

Mrs. Fenimore  
BSSVA

June 10, 2022

### Summer Reading Assignments

Dear Class of 2024:

Congratulations on completing your 6<sup>th</sup> grade year! We have an exciting year ahead in Literature and will be reading a variety of genres.

To build great reading habits, you must read. You have **three required assignments for the summer. They will be due in August when you return to school.**

**Required reading #1:** Read the short story, “Thank You, Ma’am,” by Langston Hughes. It is available online. Create a poster using images, drawings, or symbols to represent the theme of the story. Divide your poster into two parts. The top part will be the images or symbols that represent the theme. You may also draw the images or use cutouts from magazines. On the bottom half of the poster, you will write a paragraph (introductory sentence, three details, and a concluding sentence) explaining what you think the theme of the short story is. The poster can be any size but no smaller than 8.5 x 11 inches. Be prepared to present your poster to the class. Make sure you put your name on your poster. Neatness counts.

**Required reading #2:** Read a historical or realistic fiction book and write a book review on it. The review will be formal, so no contractions or slang are to be used in your writing. Your book review must include the following:

- I. Introduction (3-5 sentences)
  - A. Include the title of the book, the author, and the genre
  - B. Your opening paragraph should give a general idea about what the book is about
- II. Body (5 sentences)
  - A. Details about important characters
  - B. Details about the setting
  - C. Details about the plot
- III. Conclusion (3-5 sentences)
  - A. Evaluate the book
  - B. Offer an opinion without giving away the ending

Please type your book review using Times New Roman font style in 12-point font size and double-space your sentences. Use the Middle School heading for this assignment:

First and last name  
BSSVA

Date  
7 LIT

**Required reading #3:** Read *Wonder*, by R.J. Palacio. This summer, BSS will participate in a "one book, one school" summer reading program that is designed to bring our school community together by reading the same book. Last year we read *El Deafo*, by C.C. Bell. This year, we will read the **novel version** of the book *Wonder*, which your family will need to purchase. After reading *Wonder*, your assignment will be to create a poster that demonstrates the message of this book. You should draw your illustrations yourself and use quotes from the book (or create your own quote) that express what you learned from reading this book (such as the importance of being kind to others). Your illustrations must be colored. The poster can be any size but no smaller than 8.5 in. x 11 in. Make sure you put your name on your poster. Neatness counts. Please return to school prepared to discuss this book.

**SUMMER 2022**



**TO: BSS MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Math Summer Assignments  
Math 7th Grade**

**Complete Math workbooks (including  
yellow page brain aerobics) that were  
sent home in the backpacks.**

**Have a great summer,**

**Ms. Cassella and Mr. Najarro  
MS Math Teachers**



## Summer 2022 – Optional Science Assignments for the Class of 2024 (Rising 7th)

### Optional Science Summer Work

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. This science may be submitted as extra credit assignments. Any optional science work you complete is due on the first day of science class 2022.

#### **Option 1 - Science in the Summer** (max of 5-10 bonus points, depending on quality; the real benefit is what you learn!)

Students are encouraged to visit a science or discovery museum, a nature center, a National Park, or an outdoor museum such as a botanical garden or zoo and spend some time investigating the exhibits and/or speaking with the park ranger or docent. Pursue these options if they are available or, if not, take virtual trips, do some science experiments at home, or keep a nature journal. To receive extra credit, complete a one-page (200-300 words) written paper giving specific information and descriptions about what you did and where, what you observed and learned, and what you found most fascinating. Photos and/or drawings are welcome additions. If you keep a nature journal this summer, then submit your journal for me to review instead of doing a one-page paper. Some interesting places to visit virtually are the Exploratorium, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and virtual tours available for many national parks. Visit places (virtually) in other parts of the world too! If you like experiments, there are lots of online resources and kits (e.g., Steve Spangler). If you keep a nature journal, make observations, draw pictures, gather data, ask questions, and make connections.

#### **Option 2 - Reading and Writing about Real Scientists** (max of 10-15 points, depending on quality)

Read a biography or autobiography about a scientist or inventor. Write a five-paragraph essay including:

- Your name, "7th Grade Optional Summer Science Work," name of book and scientist;
- Introductory paragraph including when and where the scientist lived and why he/she is significant;
- One paragraph summarizing highlights from his/her life (scientific work and achievements);
- One paragraph describing any particular challenges the scientist faced (personally or in the work);
- One paragraph about how his/her life is similar to and/or different from your own;
- A closing paragraph that tells what you found most interesting about that scientist.
- Include a bibliographic citation: title, author, publisher, and publishing date of book.

### **General Advice for Summer**

*The most effective preparation for the High School Placement Test (which you will take in 8th grade) is to **read voraciously** (which means to read, read, read!), look up and learn new vocabulary as you go, and **practice basic arithmetic** so you are nimble with computation and general math facts. If you start this preparation anytime in middle school, it will enhance your success. Avid reading expands your vocabulary, strengthens familiarity with language mechanics and writing styles, and reinforces proper capitalization, spelling, and punctuation. Practicing basic arithmetic (addition, subtraction, multiplication, long division, fractions, decimals, percentages, etc.) helps because many math problems on HSPT involve computation.*

The following are opportunities for summer exploration. The items below ARE NOT required. In addition to not being required, the Social studies ideas ARE NOT extra credit assignments.

**History** (These are NOT required or for extra credit)

1. Consider taking advantage of some of the museum opportunities that exist in the Washington and Alexandria areas. The following are suggestions that I think you would enjoy and that will give you some context for topics you will be studying during the next two years.
  - Smithsonian Museum of American History
  - Smithsonian: National Portrait Gallery and Museum of American Art, located together across from Verizon Center
  - Mount Vernon
  - Carlyle House
  - Gadsby's Tavern
  - Jamestown
  - Various Civil War Battle sites
  - National Museum of the American Indian
  - National Building Museum. Exhibit, Washington
  - National Museum of African American History and Culture
  - The White House
  - Tours of the Capitol
  - The Library of Congress
2. Look for the history-ish opportunity wherever you are! Examples: Various War memorials in Alexandria and DC, World War II watch towers along Delaware Coast like at Cape Henlopen.
3. Read! Any historical fiction or nonfiction will broaden your base for understanding our study of US history in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades. You can also follow a current events topic.
4. Movies: Many great movies can expose you to historical context or significant people in history. Do some searching and find a few that interest you.

Have a fun, safe summer and I look forward to seeing you in August!

Peace, Mrs. Fenimore