



Rising Fourth Grade Summer Assignments

Welcome to 4th Grade at Saint James Catholic School! To avoid “summer slide,” we encourage your child to invest some time during summer break enjoying, retaining, and growing math, reading, and writing skills.

Summer Math Assignment:

Retain and grow your math fact fluency by earning three green lights a week on Reflex.

Our work with Reflex has been amazingly successful. The majority of this year's graduating 4th graders reached 100% fluency in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts! You will be giving your child a great advantage in 4th grade and beyond if you ensure that Reflex becomes routine. We strongly recommend that parents create a Reflex Parent Reporting Account to monitor progress of math fact fluency. See this guide to create an account:

<https://blog.explorelearning.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Reflex-Parent-and-Teacher-Remote-Learning-Guide.pdf>

We also recommend that students use Moby Max to retain their math skills.

Summer Reading and Writing Assignments:

Reading Assignment: Read one book from the Virginia Mysteries Book Series by Seven K. Smith.

Writing Assignment: Write a letter to the author. Refer to the Summer Assignment packet for instructions. It has sample letters, ideas for what to write about, paper for the letter, and the checklist you will use and attach to your letter. Please remember not mail your letter! Also, do not write your home address or last name on the letter! We will mail all the 4th grade letters to the author in September. The Summer Assignment packet was given to your child at school. If you need a new packet, please pick one up at the office.

Due Date: Turn in your handwritten (cursive) letter and checklist by Friday, August 27th.

More information: Using your child's Lexile measure as a guide (see Scantron reading report), choose one of the nine books from the Virginia Mysteries Book Series by Steven K. Smith.

Lexile.com states that "Lexile measures are a guide, helping you make a more informed choice about reading materials. A young person's Lexile range spans from 100L below to 50L above his or her Lexile measure." For example, children with a Lexile measure of 700L will have a Lexile range of 600L to 750. Within this range, a reader is expected to comprehend the text well enough to understand it, while still experiencing some reading challenge.

Of course, you can choose books outside that range. Lexile.com gives these tips:

- If a book is **above your child's Lexile range**, she may try to read it, especially if it's a topic that interests him or her. Support reading by helping look up the meaning of tougher words and connecting your child with other resources on the topic.
- Choosing books **below your child's Lexile range** is fine for any type of reader, but can be especially helpful for struggling and reluctant readers, who can build confidence while learning about new topics and interests.

Two of the books from Virginia Mysteries Book Series have been Lexile-scored: *Summer of the Woods* (Lexile 790) and *Shadows at Jamestown* (Lexile 650). The author has informed us that, in his opinion, the other books in the series fall within that range. They include: *Mystery on Church Hill*, *Ghosts of Belle Isle*, *Secret of the Staircase*, *Midnight at the Mansion*, *Spies at Mount Vernon*, *Escape from Monticello*, and *Pictures at the Protest*. The books are numbered but do not need to be read in order.

The Virginia State Reading Association named *Shadows at Jamestown* as a Virginia Readers' Choice elementary title for 2019-20. The historical themes in the series reinforce our social studies curriculum. The books contain facts about places such as Jamestown, Colonial Williamsburg, Mount Vernon, and Washington D.C. They also highlight significant historic figures including Pocahontas, Patrick Henry, Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Abraham Lincoln and more.

We look forward to meeting you in August! Have a happy summer!

Mrs. Kilgallin and Mrs. Smith