

June 2019

Dear Future Fifth Grader,

We are incredibly excited to start our journey together. In preparation for next year, we ask that you read as much as possible this summer, and complete some math lessons on IXL. Teachers can view your IXL account and see all the hard work you put in, so show us what you know and don't slack off! Later in the summer it will be time to shop for supplies too, so that list is here as well. You can also find all of this information on Mrs. Hibbert-Kapler's [class website](#) (as Mr. O'Driscoll's website is not yet live).

### **Reading**

Over the summer, all students must read two books: *Wonder* by RJ Palacio, and *Blood on the River* by Elisa Carbone. We know a lot of students have read *Wonder* before, but we will be having many in depth discussions about the characters and plot of the book, so even if you have read it before, please re-read it so that you are prepared for discussions. You are also welcome to read with a parent or listen to the audiobook version (but the movie doesn't count!). *Blood on the River* is an exciting book about early Jamestown that will help set the stage for our discussions on colonization and early American history. (If you love this book, its brand new sequel is listed as an option in the Suggested Summer Reading Books below).

In addition to *Wonder* and *Blood on the River*, we ask that students pick at least two other books from the attached reading list. Of course, please feel free to choose more than two books from the list—we approve them all! Be prepared to discuss the books you read when you begin the school year.

We will establish consistent reading habits this year, and we would like you to be accustomed to daily reading. In addition to homework in math or other classes, fifth graders read 30 minutes a day for homework. Weekends too! Reading a lot helps you become smarter overall, and especially helps with writing and vocabulary. Just like you would practice for a sport in order to become better, reading exercises our brains! Libraries and bookstores always have great books on display in the summer, so browse around and see what catches your eye.

### **Math Skills**

As rising fifth graders, you will be required to complete some math work over the summer. Our math coordinator, Dave Lobato, has created a [website](#) where you can find all the information you need, including a link to the IXL program we are using. IXL requires a username and password, which is the same one you used last year. Please contact [Mr. Lobato](#) if you have any questions.

Also, to keep your math skills sharp, practice your multiplication facts often. Five or ten minutes practice per day is best. Fifth graders should know their facts from one to twelve, ensuring a solid foundation for the creative thinking and problem solving we will do in fifth grade math. You can play games using dice or a deck of cards, or you can try some online games to keep those facts fresh. Also, if you think you need addition and subtraction facts practice, please add that to your list. A fun and free website for math facts practice is [Xtramath](#).

### **Typing**

Typing is a skill that should be practiced everyday for a small amount of time. In fifth grade we type a lot of assignments, and sometimes your brain might move faster than your hands, so the more you practice, the easier it will be for you to get your ideas out on the computer. This summer, we would like you to practice your typing skills for ten minutes a day. You can use the *Type-to-Learn* program available to you through school. Another idea: email a family member or another email pen-pal. You can even borrow your parent's email if they allow!

### **Supplies**

For the classroom: two 1" binders and one 1.5" binder; a reusable water bottle; 1 clipboard; 1 package of #2 pencils; scissors; 2-4 pads of 3x3 yellow post-it notes; a 4 pack of assorted color highlighters; a pair of small headphones/earbuds; 1 small package of thin whiteboard markers; 2-3 glue sticks; 1 box of colored pencils (optional)

For specials: two 1" three-ring binders with internal pockets (one for art and one for music); a wide-ruled 1 subject spiral notebook with at least 100 pages and 1.5" three-ring binder (for Spanish); one 1" binder for science.

Most importantly, have a wonderful summer with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you in September.

Fondly,  
Mr. O'Driscoll and Mrs. Hibbert-Kapler

## Suggested Summer Reading Books - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Along with your summer reading books, please try to read as much as possible this summer!

Read at the beach, in the car, in a tent, out loud, or with a family member or a friend!

Listening to books counts! (And even better if you follow along in the book while you listen.)

Below is a list of some top suggestions from previous 5th graders. There are a bunch more suggestions on my [website](#) (also found through the FA website). Please read **at least two books** in addition to *Wonder* and *Blood on the River*.

*Book of Ember* (series - Duprau)

*Alex Rider* (series - Horowitz)

*A Dog's Life* (Martin)

*11 Birthdays* (series - Mass)

*Hatchet* (Paulsen)

*Septimus Heap* (series - Sage)

*Liar and Spy* (Stead)

*The Ear, the Eye and the Arm* (Farmer)

*A Dog's Purpose* (Cameron)

*The Dreamer* (Ryan)

*Inside Out and Back Again* (Lai)

*The One and Only Ivan* (Applegate)

*The Name Of This Book Is Secret* (series - Bosch)

*Harry Potter* (series - Rowling)

*Fablehaven* (series - Mull)

*The Inheritance Cycle* (series - Paolini)

*Wildwood Chronicles* (series - Meloy)

*Chains and Forge and Ashes* (Anderson)

*Number The Stars* (Lowry)

*The Mysterious Benedict Society* (Stewart)

*Fish In A Tree* (Hunt)

*Poison in the Colony, Jamestown 1622* (the sequel to *Blood on the River*, Carbone)

*Crossover* (series, Alexander)

*Ghost* (Reynolds)

*A Mango-Shaped Space* (Mass)

*Projekt 1065* (Gratz)

*The War that Saved My Life* and *The War I Finally Won* (Bradley)

*Refugee* (Gratz)