Parents,

It’s hard to believe we are looking at summer right in front of us. The school years seem to go quicker each year. I would like to take a moment to thank you for entrusting us with your children. We love and care for them and value your family’s commitment to Clarksville Academy.

As part of our commitment to be intentional and provide the highest standard, content area teachers and administrators have been in communication about the summer learning work required of each student. Throughout our discussions we revisited the reasons why we engage students in summer learning. Research shows that ‘academic slide’ in the summer months can have a significant negative impact on a student's learning and retention of skills. Oftentimes, the reason behind this is a lack of access to consistent academic stimulation. Keeping students engaged in math and reading can be especially beneficial in preventing deep learning loss from happening.

As your child’s academic team, and with this research in mind, we have worked to find sound ways to keep your child engaged in math and reading over the summer. We have used data collected from Milestone testing, classroom observations and assessments, teacher collaboration, and CTP-5 to determine which skills would be most beneficial for review. We also considered ways to bring real world and critical thinking concepts into summer learning.

Please see the required summer assignments in math and reading below.

Summer Reading Engagement Activity for English

Each student will choose one book from a teacher-approved reading list provided in class. Students will also select a “reading buddy” from their classmates to create a mini book club experience over the summer. Reading buddies are encouraged to communicate occasionally to discuss the book, share thoughts, ask questions, and encourage one another as they read. When students return to school in the fall, they will use what they learned from the book to create an engaging book/movie trailer project that highlights the characters, plot, themes, and important moments from their reading. We hope this project helps students build excitement for reading while staying connected with classmates over the summer break. Students will choose from one of the following books:

The Shakespeare Stealer- Gary Blackwood
Crispin: The Cross of Lead- Avi
Treasure Island- Robert Louis Stevenson
The Witch of Blackbird Pond- Elizabeth George Speare
Catherine, Called Birdy- Karen Cushman
The Midwife’s Apprentice- Karen Cushman
The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate- Jacqueline Kelly
The City of Ember-Jeanne DuPrau
The Book of Three- Lloyd Alexander
The False Prince- Jennifer A. Nielsen
Ranger’s Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan- John Flanagan
Ella Enchanted- Carson Levine
The Goose Girl- Shannon Hale
Dealing with Dragons- Patricia C. Wrede
The Wolves of Willoughby Chase- Joan Aiken

Rising 7th/8th Grade Summer Math Activities

Summer is full of opportunities to explore mathematical concepts in the real world! This summer, students will pick one or more of the following activities to complete with their families. Students should journal and keep notes about their experiences.

Cooking/Baking

Choose a favorite family recipe and prepare it together. Students can practice measuring ingredients using cups, teaspoons, tablespoons, and ounces while learning how fractions work in real life. Families can challenge students to double or halve the recipe, which helps build multiplication and division skills with whole numbers and fractions. Students can also estimate cooking times, compare temperatures, and discuss how math is used every day in the kitchen. Encourage students to explain their thinking as they solve each problem.

Shopping - Tax, Tip, Discounts

Plan a shopping trip using grocery ads, store websites, or receipts from a recent purchase. Students can create a budget and decide how much they are allowed to spend. Have them calculate sale prices by finding discounts such as 25% off or buy-one-get-one deals. Students can also estimate sales tax and calculate restaurant tips using percentages. Families can discuss ways to save money while comparing prices between different stores or brands. This activity helps students practice decimals, percentages, multiplication, estimation, and financial literacy skills.

Construction Project

Work together to design and build a small project such as a bookshelf, birdhouse, garden box, LEGO structure, or room redesign. Students can measure lengths, widths, and heights using rulers or measuring tapes and record their measurements. They can calculate perimeter, area, or volume depending on the project. Families can also help students estimate the amount of materials needed and compare costs of supplies. Encourage students to sketch a blueprint or diagram before building. This activity strengthens geometry, measurement, spatial reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

Planning a Vacation

Plan a real or imaginary family vacation together. Students can research destinations, compare hotel prices, calculate travel distances, and create a total trip budget. Families can help students determine fuel costs, airfare expenses, meal budgets, and activity costs. Students can also create a daily itinerary and calculate travel times using maps or online tools. Encourage them to stay within a specific budget and explain their choices. This activity helps students practice addition, multiplication, estimation, budgeting, and critical thinking while connecting math to real-world planning.