

Dear families of FSMA students entering Grades 4/5/6,

Thank you so much for all of your support at home as we all experienced a very unique school year!! We appreciate everything you did to help your child continue to learn and grow. We want to make sure that students keep learning over the summer - while also enjoying time off and time outside!

Why it's important that students keep learning over the summer...

<p><i>"Numerous studies indicate that students who don't read or read infrequently during their summer vacation see their reading abilities stagnate or decline. This effect becomes more pronounced as students get older and advance through the school system."</i></p> <p>-posted on the official blog of U.S. Dept of Education here</p>		<p><i>"Across the socioeconomic spectrum, kids arrive back at school every fall much worse off in mathematics than they finished in the spring. On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of learning in math over the summer."</i></p> <p>-from an article called <i>Summer Math Loss</i> published on the Harvard Graduate School of Education website</p>
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We expect all students to complete the FSMA summer reading assignment of reading three books and reflecting on their reading. This required work is explained on page 3. Students should also do some math practice; options for this are explained on page 4.

Below are some other ways that you can help boost their learning during the summer!

Ways you can help encourage reading at home over the summer...

1. Set a summer reading goal - or have your child join a summer reading challenge (check out the [Scholastic](#) and [Delaware Libraries' Summer Reading Program](#) links!)
2. Schedule **family reading time** where everyone reads together - everyone can read their own book, or you could do a family read aloud.
3. Have your child start a **book club** with a friend (or group of friends) and have everyone read the same book. They can discuss the book as they read!
4. Find a book of **science experiments** or **new recipes** and try them out. Authentic reading is great! This can also tie in some math skills :)
5. Keep in mind that **choice** is important! For reluctant readers, graphic novels, audio books, and even picture books are ways they can read and feel successful if chapter books feel too intimidating. Also, reach out to your child's teacher if your child needs book recommendations or can't find a good one.

Ways you can encourage math at home over the summer... (the first four are from the Harvard article linked above)

1. **Highlight the math in everyday activities.** When shopping, help kids calculate change or discounts. When watching a baseball game, talk about what players' statistics mean. When cooking, try halving or doubling a recipe, and assist kids in figuring out the new proportions.
2. **Read short math stories** together. [Studies](#) have shown that reading math-focused stories to children, such as [Bedtime Math books](#) or the [Family Math series](#), can help boost math scores in school.
3. Play **math games**. Games like Yahtzee, Racko, Blokus, Monopoly, and Set all rely on skills necessary for math, such as counting, categorizing, and building. Even playing with blocks and assembling jigsaw puzzles can help kids learn spatial skills and recognize patterns.
4. Find **small ways to practice math** at home. While worksheets alone won't solve summer math slump, small amounts of practice with basic formulas can help. Problem-of-the-day math calendars are a great way to practice basic math problems on a small scale. Parents can also find resources on [Investigations](#) about what types of mathematical procedures they should be practicing with their children and some at-home resources you can use.
5. If your child doesn't know all of their **multiplication facts**, you can use this [resource](#) to watch a video and read about the subitizing flashcards. It's a different type of flashcard that works on understanding, not just memorization. There's a link to print the [flashcards](#) as well. This [site](#) offers 5 minute daily multiplication practice as well (click on Multiplication Flash Cards).
6. Have your child complete the [summer Zearn work](#) or [continue using Dreambox](#) - see page 4!!

Last year, the 4/5/6 team decided to tweak our summer work expectations for the upcoming summer. We also saw these two quotes below that inspired our thoughts for our summer reading assignments, so we wanted to share them with you:



Please read over the information in the following pages that explains our FSMA required summer work for students entering grades 4/5/6. Let us know if you have any questions!

Happy summer, and happy learning! -The 4/5/6 Team

Name:

4/5/6 Summer Work: Reading & Reflection

This reading work is **required** for all students who will be in grades 4/5/6 next year. Read **at least** three books: one that's a **MIRROR**, one that's a **window**, and one that's a **sliding glass door**.

A book that's a MIRROR is...	A book that's a window is...	A book that's a sliding glass door is...
<p>one where you can see yourself reflected in the book.</p> <p>You identify with at least one of the main characters. You have something in common with the character's identity, such as their race, gender, age (within a few years), country of origin, ability, religion, family structure, etc.</p>	<p>one where you look through to see a world that is different than your own.</p> <p>It should include characters who have different identities than you do. It could be set in another country or time period. This will allow you to compare your life and your experiences to those in the book.</p>	<p>one that allows you to enter a new world.</p> <p>You feel like you're in a new place when you read it. *This could also be a non-fiction book where you learn about a new topic.*</p>

Directions:

- 1) Read a book from one of the categories.
- 2) Record the information in the chart.
- 3) Explain how the book fits the category, using at least 5 complete sentences for each book.
 - You may handwrite it or type it using Google Docs to share with your teacher in the fall.
 - If you handwrite it, make sure you keep it somewhere safe to turn in in the fall!
- 4) Be ready to share about your books and reflections in the fall.

Category	Book Title and Author	I explained in 5 sentences how this book fit the category for me.
A book that's a MIRROR		Yes No
A book that's a window		Yes No
A book that's a sliding glass door		Yes No

OPTIONAL: Do a creative project that reflects your summer reading journey. It could be about one book or all three. Click [here](#) for tons of project ideas, or come up with your own!

Summer Work Information for Students

Entering FSMA Grades 4/5/6: Math

You should also do some math work over the summer.

You may choose from the options below and/or the ones linked at the bottom of this page.

Zearn

You have been assigned to one mission on Zearn that you can complete this summer. If you finish all of the lessons in that mission, you may continue onto the next mission.

To log into Zearn, go to www.zearn.org

Your username and password are the same as your FSMA Google log-in.

You can also click "Log in with Google" and use your FSMA Google account that way.

Each Zearn lesson has **five** sections. **Four** of the sections will be completed **on the computer**, and then there is a **paper and pencil exit ticket**. You won't have the printed out paper exit tickets from Zearn at home this summer, but you can still solve them on a piece of paper by following along with the video.

Dreambox

You still have access to Dreambox until **August 15, 2021**. This is a great option, and we highly recommend that you use Dreambox over the summer!

Multiplication Work

<https://mathigon.org/> offers 5 minute daily multiplication practice, and it's a great way to practice your facts over the summer. On the website, scroll down and click on Multiplication Flash Cards:



See the document called "[Extra Ideas and Links for 4/5/6 Summer Work](#)" for some other fun ways that you can also practice math over the summer!