



WEST SHORE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

May 21, 2018

Dear Parents,

As we near the end of school, students begin to look towards summer and all the fun that it brings. Anytime we have a long break from learning, practice, and repetition, some of the information we have learned tends to be lost. This is called the “summer slide” or summer learning loss.

What is summer learning loss? Research indicates that students may lose up to approximately two months of math skills specifically factual and procedural knowledge. Math practice using paper/pencil and web-based program will support these skills. Additionally, while students tend to have many opportunities to read throughout the summer, they may not apply their knowledge through discussion or in writing. Through writing assignments, students will continue to strengthen their stamina, organization, conventions, and written expression.

To help decrease summer learning loss, our teachers have created summer academic packets for the grade their students are moving up to next school year. The focus of these packets will be on reading, writing, and math. Our packets have been prepared to mitigate summer learning loss and reduce the instructional time in the fall that teachers spend reteaching skills and concepts previously taught.

The Summer Academic Packets **are expected to be completed and submitted during the first week of school**. Students will receive participation credit from their teacher. The students’ work will serve as a tool to help teachers identify areas of strengths and needs in reading, writing and math. We encourage parents to support their children by establishing when they should complete the assignments over the course of the summer, explaining directions, and offering prompts when needed.

Each packet contains math and writing review work. For reading, students in our school will be participating in a Summer Reading Challenge. That information will go home with your child’s classroom summer packet.

I want our students to enjoy their summer vacation as well as continuing to practice the skills they have learned this past year so the chances of a “summer slide” are less likely to occur. The packets are being handed out to students and will be uploaded to our school website shortly. If you have any questions, please contact our office.

Yours in Christ,

Joseph C. Shirvinski
Lower School Principal