



Christ the King Lutheran Church & School

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People Helping People Become All Christ Calls Them to Be

Summer Learning 2020 - Ready for Eighth Grade!

Dear Eighth Grade Families,

At the beginning of summer, families often ask, "What can I do to help my child be ready for school in August?". This is always a valid question, but in the age of COVID-19 and the disruption to learning as we *knew* it, this question may be even more relevant as we head into the summer of 2020. The K - 8 faculty of CTK Lutheran School has put together a list of things families can consider doing to help their child be as ready as possible for school in August. In this document you will find some resources for summer learning and enrichment in the areas of family devotions, language arts, math, and social-emotional learning.

CTK Lutheran School faculty stands ready to provide guidance and support for our incoming students and families. Mr. Josh Rimpel, your child's homeroom teacher for eighth grade, will be contacting you in early June with an invitation to develop a relationship with you and your child and answer questions you may have about summer learning or getting ready for eighth grade.

Family Devotions

- [Family Devotions](#) 3 times per week or you may [subscribe to them](#) and they will be emailed to you
- [Grace Talks](#) (these 3 - 5 minute video devotions are great for young adults and adults too)

Language Arts (Reading/Writing/Discussing)

- **The Facts on Reading**
 - **Kids who read, succeed.** The amount of time that students spend reading for pleasure is a key predictor of students' academic achievement. (Gallik, 1999)
 - **It takes practice.** Reading, like playing a musical instrument, is not something that is mastered once and for all at a certain age. It is a skill that continues to improve through practice. ("Becoming a Nation of Readers," 1985)
 - **Role models matter.** Children who see adults reading daily or weekly tend to read more and have higher reading scores than those who don't. (McCormick and Mason, 1986)
- **Tips for encouraging children to read**
 - Establish reading routines that include a time of day and reading spot
 - Set reading goals such as number of books, minutes, or pages
 - Help your child select books at his/her reading and interest level
 - Read to your child to model accurate, fluent reading
 - Listen to your child read on occasion
 - Ask and answer questions about the book

- **Readers...**
 - Make predictions before and during reading
 - Ask questions as they read
 - Make connections (to self, others, world, and other texts)
 - Talk about what they are reading
 - Read aloud to friends and family members
- **The Writing Connection**
 - Encourage your child to keep a reading journal (What did I learn? What do I still want to know?)
 - Encourage your child to keep a journal of summer activities
 - Write at least once a week for a predetermined amount of time
 - Encourage good sentence structure
 - Encourage capital letters, end punctuation, age-appropriate spelling
 - Encourage your child to “make the sentence better” by adding descriptive words.
 - See the attached list of writing prompts
- **Mr. Rimpel’s Summer Book Picks**
 - The Hobbit - J. R. R. Tolkien
 - The Hunger Games Series - Susanne Collins
 - The Maze Runner - James Danshner
 - Eragon - Christopher Paolini
 - I Funny - James Patterson
 - Stargirl - Jerry Spinelli
 - Allies - Alan Gratz
 - Hidden figures - Margot Lee Shetterly
- **Additional Resource** - [ReadWorks](#)

Mathematics

- **Skills to Review from Seventh Grade for Success in Eighth Grade**
 - Read and write multi-digit numbers with decimals to the thousandths using standard form, word form and expanded form
 - Experts in basic multiplication, addition, and subtraction facts (0 to 12)
 - Add, subtract, multiply and divide multi-digit whole numbers, decimals, and fractions
 - Rounding and Estimating Products
 - Story problems with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing
 - Build on skills you learned the previous year in mathematics instruction
- [Khan Academy](#) (This free site provides age/ability appropriate math enrichment.)

Social-Emotional Learning

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process through which children and adults acquire and effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

There are five core competencies in SEL:

- **Self-Awareness** - recognizing one’s feelings and emotions and expressing them accurately and productively
- **Self-Management** - successfully manage and regulate emotions, especially difficult ones such as anger
- **Social Awareness** - appreciating the thoughts, feelings & perspectives of others, being in *someone else’s shoes*

- **Relationship Skills** - forming and maintaining friendships, communicating, and working through disagreements
- **Responsible Decision Making** - making choices with potential outcomes for one's self and others in mind

Developmental SEL Milestones for Eighth Grade Students

- Established independence
- Acceptance within a peer group
- Comfort with making own decisions; increased self-assurance
- Appropriate handling of issues within relationships
- Appropriate responses to conflicting and unexpected feelings and emotions
- Self-acceptance
- Adjustment to larger social world

Activities to Develop Social Emotional Skills

- Be a good example for your child
- Take time to talk with your child about his/her day or interests
- Work with your child to find solutions to problems with others
- Discuss calming techniques with your child
- Talk with your child about his/her feelings
- Discuss everyday situations with your child - conversations/observations of others, etc.
 - Ask your child to explain what he/she observed
 - Ask your child how other people might have been feeling.
 - Ask your child why he/she thinks so. (questions above)
- Help your child learn about body language
- Teach your child about personal space - what's appropriate and what is not
- Give your child choices and discuss potential consequences

Bottom Line on Summer Learning

- Spend time reading - listening to your child read and reading to your child and discussing what is read.
- Encourage your child to write about his/her experiences.
- Challenge your child to think mathematically - age-appropriate math facts, estimating, math story problems, patterns, etc.
- Help your child develop social-emotional awareness - help your child think about others
- Take the time to read or listen to a family devotion on a regular basis

Additional Resources

- [Parents & Educators](#) (5toThrive.net is a Christian resource offering a variety of parenting/teaching podcasts)
- [Coming in to Eighth Grade](#) (provides families with what can be expected as a child enters eighth grade)