Language Arts

Reading:

- Identify and understand themes.
 - Write the “big idea(s)” of a story or poem you read. Think how characters change throughout the story to help you determine what the author wants you to take from the story!
- Identify other key elements (setting, plot, characters, conflict and resolution, and character analysis) of a story
 - Use a story map to fill out the above information and write a short story, trying to develop each to the best of your ability!
- Determine the main idea
 - After reading, highlight what you think the story is about. Ask a parent or friend to check it and tell you if they think you are right!
- Review elements of figurative language.
 - Create a flipbook of the figurative language we discussed in class: Onomatopoeia, alliteration, simile, metaphor, hyperbole, personification, and idiom. Check the internet for examples and definitions and add examples that you see or hear in stories, magazines, and newspaper articles!
- Determine word meaning by analyzing context clues.
 - Look up in a dictionary to see if you are correct!
- Understand the sequence of events and cause-effect.
 - Come up with 3 scenarios: if this happens, then this will happen. EX: I studied for the school exam, and received an A on the test.

Writing

- Extend sentences with spicy adjectives and details
- Journal Daily to help with writing stamina
- Incorporate the use of figurative language to help “show” rather than “tell”
- Find a picture and describe it/sit outside and describe the environment to help you with this!

Resources/Websites:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Follow the Study Island NWEA Learning Path Directions at the start of this document
- [Flocabulary](#)
 - If you are having trouble with any of the above skills, use this to refresh your memory. Your account should be active through the summer!
- [Newsela](#)

- Sign up (it's free) and pick an article of your choosing. Change the Lexile (reading) level to suit your understanding. Answer the question set to help with your comprehension of the article!
- [Read Works](#)
 - Read articles of interest and answer question sets to work on comprehension
- [Poetry Website](#)
 - Find poems that suit you and try to understand how poets use figurative language and descriptions to make the reader “see” what they want! (Not tell them)
- [Writing](#)
 - Pick a prompt a day and keep your writing skills sharp. See the above writing exercises to help you!

Suggested Reading List

Wonder by RJ Palacio

August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants nothing more than to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face. *WONDER*, now a #1 New York Times bestseller and included on the Texas Bluebonnet Award master list, begins from Auggie's point of view, but soon switches to include his classmates, his sister, her boyfriend, and others. These perspectives converge in a portrait of one community's struggle with empathy, compassion, and acceptance.

Number the Stars by Lois Lowry

Ten-year-old Annemarie Johansen and her best friend Ellen Rosen often think of life before the war. It's now 1943 and their life in Copenhagen is filled with school, food shortages, and the Nazi soldiers marching through town. When the Jews of Denmark are "relocated," Ellen moves in with the Johansens and pretends to be one of the family. Soon Annemarie is asked to go on a dangerous mission to save Ellen's life.

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

Brian is on his way to Canada to visit his estranged father when the pilot of his small prop plane suffers a heart attack. Brian is forced to crash-land the plane in a lake—and finds himself stranded in the remote Canadian wilderness with only his clothing and the hatchet his mother gave him as a present before his departure...

The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan

Percy Jackson is a good kid, but he can't seem to focus on his schoolwork or control his temper. And lately, being away at boarding school is only getting worse - Percy could have sworn his pre-algebra teacher turned into a monster and tried to kill him. When Percy's mom finds out, she knows it's time that he knew the truth about where he came from, and that he go to the one place he'll be safe. She sends Percy to Camp Half Blood, a summer camp for demigods (on Long Island), where he learns that the father he never knew is Poseidon, God of the Sea. Soon a mystery unfolds and together with his friends—one a satyr and the other the demigod daughter of Athena - Percy sets out on a quest across the United States to reach the gates of the Underworld (located in a recording studio in Hollywood) and prevent a catastrophic war between the gods.

Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry by Mildred Taylor

Why is the land so important to Cassie's family? It takes the events of one turbulent year—the year of the night riders and the burnings, the year a white girl humiliates Cassie in public simply because she's

black—to show Cassie that having a place of their own is the Logan family's lifeblood. It is the land that gives the Logans their courage and pride—no matter how others may degrade them, the Logans possess something no one can take away.

The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman

Nobody Owens, known to his friends as Bod, is a perfectly normal boy. Well, he would be perfectly normal if he didn't live in a graveyard, being raised and educated by ghosts, with a solitary guardian who belongs to neither the world of the living nor the world of the dead.

But it is in the land of the living that real danger lurks, for it is there that the man Jack lives and he has already killed Bod's family.

Holes by Louis Sachar

Stanley Yelnats is under a curse. A curse that began with his no-good-dirty-rotten-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather and has since followed generations of Yelnats. Now Stanley has been unjustly sent to a boys' detention center, Camp Green Lake, where the warden makes the boys "build character" by spending all day, every day, digging holes: five feet wide and five feet deep. It doesn't take long for Stanley to realize there's more than character improvement going on at Camp Green Lake. The boys are digging holes because the warden is looking for something. Stanley tries to dig up the truth in this inventive and darkly humorous tale of crime and punishment—and redemption.

Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli

Jeffrey Lionel "Maniac" Magee might have lived a normal life if a freak accident hadn't made him an orphan. After living with his unhappy and uptight aunt and uncle for eight years, he decides to run--and not just run away, but run. This is where the myth of Maniac Magee begins, as he changes the lives of a racially divided small town with his amazing and legendary feats.

The Cay by Theodore Taylor

Phillip is excited when the Germans invade the small island of Curaçao. War has always been a game to him, and he's eager to glimpse it firsthand—until the freighter he and his mother are traveling to the United States on is torpedoed. When Phillip comes to, he is on a small raft in the middle of the sea. Besides Stew Cat, his only companion is an old West Indian, Timothy. Phillip remembers his mother's warning about black people: "They are different, and they live differently." But by the time the castaways arrive on a small island, Phillip's head injury has made him blind and dependent on Timothy.

Math

Here are some websites that students can use to practice math skills over the summer. Students are recommended to use the Rising 6th Grade specific skills review 2-3 times a week for at least 30 mins. On these websites students can work through each topic presented, getting as far on any given topic as they can during the week, or pick and choose as they feel they need the extra practice.

Rising 6th Grade Specific Skills:

- [Study Island](#) - My Learning Path
- [Khan Academy - Get Ready for 6th Grade](#) - This website is a great combination of lessons and assessment.
- [IXL - Summer Boost skill plan - 6th grade](#) - Practice 10 questions per day
- [I Practice Math](#)
- Complete any unfinished Step Up to 6th Grade workbook pages.

Science and Social Studies

Science

- [Study Island](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [SciShow Kids](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)
- Finish any incomplete pages in your Science workbook

Social Studies

- [Latitude & Longitude practice](#)
- [World Rivers practice](#)
- [World Climate Zones practice](#)
- [Paleolithic Age Video preview](#)
- [Neolithic Age Video preview](#)
- [Seven Characteristics of a Civilization Introduction](#)

Students Entering Seventh Grade

English Language Arts

Websites:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Follow the Study Island NWEA Learning Path Directions at the start of this document

Suggested Reading List

Fever 1793

By Laurie Halse Anderson

An epidemic of fever sweeps through the streets of 1793 Philadelphia in this novel from Laurie Halse Anderson where "the plot rages like the epidemic itself" (The New York Times Book Review). During the summer of 1793, Mattie Cook lives above the family coffee shop with her widowed mother and grandfather. Mattie spends her days avoiding chores and making plans to turn the family business into the finest Philadelphia has ever seen. But then the fever breaks out. Disease sweeps the streets, destroying everything in its path and turning Mattie's world upside down. At her feverish mother's insistence, Mattie flees the city with her grandfather. But she soon discovers that the sickness is everywhere, and Mattie must learn quickly how to survive in a city turned frantic with disease.

Powerless

By Matthew Cody

Twelve-year-old Daniel, the new kid in town, soon learns the truth about his nice—but odd—new friends: one can fly, another can turn invisible, yet another controls electricity. Incredible. The superkids use their powers to secretly do good in the town, but they're haunted by the fact that the moment they turn thirteen, their abilities will disappear—along with any memory that they ever had them. Is a memory-stealing

supervillain sapping their powers?

The answers lie in a long-ago meteor strike, a World War II-era comic book (Fantastic Futures, starring the first superhero, Johnny Noble), the green-flamed Witch Fire, a hidden Shroud cave, and—possibly, unbelievably—“powerless” regular-kid Daniel himself.

Superhero kids meet comic book mystery in this action-filled debut about the true meaning of a hero.

One Crazy Summer

By Rita Williams Garcia

Eleven-year-old Delphine is like a mother to her two younger sisters, Vonetta and Fern. She's had to be, ever since their mother, Cecile, left them seven years ago for a radical new life in California. But when the sisters arrive from Brooklyn to spend the summer with their mother, Cecile is nothing like they imagined. While the girls hope to go to Disneyland and meet Tinker Bell, their mother sends them to a day camp run by the Black Panthers. Unexpectedly, Delphine, Vonetta, and Fern learn much about their family, their country, and themselves during one truly crazy summer.

Found

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

One night a plane appeared out of nowhere, the only passengers aboard: thirty-six babies. As soon as they were taken off the plane, it vanished. Now, thirteen years later, two of those children are receiving sinister messages, and they begin to investigate their past. Their quest to discover where they really came from leads them to a conspiracy that reaches from the far past to the distant future—and will take them hurtling through time. In this exciting new series, bestselling author Margaret Peterson Haddix brings an element of suspense that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Chasing Lincoln's Killer

By James Swanson

Based on rare archival material, obscure trial manuscripts, and interviews with relatives of the conspirators and the manhunters, CHASING LINCOLN'S KILLER is a fast-paced thriller about the pursuit and capture of John Wilkes Booth: a wild twelve-day chase through the streets of Washington, D.C., across the swamps of Maryland, and into the forests of Virginia.

Brown Girl Dreaming

By Jacqueline Woodson

Jacqueline Woodson, one of today's finest writers, tells the moving story of her childhood in mesmerizing verse. Raised in South Carolina and New York, Woodson always felt halfway home in each place. In vivid poems, she shares what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and 1970s, living with the remnants of Jim Crow and her growing awareness of the Civil Rights movement. Touching and powerful, each poem is both accessible and emotionally charged, each line a glimpse into a child's soul as she searches for her place in the world. Woodson's eloquent poetry also reflects the joy of finding her voice through writing stories, despite the fact that she struggled with reading as a child. Her love of stories inspired her and stayed with her, creating the first sparks of the gifted writer she was to become.

The 57 Bus

By Dashka Slater

One teenager in a skirt.

One teenager with a lighter.

One moment that changes both of their lives forever.

If it weren't for the 57 bus, Sasha and Richard never would have met. Both were high school students from Oakland, California, one of the most diverse cities in the country, but they inhabited different worlds. Sasha, a white teen, lived in the middle-class foothills and attended a small private school. Richard, a black teen, lived in the crime-plagued flatlands and attended a large public one. Each day, their paths overlapped for a mere eight minutes. But one afternoon on the bus ride home from school, a single reckless act left Sasha severely burned, and Richard charged with two hate crimes and facing life imprisonment. The case garnered international attention, thrusting both teenagers into the spotlight.

Math

Here are some websites that students can use to practice math skills over the summer. Students are recommended to use the Rising 7th Grade specific skills review 2-3 times a week for at least 30 mins. On these websites students can work through each topic presented, getting as far on any given topic as they can during the week, or pick and choose as they feel they need the extra practice.

Rising 7th Grade Specific Skills:

- [Study Island](#) - My Learning Path
- [Khan Academy - Get Ready for 7th Grade](#) or [Get ready for Algebra 1](#) - Khan Academy provides a great combination of lessons, videos and assessment.
- [IXL - Summer Boost skill plan - 7th grade](#) or [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Algebra 1](#) - Practice 10 questions per day
- [I Practice Math](#)
- Complete any unfinished Step Up to 7th Grade workbook pages.

Science and Social Studies

Science

- [Study Island](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [SciShow Kids](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)
- [Dogonews](#)
- [Google Earth](#)
- Finish any incomplete pages in your Science workbook

Social Studies

- [National Geographic geography resources](#)
- [PBS Learning Media Geography videos and activities](#)
- [Link between humans, their environment and geography- stories and videos](#)
- [Map quiz website](#)
- [Geography games](#)

Students Entering Eighth Grade

English Language Arts

Websites:

- [Study Island](#)
 - Follow the Study Island NWEA Learning Path Directions at the start of this document

Suggested Reading List

The Boy in the Striped Pajamas

By John Boyne

Berlin, 1942: When Bruno returns home from school one day, he discovers that his belongings are being packed in crates. His father has received a promotion and the family must move to a new house far, far away, where there is no one to play with and nothing to do. A tall fence stretches as far as the eye can see and cuts him off from the strange people in the distance.

But Bruno longs to be an explorer and decides that there must be more to this desolate new place than meets the eye. While exploring his new environment, he meets another boy whose life and circumstances are very different from his own, and their meeting results in a friendship that has devastating consequences.

After Tupac & D Foster

By Jacqueline Woodson

The day D Foster enters Neeka and her best friend's lives, the world opens up for them. Suddenly they're keenly aware of things beyond their block in Queens, things that are happening in the world—like the shooting of Tupac Shakur—and in search of their Big Purpose in life. When—all too soon—D's mom swoops in to reclaim her, and Tupac dies, they are left with a sense of how quickly things can change and how even all-too-brief connections can touch deeply.

Virals

By Kathy Reichs

Adventure is in Tory Brennan's blood. After all, she's the grandniece of world-famous forensic anthropologist Temperance Brennan. Always up for a challenge, Tory and her science-geek friends spend their time exploring the marshlands of Loggerhead Island, home to the very off-limits Loggerhead Island Research Institute, where something strange is going on. After rescuing a stray wolfdog pup from a top-secret lab, Tory and her friends are exposed to a rare strain of canine parvovirus, changing them--and their DNA--forever. Now they are more than friends. They are a pack. They are Virals. And they're dangerous to the core. But are they unstoppable enough to catch a cold-blooded murderer?

The Underdogs

By Mike Lupica

Will Tyler can fly on a football field. He may not be the biggest running back around, but no one can touch him when it comes to hitting the hole and finding the end zone. And no one can match his love of the game. When Will has a football in hand, he may as well be flying for real because life can't touch him - his dad isn't so defeated, his town isn't so poor, and everyone has something to cheer for. All of which does him no good if the football season is canceled. With no funding for things like uniforms and a cared-for playing field, with seemingly every other family moving to find jobs, there simply isn't enough money or players for a season. Unless one kid can rally an entire town and give everyone a reason to believe.

For fans of his best-selling novels *Travel Team* and *Million-Dollar Throw*, Mike Lupica delivers a feel-good sports story that will have readers cheering where they sit.

I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up for Education and Changed the World

By Malala Yousafzai

Malala Yousafzai was only 10 years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school. Raised in a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to

stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on October 9, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause: She was shot point-blank while riding the bus on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive.

Now Malala is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest ever Nobel Peace Prize winner. In this young readers edition of her best-selling memoir, which has been reimagined specifically for a younger audience and includes exclusive photos and material, we hear firsthand the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world - and did.

Malala's powerful story will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles, and the possibility that one person - one young person - can inspire change in her community and beyond.

Escape from Alcatraz: The Mystery of the Three Men Who Escaped from the Rock

By Eric Braun

What's more exciting than a prison break? Frank Morris and John and Clarence Anglin escaped from Alcatraz in 1962 and have never been caught. Many authorities are certain they died crossing San Francisco Bay. Relatives claim they made it to Brazil. The theories of what happened to them are endless.

Find out the facts from people who dealt with the men and the case firsthand. This is one mystery you'll definitely want to solve.

A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School

By Carlotta Walls LaNier

When 14-year-old Carlotta Walls walked up the stairs of Little Rock Central High School on September 25, 1957, she and eight other Black students only wanted to make it to class. But the journey of the "Little Rock Nine", as they came to be known, would lead the nation on an even longer and much more turbulent path, one that would challenge prevailing attitudes, break down barriers, and forever change the landscape of America.

Breaking her silence at last and sharing her story for the first time, Carlotta Walls has written an inspiring, thoroughly engrossing memoir that is not only a testament to the power of one to make a difference but also of the sacrifices made by families and communities that found themselves a part of history. *A Mighty Long Way* shines a light on this watershed moment in civil rights history and shows that determination, fortitude, and the ability to change the world are not exclusive to a few special people but are inherent within us all.

Math

Here are some websites that students can use to practice math skills over the summer. Students are recommended to use the Rising 8th Grade specific skills review 2-3 times a week for at least 30 mins. On these websites students can work through each topic presented, getting as far on any given topic as they can during the week, or pick and choose as they feel they need the extra practice.

Rising 8th Grade Specific Skills:

- [Study Island](#) - My Learning Path
- [Khan Academy - Get Ready for 8th Grade](#) or [Get ready for Algebra 1](#) or [Get ready for Geometry](#) depending on course placement for 2022-2023 - Khan Academy provides a great combination of lessons, videos and assessment.
- [IXL - Summer Boost skill plan - 8th grade](#) or [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Algebra 1](#) or [IXL Summer Boost skill plan - Geometry](#) depending on course placement for 2022-2023 - Practice 10 questions per day
- [I Practice Math](#)

Science and Social Studies

Science

- [Study Island](#)
- [Mystery Doug](#)
- [SciShow Kids](#)
- [Flocabulary](#)
- [Brainpop](#)
- [Dogonews](#)
- [Google Earth](#)
- Finish any incomplete pages in your Science workbook

Social Studies

- [PBS Learningmedia US History resources- interactives](#)
- [Ken Burns for the classroom- videos and activities](#)
- [National Museum of African American History](#)
- [Smithsonian's history explorer](#)
- [US History through statistics](#)
- [Smithsonian's Learning Labs- US History](#)
- [Case makers- civics challenges](#)
- [Google Art and Culture](#)
- [A People's History](#)
- [National Museum of the American Indian](#)
- [Voices of Democracy](#)