Summer Work for Rising 8th Grade

Hello Rising 8th grade! June, 2023

We've picked out a few learning experiences for you to explore during your summer days. These should help you keep your skills fresh and also help us to get to know each other better at the beginning of the school year. Here's a checklist to help you track your progress as you work….

CHECKLIST - (instructions for each step are below)

____ 1. I completed my math IXL practice for all the skills listed.
____ 2. I read as many books as possible!
____ 3. I developed a presentation from one of my selected books.
____ 4. I wrote a This I Believe speech/essay and shared it with Lacey by September 8th.
____ 5. (For new students) I did some Spanish Duolingo practice.
____ 6. (Optional) I read a science book and emailed John about it.

if you have any questions, please reach out. We hope that you enjoy your summer!

MATH

To practice with some key math skills this summer, we'll do some practice using IXL. Pro tips: 1) do one or two skills a day now and then, instead of trying to do them all at once. 2) When you get an answer wrong, take a minute to look and see what happened – mistakes teach us a lot.

To get started on your home computer, please follow these easy steps:

1. Go to www.IXL.com
2. Enter your username and password in the upper right corner and sign in.
3. If you are a new student or forgot your username or password, email Kiri (kharris@greenestreetfriends.org) to get your sign in information.
4. Click on **Math** and select **7th grade**. Over the summer you'll review **7th grade skills** to stay fresh for 8th grade. You'll work on problems in the categories below.
5. Your assignment is to get to **70 Smartscore points** on the IXL skills listed below.

If you are using a tablet or smartphone, simply download the free IXL app and log in!

UPDATED Grade level 7 skills to complete (IXL reorganized so we updated this list on 7/7/23 :)

A (Integers)- A.2 B (Operations with Integers)- B.24, B.25 D (Operations with Decimals)- D.3 F (Fractions)- F.3, F.5 G (Operations with Fractions)- G.1, G.10, G.13	J (Exponents)- J.2, J.7 L (Ratios, Rates, and Proportions)- L.8, L.9 M (Coordinate Plane)- M.1 O (Percents)- O.6, O.10 R (Expressions)- R.4 S (Equivalent Expressions)- S.3 T (One Variable Equations)- T.6, T.9

Reading

- We hope you will read a ton of books this summer! Even if you don't love to read, we hope you will challenge yourself to read more than usual, because it really helps to build your understanding. If you'd like help finding a book you'll enjoy, please reach out to Lacey lboland@greenestreetfriends.org. It's also great if you want to read graphic novels and/or listen to audio books!

- Choose **one novel or work of non-fiction that you read this summer** to report back on in the first weeks of school. This book should be appropriate to your age, interest and reading ability.

- To provide evidence of your completion of the book, you will make a **brief verbal presentation** to the class that demonstrates your understanding of it.

- Presentation Specifics:
  - Select **one of the elements of the book** (plot, character, setting, or theme).
  - Explain **how** the story element is represented in the book.
  - Your presentation should be **1-3 minutes** in length.
  - You should practice your presentation **over the summer**.
  - Presentations will occur **during the first week of school**.
  - *You do not need to have any physical presentation or slideshow, but you should send this to your English teacher, Lacey, before the start of school if you would like to project it.*

- You will be graded on your presentation skills, knowledge of the book, ability to explain specific details about a story element, and the length of your presentation.

Book Ideas

Here are some 8th grade book lists we like! These offer good suggestions with descriptions, just as possible ideas. Students may choose any books, even if not on these lists. If your

student would like help choosing a book to read, feel welcome to reach out to Lacey (lboland@greenestreetfriends.org).

Book List #1: WeAreTeachers 50 Relatable and Refreshing Books to Teach in Middle School
Book List #2: Pennsylvania Young Reader's Choice Award
Book List #3: Project Lit Book List

Want more guidance? Read along with Lacey this summer and check out these titles!

- **Thirty Talks Weird Love by Alessandra Narváez Varela**
- **A Wish In The Dark by Christina Soontornvat**
- **Alone by Megan E. Freeman**
- **A Work in Progress by Jarrett Lerner**
- **They Both Die At The End by Adam Silvera**
- **What About Will by Ellen Hopkins**
- **Swim Team by Jonnie Christmas**
- **A Seed in the Sun by Aida Salazar**

Writing

- You will write a **This I Believe essay** about a topic about which you feel passionate *and* to which you have a personal connection.
- Your essay should ***balance telling a personal story while making a statement that is applicable to your audience.***

- Steps:
  - Before you write your own, you will read/listen to at least **10** This I Believe essays to serve as a model. You should choose essays from www.thisibelieve.org with a range of topics that interest you. **Listen to the audio version** so that you can hear pacing, emphasis, and passion.
  - Then, you will **write** an edited draft of your own This I Believe speech.
  - You should **share** a Google document with your speech with your English teacher by **September 8, 2023**.
  - At the start of the school year, I will leave comments, you will make edits, and we will practice your presentation skills. After you have made all necessary edits/changes, you will **present** your speech at a middle school assembly.
  - You will be graded on the **completion of each of these tasks**.

- **Guidelines to Help You Write Your Speech:**
  - **Possible topics:**
    - When were you disappointed because someone made you a promise that they failed to keep? Or when did you break a promise that you made to someone else?
    - What skill or area are you working on to make progress?
    - How do you define *hero*, and who is a hero in your life?
    - Have you ever prejudged someone incorrectly, based on their appearance, or has someone ever prejudged you unfairly based on how you look?

        - What obstacles are you proud to have faced and conquered?

    - **Ways to Start:**
        - Avoid beginning an essay with the statement "This I Believe."
        - You will need a ***powerful hook*** to get any reader's attention, such as a **question**, **quotation** (from someone famous or from someone significant in your life), **strong statement** (that your essay will either support or dispute), **metaphor**, or **description.**

    - **Ways to Add Audience Appeal to Personal Essays:**
        - Your essay should be about something ***you care strongly*** enough about to elaborate.
        - Your essay should be ***personal***, but make the frame big enough to be ***universal***.
        - Give your reader a ***small moment and the wider perspective***.
        - Use ***sensory details*** to draw the reader in and avoid using abstract or broad phrases.
        - You can provide a ***brief restatement*** of your opening at the end to come full circle.

Optional Enrichment - The New York Times Learning Network's Summer Reading Contest

Keep those nonfiction reading skills sharp and participate in the New York Times Learning Network's Summer Reading Contest! From June 9th to August 18th middle and high school students are invited to choose something that piques their interest in the Times and then respond telling them why! At the end of each week, judges from the Times newsroom and the Learning Network pick their favorite responses, and publish them. For more information, click here.

SPANISH

This assignment is for new students. We encourage those who are new to Spanish to practice using duolingo as it will give you some Spanish experience before the academic year. Returning students are also welcome to practice!

New Students: Duolingo

1. Create a Duolingo account by clicking the above link.
2. Use your GSFS email account, or create a username which is your first name, last initial 2024 (for example, "KiriH2024" for Kiri) Make your password: gsfs2024
3. Take a placement test to test out of the skills you already know!
4. And have fun practicing! Try doing 10-15 minute sessions a few days in a row, a couple weeks over the summer.

SCIENCE: OPTIONAL (but encouraged) SUMMER READING

Hi Eighth Graders,

I want to start with a key point about science summer work--**there is no mandatory science summer work**. That said, the books below are all outstanding books that either review topics from seventh grade and/or cover the topics that we will be studying in eighth grade. I encourage you to *read at least one of them* because a) they are all really interesting/good books and b) each will provide a bit of background knowledge that may help you feel more prepared as we get into various topics in science this year. Again, **this is not mandatory** (or graded, or extra credit, or anything like that), but I think if you choose one of these books, you will not regret it because you will both enjoy it and learn something from it. Can you read more than one? Of course! If you do choose to read one, please **write me an email** (jdeininger@greenestreetfriends.org) and let me know what you thought.

If You Want Books Helpful for Eighth Grade:

Chemistry:

- *The Ever-Changing Atom*, by Roy Gallant
    - Looks at the history of the atomic theory, which we will cover in depth during the year
- *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson
    - Valuable for its information about astrophysics but also the atomic theory and quantum mechanics
- *Uncertainty*, by David Lindley
    - A very *high-level* book about the history of quantum mechanics and the idea that everything at the smallest scale is very unlike matter at a normal scale
- *The Disappearing Spoon*, by Sam Kean
    - An engaging history of the elements of the periodic table

Motion/Physics:

- *Insultingly Stupid Movie Physics,* or *The Physics of Superheroes (or the Science of Superheroes), or The Science of Harry Potter, or The Science of Star Wars*
    - All interesting books that connect great fictional worlds to real physical principles we will study, at the same time considering how realistic each phenomenon is
- *Einstein's Dreams*, by Alan Lightman
    - A fictional book about different ways that time can operate, expanding our mind to the possibilities of time that will prove helpful in studying relativity

General Scientific Knowledge:

- *What If*, by Randall Monroe
    - Using science to answer ridiculous questions, from the creator of the XKCD comic
- *Thing Explainer*, by Randall Monroe
    - A perhaps more relevant follow-up to *What If*

The Human Body/Evolution:

- *The Body: A Guide for Occupants,* by Bill Bryson
  - Interesting stories of the human body
- *Sapiens,* by Yuval Noah Harari
  - Why and how humans evolved and other, similar species went extinct
- *Evolution Gone Wrong*, by Alex Bezzerides
  - A look at what imperfections in the human body can teach about evolution
- *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot
  - A fascinating true story about the origin of the cells that have played a key role in modern medicine and also how racism and white supremacy have pervaded the medical profession

The Brain/Cognition:

- *The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat*, by Oliver Sacks
  - Fascinating stories about real neuropsychology (specific brain damage) patients and their deficits
- *Blink*, by Malcolm Gladwell
  - Many anecdotes about the power of subconscious processing
- *Thinking Fast and Slow*, by Daniel Kahneman
  - An investigation of the irrational ways that people make decisions