

READING

is out of this

• RISING 4TH
• SUMMER
• ASSIGNMENT •

WORLD



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 Thursday, August 31st.

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!

The Fourth Grade Team



Reflex at Home or On the Go!

Dear Parents/Guardians,

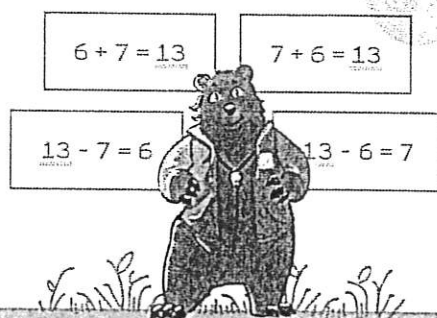
Reflex is an online, game-based program that helps students build fast and effortless recall of math facts. Research has shown that quick recall of math facts is critical for future success in mathematics. Below, please find additional information to help support your child's progress to math fact fluency with Reflex at home or on the go.

- Students are encouraged to login to **Reflex** math at least 3 times a week and strive for the **green light** each time.
- Your child can utilize the **Reflex** math program from any device, including smartphones, with internet access throughout the school year from home or on the go.
- **Reflex** helps students of all ability levels to develop fluency with their basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.
- **Reflex** continuously monitors and adapts to your child's performance to create an optimal experience for them. It is important that others do not use your child's account.
- You can easily track your child's progress by creating a **Free Reflex Parent Account**. Use the instructions on the right to get started!

Create a Free Parent Account

To set up an account, you will need your child's Reflex login information: (teacher's Reflex Username, the name of the Reflex Class, and your child's Reflex Password).

1. Go to reflexmath.com/parent
2. Follow the onscreen instructions to create your free account.
3. Go to www.reflexmath.com/reports
Once you are logged, follow the instructions to add your child.
4. Once registered, launch the parent account at www.reflexmath.com/reports to log into your new account. Enter your Username (your email address) and Password and click Submit.



If you have any questions about Reflex, you may contact ExploreLearning directly,
at support@reflexmath.com

reflexmath.com

Reflex at Home or On the Go!

Dear Teachers,

Below please find some quick tips and how to prepare for Reflex success at home or on the go!

Links to resources have been added for more information or instruction if needed. Reminder: *Reflex* is an adaptive and individualized online, game-based math program that helps students of all ability levels to develop fluency with their basic facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Tips to Ensure Reflex Success at Home or on the Go!

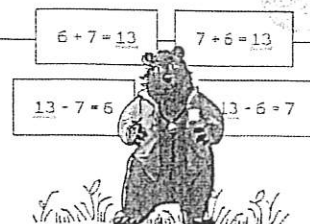
- *Reflex* is appropriate for all students who have the conceptual understanding for adding and subtracting and/or multiplying and dividing.
- Encourage students to login to *Reflex* at least 3 times a week and strive for the green light each time.
- Remind students that the Green Light-
 - ✓ Unlocks New Games
 - ✓ Opens the Store
- Remind students that they can utilize *Reflex* from any device, including smartphones, with internet access from home or on the go.
- Send home a blank fact family pyramid and/or your own green light tracker for students to monitor their own progress. (see link to Engagement Kit below)

Preparing for Reflex Success at Home or on the Go!

- ☐ Ensure that all students are enrolled in your Reflex class and have an assignment.
- ☐ Provide all students with their Reflex Login cards
- ☐ Set a Weekly Green Light Goal for students to achieve.
- ☐ Review the Class Report named **Group Status** daily/weekly to monitor student progress with fluency & Green Light Goals. To access this report click **Class Reports** and then **Group Status** from your teacher dashboard.
- ☐ Recognize student progress by highlighting Student Milestones through email, class webpage, social media, etc...
- ☐ Distribute the attached **Parent Newsletter** to all Parents/Guardians.

Teacher Reflex Resource Links:

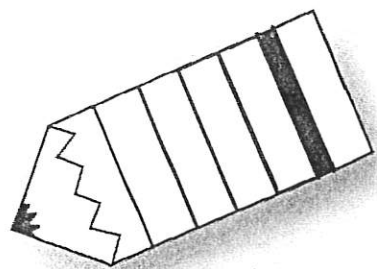
[Reflex Engagement Kit](#)
[Remote Learning Resources](#)



If you have any questions about Reflex, you may contact ExploreLearning directly,
at Support@reflexmath.com

Name: _____ Date: _____

Letter to the Author Checklist



- ☐ I included the date of the letter.
- ☐ I wrote the salutation, and added a comma afterwards.
- ☐ I indented the body of the letter.
- ☐ I included the closing, and added a comma afterwards.
- ☐ I included my signature / name at the end of the letter.
- ☐ I used my best handwriting to write the letter.
- ☐ My handwriting was neat and easy to read.
- ☐ I included the correct punctuation at the end of every sentence.
- ☐ I used capital letters at the beginning of each sentence, and in other areas, as needed.
- ☐ I asked the author a question, made a connection, or included an observation in the letter to the author.
- ☐ I used my best spelling strategies.
- ☐ I did my best thinking and writing.

Letters to the Author Topics

- ☐ The most memorable thing about your book...
- ☐ If I wrote the text, I would change...
- ☐ One part that was challenging for me was...
- ☐ Your book was interesting to me because...
- ☐ I noticed that you built suspense by...
- ☐ What surprised me most about your text was...
- ☐ My predictions about your book...
- ☐ I believe I know why you chose the title of the book...
- ☐ My favorite part about your book is...
- ☐ The part of your text that I disliked the most is...
- ☐ Your book was a good fit for me because...
- ☐ The text was like another book I once read...
- ☐ Your book made me think of something in my own life...
- ☐ The main character from your book reminded me of...
- ☐ An important question I have about the character is...
- ☐ While reading, I figured out that...

Letters to the Author Topics

- ☐ I noticed that the setting of your book...
- ☐ I thought it was so interesting the way you...
- ☐ I love the genre of your book because...
- ☐ It was hard for me to continue reading the text because..
- ☐ The text reminded me...
- ☐ I wanted to read your book because...
- ☐ I would recommend your book to a friend because...
- ☐ I don't think I would recommend your book because...
- ☐ While reading your text, I was feeling...
- ☐ While reading your book, I was thinking about...
- ☐ While reading the text, I was imagining...
- ☐ If I was writing the ending, I would have...
- ☐ The ending of your book surprised me by...
- ☐ The main feeling I had while reading your book...
- ☐ I could tell that your message was...
- ☐ The illustrations from your book...

FRIENDLY LETTER

Sample

*use this format

June 30, 2021

**Indent Each
Paragraph in
body.**

Dear Aunt Rita,

**Capitalize Dear and name.
Comma after name.**

I had a wonderful time visiting you this summer. Swimming in your pool was a lot of fun. I liked your slide and playing Marco Polo with my cousins.

Thank you for taking me to the museum too. That was so thoughtful. I learned so much about the Revolutionary War. I wonder if I would be a Patriot or Loyalist?

**Capitalize
each
sentence
and proper
nouns.
Punctuation
at the end of
every
sentence.**

I will never forget my visit with you. I hope to come back next summer! Will you be able to come see us soon? I miss you!

**Capitalize first letter only
Comma after closing**

Sincerely yours,

Capitalize name

Joanie

Letter to the author

Sample

{Date} February 14, 2021

Dear Mr. Allen, {Greeting}

{Body} I enjoyed reading your book, The Tunnel Below. I was very surprised about the way that your book ended. I never expected Julie to return to the empty house to look for her best friend. What I expected to happen, is that Julie would keep running until she found her parents.

After rereading the ending of the book and discussing it with a friend, I began to see that it made sense for Julie to go back to the empty house. Julie's best friend was what really mattered in her life.

I can't wait to read another one of your books from the Gone Away Series.

Sincerely, {Closing}

Jen

{Signature}

Handwriting practice paper with a decorative border and horizontal lines.

The border features a repeating pattern of small, stylized 'm' or 'w' shapes. The corners are decorated with a pattern of small dots.

The central area contains 20 horizontal lines for writing practice.