



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 reading and math 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: Using your child’s Lexile measure as a guide (see your child’s Scantron reading report), read one of the ten books from the *Virginia Mysteries* book series by Steven K. Smith.

Writing Assignment: Write a letter to the author in your best cursive handwriting. During the last week of school, we sent home a packet of information to guide the writing process (sample letters, ideas for topics, paper, and checklist). If you need this packet, please stop by the office. When finished with the writing assignment, do not mail your letter and please do not write your home address on the letter! Sign the letter with your first name only. We plan to mail all the 4th grade letters to the author in August.

Due Date: Turn in (1) your handwritten (cursive) letter and (2) your checklist by Friday, August 26th.

More information:

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 notes that:

- If a book is **above your child’s Lexile range**, your child may try to read it, especially if it’s a topic that interests him or her. Support reading by helping your child 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, especially struggling and reluctant readers who can build confidence while learning about new topics and interests.

Most of the books from *Virginia Mysteries* book series have been Lexile-scored. *Secret of the Staircase* has a Lexile of 540. Most of the books in the series are in the 600 Lexile range. *Summer of the Woods* has a Lexile of 790. The books are numbered, but do not need to be read in any order. The author also has interesting resources for each book that will help your child build background knowledge: <https://myboys3.com/resources/>

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. All 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