



“Creating an Educated Community  
To Serve Christ and One Another  
With Integrity and Respect”



## Welcome Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Graders to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

### Required Rising 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Assignments

All assignments are due on or before the first day of school, Monday, August 27

#### History Assignment

The only **required activity is to send us a postcard**. Wherever your summer takes you, take a few minutes to write a postcard about your observations or experience. Just send it to 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, Blessed Sacrament School, 1417 W. Braddock Road, Alexandria, VA 22304. It is always nice to come home to some mail.

**Please note, this is NOT optional!** It is not extra credit. It is your first grade of the year. Please strive to have your card arrive at BSS by Thursday, August 24.

#### Literature Assignments

1. ***The Merchant of Venice*** by William Shakespeare

This is a great play to begin our study of Shakespeare. Read the whole play and complete the following activities. You are being given a numbered book from school, and you will need to bring that back to school with you and return it this fall. To help support your understanding of the play, feel free to read ***No Fear Shakespeare's Merchant of Venice*** or go to Spark Notes to reinforce your understanding of the plot, characters, and key theme.

- a. Keep a “vocabulary log” of the words you do not understand even after reviewing the definitions





“Creating an Educated Community  
To Serve Christ and One Another  
With Integrity and Respect”

in the book. Your log will likely be lengthy, because the spoken language during Shakespeare's time was different and he used sophisticated vocabulary. Please write the definitions for **at least 10** of the words in your log.

b. Create a cartoon, timeline, image map, or plot journey to summarize the plot and key themes.

2. ***A Wrinkle in Time*** by Madeleine L'Engle

Symbolism is when objects/characters/places/things in a story represent an idea. A common example of symbolism is light and dark -- light represents good and dark represents bad. This symbol is seen in *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo. The castle upstairs is a world where good things happen and is full of light; the dungeon, full of sadness and misery, is dark. The symbol of light and dark is also seen in the Disney movie *The Lion King*. Scar, the villain, lives in the Elephant Graveyard, a place that is dark and full of shadows. Mufasa and Simba, the heroes, live on Pride Rock where the sun always shines. When Scar takes over Pride Rock, the land become dark and shadowy, but when Simba defeats Scar, the light from the sun returns.

Write an **outline** for a five paragraph essay that briefly describes the plot, explains the symbol of light and dark (what does light represent? what does dark represent?), and provides examples of where the symbol of light and dark is present in *A Wrinkle in Time*. Your outline should be in a traditional format.

Tip: While you're reading, use stickies or write down every time Madeleine L'Engle talks about something being "dark/shadow" or "light/sun/star/bright." This will help you find examples quickly when you're writing your outline.

3. Read a book you haven't read before and create a soundtrack for your book. You will present your soundtrack to the class when school starts in the fall. Create a slide presentation to explain your soundtrack. Your presentation must include a 6-10 sentence summary of the book, the 8 (school appropriate) songs you chose, and 3-4 sentences (for each song) describing the scene and how the song fits that particular moment. **Remember to include the song title and artist for each song.** If you are able, you may choose to create a CD or playlist to share, or you can embed links to the songs in your presentation.

You may choose any book to read, but your book must be approved by me before you can use it on this project. I check my e-mail once a week during the summer, so I would recommend asking for approval sooner rather than later. Below are some pre-approved suggestions (if you choose one of these, you do **not** need to e-mail me for approval).





“Creating an Educated Community  
To Serve Christ and One Another  
With Integrity and Respect”

***We Were Liars*** by E. Lockhart  
***Cinder*** by Marissa Meyer  
***The Hobbit*** by J.R.R. Tolkien (do **not** read an abridged version)  
***Popular*** by Maya van Wagenen  
***Treasure Island*** by Robert Louis Stevenson (do **not** read an abridged version)  
***Pride and Prejudice*** by Jane Austen (do **not** read an abridged version)  
***North and South*** by Elizabeth Gaskell  
***Long Way Down*** by Jason Reynolds  
***Redwall*** by Brian Jacques (do **not** read an abridged version)  
***The Outsiders*** by S.E. Hinton  
***Bud, Not Buddy*** by Christopher Paul Curtis  
***Eon*** by Alison Goodman  
***Anne of Green Gables*** by L.M. Montgomery (do **not** read an abridged version)  
***Watership Down*** by Richard Adams (do **not** read an abridged version)

## Math Assignment

Your summer math assignment is to complete the following skills on the **multiple** grade levels on <https://www.ixl.com/signin/blesseds> (you can access the website on any computer or you can download an app for your Apple/Android device). The lessons selected are based on the results from the Performance Series Assessment as well as the End of 7<sup>th</sup> grade math placement test. You must achieve a Smart Score of at least 80 on all skills.

- Grade 6 FF.15 Surface area of cubes and rectangular prisms
- Grade 6 P.6 Rational numbers: find the sign
- Grade 7 BB.15 Interpret box-and-whisker plots
- Grade 7 AA.5 Circles: calculate area, circumference, radius, and diameter
- Grade 7 CC.5 Calculate mean absolute deviation
- Grade 7 DD.4 Make predictions
- Grade 7 DD.5 Compound events: find the number of outcomes
- Grade 7 K.3 Identify proportional relationships by graphing
- Grade 7 M.9 Multi-step problems with percents
- Grade 7 K.2 Write equations for proportional relationships from tables
- Grade 7 M.9 Multi-step problems with percents
- Grade 7 R.1 Write variable expressions
- Grade 7 R.2 Write variable expressions: word problems
- Grade 7 R.10 Multiply using the distributive property

1417 West Braddock Road Alexandria, Virginia 22302 P. 703.998.4170 F. 703.998.5033





“Creating an Educated Community  
To Serve Christ and One Another  
With Integrity and Respect”

- Grade 7 U.5 Complete a table for a two-variable relationship
  
- Grade 8 H.12 Scale drawings: word problems
- Grade 8 O.2 Classify triangles
- Grade 8 X.4 Solve one-step inequalities

If you are unable to access a computer over the summer or would prefer to not do computer based summer math work, don't worry! You may complete the summer math book instead. Those students that had Mrs. Cassella for math this year should order the Grade 7 summer math book. Those students who had Mrs. Dougherty for math this year should order the Pre-Algebra summer math book. The link below will bring to the math book order website:

<http://www.summerskills.com/books/summer-math-skills-sharpener-1>

Enjoy your summer and keep your math skills fresh!

Ms. Cassella and Mrs. Dougherty



