



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 First Grade!

Dear First 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. Mrs. Janell Brown, your child's teacher for first 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 first grade.

Family Devotions

- [Family Devotions](#) produced 3 times per week or you may [subscribe](#) and they will be emailed to you

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 reading with younger children**
 - 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 and help them sound out unknown words
 - 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**
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 - 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
- [Mrs. Brown’s Summer Read-Aloud Book Picks](#)
- **Additional Resource** - [ReadWorks](#)

Mathematics

- **Skills to Review from Kindergarten for Success in First Grade**
 - Write, count, and identify numbers 0-100
 - Skip-count by 2’s, 5’s, and 10’s
 - Identify numbers - before, after, in between, more than, fewer than within 0 to 20
 - Count out and compare the number of objects from 0 to 20 in two groups using the terms *less than*, *equal to*, or *greater than*.
 - Add two one-digit numbers with sums from 0 to 10 and subtract using related facts (accurately)
 - Solve addition and subtraction story problems using objects or pictures
 - Identify two- and three-dimensional shapes - circles, triangles, rectangles, squares, spheres, cubes, cones and cylinders.
- **Additional Resource** - [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 First Grade Students

- Display a greater sense of empathy and morality
- Establish and maintain positive relationships
- Control of impulsive behaviors
- Identify and manage emotions
- Adopt resiliency
- Function independently
- Understand different viewpoints and opinions
- Develop a sense of identity

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)
- Play *Feelings Charades* to 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 First Grade](#) (provides families with what can be expected as a child enters first grade)
- [Grace Talks](#) (these 3 - 5 minute video devotions are great for adults)