



Dear Parents and Guardians:

The end of a school year is a great time to celebrate the progress and achievements of your children, and look for ways to ensure that the year ahead will be even more successful. This publication provides fun and useful tips for continuing the learning process during the summer months.

Research has repeatedly shown that parents are the single greatest factor in determining a child's success in school. This means that your child and his or her school depend upon you to provide the support necessary to ensure that educational opportunities are not wasted.

Fortunately, helping your child is simple. For example, you can help your child obtain a library card, plan trips to museums or parks, and encourage reading on a daily basis. If your child is too young to work independently, take time every day to read to/with him or her. Just doing these simple things sends the message that education is important. Children who come from homes where education is not valued often have problems in school, may eventually drop out of school, and may have severely limited opportunities as adults.

Children need structure, guidance, and good role models. In order to help reinforce the importance of learning, we are pleased to offer suggestions that will help prepare your child for the coming school year. I encourage you to take advantage of this information. Included here are standards designed for students who are leaving sixth grade and entering the seventh grade. Activities for other grade levels are available at <http://ccsd.net/learn>.

Parents are a child's first – and most important – teacher. Make sure your time with them is well spent. Best wishes to you and your family for a wonderful summer!

Sincerely,

Dwight D. Jones
Superintendent of Schools



GRADE SIX

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO READ

- ◆ Share books and read with your child.
- ◆ Make a time and a place for reading in your home and talk about reading in your family.
- ◆ Take advantage of "waiting" time on trips, at the doctor's office, in line at the grocery store, etc., to read with your child.
- ◆ Set a good example – read on your own.
- ◆ Allow your child to select books to read and be aware of your child's reading interests.
- ◆ Give books as presents.
- ◆ Go to your local public library and register your child for a library card. Get the one free card that brings a world of opportunity – no matter what your age.
- ◆ When preparing for family road trips, stock up on audio books from your library. Let your child choose some stories to listen to in the car. Have family members share favorite stories at family outings.

GRADE SIX MATHEMATICS

- ◆ Compare changes in gas prices at different gas stations over time (daily, weekly, etc.).
- ◆ Compare the percentages of the nutrition facts on food labels.
- ◆ Collect 15 various coins. Tell the fraction of each of the different coins represented. For example, with 7 nickels, 5 dimes, and 3 quarters, the nickels are $\frac{7}{15}$.
- ◆ Play MasterMind® or similar game to practice patterns.
- ◆ Using Skittles® or similar items, lay out a color pattern. Then extend the pattern.
- ◆ Point out patterns in your surroundings (the tiles on a floor, the petals on a flower, etc.).
- ◆ There are 4 grams of sugar in a teaspoon. Calculate how many teaspoons of sugar there are in various food items based on the grams of sugar listed on the nutrition facts label.
- ◆ Using a metric ruler, measure objects in your home. Then find other objects that measure close to 1 centimeter, 10 centimeters, or 100 centimeters.
- ◆ Determine the best value per ounce with various food items while shopping at the grocery store.
- ◆ Find real world applications for parallel lines, intersecting lines, and perpendicular lines. When and where are these lines used?
- ◆ Compute the distance between towns on a map using the scale or map's legend.
- ◆ If every member of your household exchanged a book with each other, determine how many books would be exchanged.
- ◆ Chart the number of each color of M&M's® or similar items in different size bags and compare the results.
- ◆ Fold a piece of paper into various shapes (rectangle, triangle, etc.). Count the total number of shapes.
- ◆ Create a chain of 24 paper clips. Make right, equilateral, and isosceles triangles using the chain.



SCIENCE

- ◆ Find an article about a scientific discovery. Summarize what it tells you.
- ◆ Find as many weather words as you can and clip them from a newspaper. Draw a picture for each word you have cut out.
- ◆ Looking at a weather map, predict the weather for tomorrow in five different cities around the United States.
- ◆ In the night sky, learn these constellations: The Big Dipper (Ursa Major), The Little Dipper (Ursa Minor), Leo the Lion, Hercules, Corona Borealis, and Draco the Dragon.
- ◆ Does Nevada have a state insect? If so, what is it?
- ◆ Check out NASA's Astronomy Picture of the Day at <http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html>.
- ◆ Name five vertebrates and five invertebrates, and research their scientific names.

TIPS FOR FAMILY SUMMER FUN

Set aside time each day for physical activity. Children need at least 60 minutes of daily physical activity. Use community resources and programs to increase your child's access to physical activity during the summer months.

Physical activity can be an energizing adventure for family fun. Go for a walk, swim, or bicycle ride. Be physically active and get your whole family to join you. Remember to schedule outdoor activities during the morning and evening to avoid heat exhaustion. Drink plenty of water and stay hydrated.

Eating healthy boosts brainpower. Encourage children to vary their veggies by trying dark green and orange vegetables such as spinach, broccoli, carrots, and sweet potatoes.

Involve the whole family in meal time preparation. Choose foods and beverages that do not have sugar or other added sweeteners as one of the main ingredients. Healthy eating habits begin early so help your child make choices that will set the foundation for a lifetime of better health.

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING LIST

Fiction



Half-Moon Investigations by Eoin Colfer
Elijah of Buxton by Christopher Paul Curtis
The Sacrifice by Kathleen Benner Duble
Penny From Heaven by Jennifer Holm
Diary of a Wimpy Kid by Jeff Kinney
Rules by Cynthia Lord
Travel Team by Mike Lupica
Hurt Go Happy by Ginny Rorby
The Alchemyst by Scott Michael
Firehorse by Diane L. Wilson
Feathers by Jacqueline Woodson
The Wednesday Wars by Gary D. Schmidt
Septimus Heap, Book 1: Magyk by Angie Sage
The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio by Lloyd Alexander
Rex Zero and the End of the World by Tim Wynne-Jones

Nonfiction

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam and the Science of Ocean Motion
by Loree Griffin Burns

The Poet Slave of Cuba: A Biography of Juan Francisco Manzano
by Margarita Engle

In Your Face: The Culture of Beauty and You
by Shari Graydon

Good Masters! Sweet Ladies: Voices From a Medieval Village by Laura Schlitz


Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon by Catherine Thimmesh

Immersed in Verse: An Informative, Slightly Irreverent & Totally Tremendous Guide to Living the Poet's Life by Allan Wolf

Note to Parents

CCSD offers the following list of links to summer reading lists and resources in our continued support of student achievement and the love of reading. Book lists cover a wide range of topics and interest levels. It is the parents' responsibility to verify the appropriateness of any book for their child. Also, please check with your child's school online, as many schools provide summer reading lists that support site-specific programs and classes.

READING TIPS FOR STUDENTS

- ◆ See yourself in the story while you read, as if you are the leading character in a movie version of the book.
 - ◆ Write notes to yourself about what you read in the text that was interesting to you or about topics on which you want to learn more.
 - ◆ Connect what you read with what you already know.
 - ◆ Ask yourself questions while you read. For example, what was the author's purpose for writing this text? Why did the author choose a certain word to describe the character rather than different words?
 - ◆ Scan the text before you read and predict its content or plot. While you read, check whether your predictions were correct and why.
 - ◆ Check yourself while you read. Do you remember what you read? If not, reread.
 - ◆ While you read, periodically stop and ask yourself questions about the story. For example, what did I learn? How do I feel about the story or the character?
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SUMMER READING LINKS

<http://readkiddoread.com/>
<http://lvccld.org/kids/index.cfm>
www.mypubliclibrary.com/catalog/library/userdef/kids.aspx
www.cityofnorthlasvegas.com/Departments/Library/Library.shtm
<http://ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/notalists/ncb/index.cfm>
www.neh.gov/projects/summertimefavorites.html
<http://bclibrary.org/kids-resources/>

ONLINE RESOURCES

1. Go to <http://ccsd.net/cpd>
2. Click on Literacy Services
3. Click on Secondary English/Language Arts
4. Click on Beyond the Classroom
5. Click on one of the two available Web links.
One is for the International Reading Association, and the other is for the National Council of Teachers of English.

MATH ACTIVITIES ONLINE

www.allmath.com
www.aplusmath.com

SCIENCE ACTIVITIES ONLINE

www.billnye.com/for-kids-teachers/

LOCAL EDUCATIONAL ADVENTURES

Lake Mead
Red Rock Canyon
Lied Discovery Children's Museum
Museum of Natural History
Atomic Testing Museum
Springs Preserve

For more options visit
<http://museums.nevadaculture.org/>

RESOURCES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

Parents can help their children prepare for the Nevada proficiency examinations in reading and writing during the summer.

Read a variety of books, magazines, newspapers, and letters as often as possible with your child. Visit your local library with your child. Allow your child to use educational, reading-based, and writing-based computer programs that reinforce reading and writing skills.

The following links provide students and parents instructional materials, writing samples, and scoring guides:

Criterion Referenced Tests

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment_CRT.htm

High School Proficiency Exam in Reading

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment_HSPE.htm

Writing Assessment

http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Assessment_WA.htm

Nevada State Standards

<http://nde.doe.nv.gov/Standards.html>

