



# 1ST GRADE SUMMER WORK

## MATH

Dear Upcoming 1st grade parents and math students,

First off, congratulations on successfully completing the 1st grade Saxon program the past year. As we now enjoy the summer months, go out and have some family fun! Of course, fun makes me think of math because math is everywhere. Play games together (cards, Monopoly, Uno, Racko), count coins from your piggy bank, measure the backyard, cook & bake recipes (double or even triple the recipe, especially if you are making cookies), graph your favorite something (sports team's stats / M & M candies / favorite ice cream flavors, etc.), think fractions when dividing up a pizza pie, look for shapes outside, count by 2's when tossing a ball in the pool, count by 1's when collecting shells on the beach, etc. So, a little math each and every day will keep your mind sharp, engaged, and your math facts "fresh".

I am pleased to announce that your child has been enrolled in the game based online math program called Reflex to strengthen fact fluency (quick recall of addition & subtraction facts). Reflex uses the fact family approach (group of related facts using the same numbers) when teaching new facts. Each student will receive important login/password information to get started at home. This program provides individualized instruction that most students find enjoyable. Although there are no session time limits, please consider working a session for about 15 minutes in length for perhaps 3 to 4 times a week. Think shorter, more frequent sessions are more effective than longer, less frequent sessions. Please note, this resource is just one way to learn and memorize your facts for quick recall. If your child feels stressed, upset, etc. then fear not and put Reflex on the back burner for awhile. Maybe consider just getting out some chalk or a white board to write down some facts and use the good old fashioned fact flash cards.

Happy summer, safe travels, and happy memories!

I am looking forward to meeting you this August, and of course, teaching you the joy of learning math.

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# 1ST GRADE SUMMER WORK

## READING / ESW

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to teaching your wonderful children next year. We wish you and your family a wonderful and well-deserved summer break. It is a great time to refuel, relax, and unwind. However, it is common for students to regress during this vacation time. For that reason, we wanted to give suggestions of activities your child could do to keep those skills sharp. Try to maintain the learning without making it seem like school work. Keep it simple and fun. Here are some examples:

- Read with your children every day or as often as possible, even if it is for a brief amount of time. You might take trips to the library and let them find new books that interest them or they can explore Epic. Epic is a wonderful app that offers thousands of books of every genre and level that your child might enjoy as well. Let them read for a while, then you read for a while. Kids really do like when you give them that special time.

- When choosing books for summer reading please follow the “How to choose a just right book” procedure listed below. This will ensure that your child is choosing a book that is appropriate for his/her reading level and is neither too difficult nor too easy.

**Tip:** How will parents know if the book their child selects is “just right” for independent reading? Listen to your child read a page or two of the book. As a rule of thumb, if your child cannot read, mispronounces, or does not understand the meaning of more than three words on a page, it is not a “just right” book. That book is too difficult and might cause frustration.

**Tip:** If your child is able to read the pages without making any mistakes and is able to understand what has happened, then this book may be too easy. Consider choosing a more challenging story.



# 1ST GRADE SUMMER WORK

## READING / ESW CONTINUED

**Tip:** Books that are too challenging for a child's independent reading level often make excellent read aloud options for parents. These books are a great way to enhance your child's vocabulary and comprehension skills. Listening to a fluent reader allows children to hear the rhythm and flow of the written language. This helps improve their own fluency by providing them with a good example of fluent reading.

- Review sight words and high-frequency words. These can be found on <http://www.sightwords.com/sight-words/dolch/> . There are many fun and creative ways to review these words, such as sight word hopscotch, bingo, or Jenga. Pinterest has many fun ideas!
- Surprise them with a special notebook. Suggest to them how much fun it might be if they keep a diary of their summer days. Make it fun, no pressure!
- Have your child write notes to friends or relatives, or even help you make a list of things to buy, places to go, or things to do this summer.
- We hope these suggestions are helpful to you and your child. Have a great summer!

Best wishes,

Emily Cambron and Lauren Fondo

1st Grade Reading/ESW teachers