

Dear Rising 1st- Rising 5th grade Parents,

It is hard to believe that summer is almost here! This year the teachers have reevaluated our summer math and reading program. The teachers have selected the "Summer Express" workbooks to bridge the learning gap over the summer. These books are designed to be completed **throughout** the summer, not to be rushed through the week before school begins. We feel these books will provide a more comprehensive review of the previous year's material and will allow students to maintain their current academic level throughout the summer. Every child will be required to turn in these books during the first full week of school. The exact due date will be left up to each individual teacher. Students in the upper grades will receive a completion grade and a small party/extra recess for completing their summer workbooks. In addition to the workbook, student will be required to keep a reading log which they will turn in when school begins. Some teachers may assign a specific book to be read before school begins. Each individual teacher will follow up with specific assignments for their grade. Having the students work over the summer, allows the teachers to spend less time at the beginning of the year on review and allows us to jump into new material more quickly. Thank you for trusting us with your children and have a wonderful, safe summer.

HVCS Teachers

A quick note from Mrs. Payne,

Here are some of the specifics mentioned in the letter above, all of this information will be put into a summer packet along with the book for their summer work so it is easier to keep track of.

First Grade requirements:

-We will have a required reading log to be completed throughout the summer. To make it fun, you can do the reading log bingo which will be handed out at the end of year conference

-Rising first graders also need to be review and practicing their pre primer and primer sight words. Those lists will be included in their summer packet.

-First Graders are also expected to complete a summer reading project. In years past, they needed to do one non-fiction, and one fiction book project (Two projects total). This year, you as a child-parent team can choose to do either a non-fiction or a fiction book report (one project total). More information on that will be included in their summer packet.

-A rising First Grader's Due date for summer work will be their phase in day. (I will send a reminder in their Welcome Back to School letter)

-Each child that completes their Summer work will earn a popsicle party that first full Friday of school. August 21st

Looking forward to teaching your children!

-Mrs. Payne

Summer Reading Project First Grade 2015

In order to maintain and cultivate your child's reading progress over the summer, we recommend the following reading projects. If students do not work during the summer months, they will regress (when not exercising their brains!) and lose the knowledge they gained while in Kindergarten. Here are three categories of fun projects to keep student's reading abilities growing.

1) Book projects:

This summer, we are strongly encouraging all rising first graders to read two different types of texts: literary and informational. We have also included related projects and extension activities for the students to complete to make this experience more enjoyable. **Please choose either a Literary Text or an informational text to complete a project on. 1 Book project total.**

BOOK PROJECT FOR LITERARY TEXTS

Literary Texts are the books we tend to classify as **fiction books**. They are meant primarily to serve as a source of entertainment. Here is a list of possible authors that would meet these criteria:

- Norman Birdwell (Clifford series) Eric Carle, Dr. Seuss "I Can Read" series, Level 1 "Easy to Read" series, Level 1 "Ready to Read" series, Level 1 "Biscuit" series

After reading the book, each child should complete one of these projects based upon his/her book selection.

- 1) Make a diorama in a shoebox depicting a scene from the book. Include the title, author, and a paragraph explaining the scene and why you chose that particular scene.
- 2) Design an original book cover for the book. It cannot look like the cover of the published book. The book cover must include the title, the author, and an original drawing of a scene that represents the book on the front cover. It should have a short summary of the book on the back. The cover must persuade people to read the book.
- 3) Sequence the beginning, middle, and end of a story using drawings. Include the title, the author, and the illustrator's name.
- 4) Design a bookmark based on your favorite character in a story. Make sure you include the title of the book and the author's name.

BOOK PROJECT FOR INFORMATIONAL TEXTS

Informational texts are the books we tend to classify as **nonfiction books**. They include topics such as biographies, all areas of science, history, machines, hobbies, and animals. They are factual in nature. This summer, each child should select one informational text to read. This book selection should be an area of interest for your child. These texts tend to be more difficult to read, so parental assistance is recommended.

While reading the book, please make a list of five facts about the topic. After reading, the child should select at least one item related to the book. Upon returning to school, each student will share their chosen item, describe five facts they learned, and share their book in class.

2) Dolch sight words

We have also included Dolch Sight Word lists for the students to review. The Dolch Sight Words are words that every student should know to be prepared for first grade. These words should be automatic and quickly read for fluency in books. You may use the word lists to create flashcards or you may download flashcards at <http://www.mrsperkins.com/dolch.htm> Please practice for speed, accuracy, and ease of reading.

3) Summer Reading Logs and Bingo Board

Summer reading logs are useful to help pace your summer reading and give new and interesting ways to dive into texts. Though we would like to foster independent reading, feel free to do some shared reading with your child as well. Our challenge, should you choose to accept it, is to read 4 nights per week during the summer. We also have provided a Bingo board to encourage creative reading times. If you succeed in your mission, your child will be recognized for their hard work at the beginning of the upcoming school year!

Final thoughts:

We have found that students who read, write and create throughout the summer tend to return to school in the fall, have an easier transition to 1st grade. Students who do not exercise mentally during summer tend to regress rather than maintain their previous levels of performance. We encourage you to help get your child off to a strong start for first grade!