

June, 2018

Dear Rising Fourth Grade Parents,

While summer is a great time to play and relax, it's also smart to take a little time to keep the skills the children have worked so hard to master during the school year sharp. We have some suggestions for your children so that they will be not only well rested, but also prepared for a rewarding new year at St. Michael's.

Reading Set aside fifteen minutes each day for reading. Use the summer reading list found online (<http://www.stmschool.net/community/summerback-to-school/>) to help you guide your child in choosing books appropriate for his or her reading level. The required reading book for the summer is *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. It's a good idea for your child to read the required book closer to the start of the school year. This year, rather than a book log, we are using an activity menu. The instructions are on the page--happy reading!

What's a more delicious way to learn to read directions than by following a favorite recipe? Summer is a great time to set children loose in the kitchen with a few basic tools and a recipe. If they follow the directions carefully, the results can be, well, delicious! A great, easy resource we recommend is the DK Children's cookbook (<http://www.dk.com/uk/9781405305884-childrens-cookbook/>). You can order it or find it at any of the large bookstores.

Writing We encourage all children to write over the summer, and what better way than to communicate with someone else? Children love to get notes and mail, so one suggestion is that relatives or special friends may send the child a card or a letter to which the child may respond. Some parents like to keep a trip journal/scrapbook with their child, or perhaps leave notes for one another. Every time a child puts pen to paper and receives a response, that child's confidence increases. Writing is optional, and there are no summer assignments, but if a child sends Mrs. Geier and Ms. Bockisch a postcard, they will send one back!

Math Fact fluency is necessary for higher-level computation and problem solving. Rising fourth grade students should keep brushed up on their skills using the IXL website. You can find IXL practice recommendations on the website with the rest of the summer work. There are specific skills recommended for rising fourth graders.

Math games are fun, too! Possible game suggestions are: dice games, card games, Checkers, Chess, Trouble, Blokus, Mastermind, Qwirkle, Sudoku, Othello, Monopoly, Yahtzee, Connect Four, Battleship, Logic Links, and 24 Game. Please review time and money skills whenever the opportunity arises in everyday life.

We hope you have an enjoyable summer and we look forward to a fantastic fourth grade year with you and your children!

Sincerely, Mrs. Merrill Geier, Mrs. Angie Rowe, and Ms. Gale Bockisch