



Plant The Seed Today

Incoming 8th Graders

To best support student learning, and ensure their brains stay sharp over the summer they have some reading assignments. Your involvement as a parent is critical to the success of the Saint Hilary Summer Learning Program:

- *Increased parent involvement leads to improved student achievement (Fan & Chen, 2001 and Jeynes, 2003)*
- *Parent involvement is the most consistent predictor of student success in school (Ballen & Moles) 1994 and Warner, 1997)*
- *Children who perceive their parents as supporting academics in school perform better (Epstein, 2001)*

"... the amount and quality of student's access to materials is substantively related to the amount of reading they engage in, which in turn is the most important determinant of reading achievement." The studies show that students' who read *more*, read better; they also write better, spell better, have larger vocabularies, and have better control of complex grammatical constructions (Krashen, 2009).

It is very important that all Saint Hilary students continue to practice math and improve their skills. For that reason, we are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDING** students spend an average of 15-20 minutes practicing their math skills, and 15-20 minutes of daily reading.

Dear Parents and incoming Eighth Grade Students,

We are looking forward *to* the new incoming class! It will be exciting to witness this 8th grade class' journey as they prepare for high school.

With that in mind, we would like to make some recommendations for the students in terms of summer activities:

1. Prepare for the high school entrance exam test.
2. Study vocabulary.
3. Practice typing skills for essay writing.
4. Begin on service hours.

Many students have found that taking the prep classes is too much during the regular school year with homework and sports. There are many classes offered over the summer or you can purchase the HSPT (High School Placement Test) workbook at any Barnes and Noble or Borders bookstores, or through Amazon. It is important for the students to become familiar with the format of the test and the type of questions that are asked. Recommended workbooks are:

1. The Best Test Preparation for the Catholic High School Entrance Exams (COOP & HSPT)

- (REA) (Test Preps) by Anita Price Davis and Brian Walsh (Paperback -April2010)
2. Kaplan Catholic High School Entrance Exams, 2009 Edition by Kaplan (Paperback -Jun 3, 2008)
 3. Master the Catholic High School Entrance Exams 2009 (Master the Catholic High School Entrance Examinations) by Peterson's (Paperback -April15, 2008)

Practice vocabulary over the summer. A large part of the high school entrance exam test is vocabulary - there will be many words you have never heard of, and part of the test is to see if you can determine its meaning based on context clues. There are games and programs you can look at and do for free by going to:

<http://www.webenglishteacher.com/vocab2.html> <http://www.classzone.com>
<http://www.aaaspell.com/vocab8.htm?l>

In addition to preparing for your high school entrance exam test, it is equally as important *to* practice your typing and computer skills for essay writing. You will be writing a lot next year-in Language Arts as well as Social Studies and Religion. It is important to be comfortable with setting margins, spelling accuracy while typing, fonts, typefaces, creating charts, setting line spacing for single spacing and double spacing, cutting and pasting blocks of type, creating headers and footers, inserting page numbers and tables, and creating power point presentations. There are many websites that provide tutorials, games or software. A few are listed below, or your local Office Depot or Staples stores would have programs available.

Recommended Resources for Math Review:

- o Athletics- Go to www.mathletics.com and click the Sign In button. Enter the User Name and Password you have been assigned. If you are a new or current student, and experience any trouble with the log-on information please email Ms. Potter cpotter@sainthilaryschool.org or assistance.
- o Khan Academy <https://www.khanacademy.org/>.
- o If you need further assistance please email Mrs. De Biasio cdebiasio@sainthilaryschool.org
- o Summerskills.com (order workbook)
- o Workbooks from Lakeshore Learning
- o <http://n.lvm.usu.edu/>

Recommended Resources for Typing Practice:

- Typing Web: <http://www.typingweb.com/>
- Dance Mat Typing <http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/typing/>
- Fix the Keyboard: <http://www.abcya.com/keyboard.htm>
- Typing Tests: <http://www.freetyping-game.net/ftee-t:1Jing-tcst.asp>

Prayers for Incoming 8th Grader

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| 1. Sign of the Cross | 10. Morning Offering |
| 2. Our Father | 11. Apostles Creed |
| 3. Hail Mary | 12. Prayer of St. Francis |
| 4. Grace Before Meals | 13. Hail Holy Queen |
| 5. Grace After Meals | 14. Mysteries of the Rosary |
| 6. Act of Contrition/Sorrow | 15. Act of Faith, Hope, Love (Charity) |
| 7. Angel of God | 16. Magnificat |
| 8. Mass Responses | 17. Memorare |
| 9. Glory Be | 18. Come, Holy Spirit |

19. Angelus
20. Nicene Creed

8th Grade Summer Reading

The summer reading for 8th grade will utilize our school's wonderful Accelerated Reader program so that it better reflect students who read at different levels, we do not want to assign specific books, but instead, want the students to pick books that are within their reading ranges. Students are required to read **3 new books** from **3 different genres** over the summer. Below is the list of genres from which students can choose. At the bottom of this document are a few recommendations that relate directly to the 8th grade curriculum in Literature and US History.

- Biography/ autobiography
- Informational
- Historical
- Classic literature
- Historical fiction
- Realistic fiction
- Fantasy
- Science fiction
- Mystery

Students should use their AR reading ranges to select appropriately leveled books. They will be sent home with 4th quarter report cards. To find appropriately leveled books for your child please visit ARBookfind.com and type in the name of a book that you are considering.

If you are a new student to the school and do not have a reading range from the Accelerated Reader program, choose 3 books from 3 different genres. Do your best to choose books that are in your reading level. A good rule of thumb: Read one full page. If you cannot read and understand five or more words on that page, the book is too difficult for you. If there are no challenging words, the book may be too easy.

Below are suggestions that directly relate to the 8th grade curriculum from a variety of genres.

Classical	<i>The Pearl</i> by John Steinbeck
Classical	<i>Midsummer's Nights Dream</i> by William Shakespeare
Sci-Fi	<i>Jurassic Park</i> by Michael Crichton
Sci-Fi	<i>The Martian Chronicles, Bradbury</i> by Ray Bradbury
Sci-Fi	<i>Journey to the Center of the Earth</i> by Jules Verne
Hist. Fict.	<i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i> by Harriet Beacher Stow
Hist. Fict.	<i>Red Badge of Courage</i> by Steven Crane
Historical	<i>Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee</i> by Dee Brown
Historical	<i>Get on Board: The Underground Railroad</i> by Jim Haskins

Thank you and have fun reading!