

8th Grade Summer Work List - 2021

This document includes all of your summer work as a rising 8th grader at GSFS. Please have all of your assignments completed and shared with your teachers by the first day of school.

Check out [this video](#) in case you have any questions!

Table of Contents:

- [Math](#) (required)
- [English](#) (required)
- [Social Studies](#) (required)
- [Spanish](#) (choose one of two options)
- [Science](#) (optional but encouraged)

MATH: IXL

We will be using IXL for our summer work in math and as a tool to supplement our curriculum throughout the school year. IXL is a comprehensive math review website with an unlimited number of practice questions in hundreds of skills. Using IXL can be frustrating for some students, in that points are subtracted from your overall score if you answer a question incorrectly. Because of this, I encourage you to review the solution that IXL gives you before moving to the next problem, and take a break when necessary!

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

1. Go to www.IXL.com
2. Enter your child's username and password in the upper right corner and click the button to sign in. If you forgot your username or password, email Jessica at jgriffith@greenestreetfriends.org
3. Click on Math and select **7th grade**. Then work on problems in the categories below.

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

A (Number Theory)- A.5, A.6

B (Integers) - B.6

C (Operations with Integers)- C.4, C.9, C.16

D (Decimals)- D.1, D.4

E (Operations with Decimals)- E.3

G (Operations with Fractions)- G.3

H (Rational Numbers)- H.1, H.7

I (Exponents and Square Roots)- I.2

J (Ratios, Rates, and Proportions)- J.13

L (Percents)- L.6

P (Coordinate Plane)- P.1

R (Expressions and Properties)- R.11, R.16

As we will do in class, your task is to complete each of these skills to 70 smartscore points. If you have completed each of them, I challenge you to go to 100 points in each category and then explore some new categories. These skills will be checked during the first week of school. Here is to an excellent year in math!

Happy learning,

[Jessica](#)

ENGLISH: Writing Assignment

- 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/watch 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 [Cherine](#) by **September 8, 2021.**
 - 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES: Reading Assignment

All rising 8th graders are to read ***March***, the graphic novel by and about John Lewis. There are three volumes - you may choose to read whichever one(s) you like. You do not have to read them in order.

In a paragraph (4-6 sentences) each, please tell which volume you read and address **two** of the following prompts:

1. Describe the central conflict that John Lewis and his colleagues want to address. Why is this problem a priority for them?
2. How does John grow personally and professionally throughout the novel?
3. What would you consider to be the biggest challenges John and his colleagues face? Why?
4. Comment on the effect that the accomplishments that John and his colleagues achieved have had on your life or on society today. Give examples.

These paragraphs should be typed or written neatly with skipped lines. They may be shared or emailed at any time during the summer to mfoley@greenestreetfriends.org. Otherwise they are due the first day back in September. Let Marty know if you read more than one volume.

SPANISH: Duolingo

Choose 1 of the two options below.

Duolingo

All students are on Duolingo. Enter the site and the assigned class (GSFS La clase de 2022.) Please practice the designated assignment for your class (200 XP goal, which was assigned June 11, 2021.)

Please note that I do not have your log-in information on file. You should have this documented. If you cannot find your former log-in information, please sign-up again, and USE YOUR FIRST NAME as a part of your username (so I know who you are.) Your class code is: <https://www.duolingo.com/o/kumijtj>

Watch a TV show or movie in Spanish!

Either watch a show/movie in English with Spanish subtitles, or watch a Spanish TV show/movie.

Below are a few Spanish TV shows on Netflix appropriate for teens.

1. Go, Live your way (Vive a tú manera)
2. Go! La fiesta inolvidable
3. Como caído del cielo
4. Siempre Bruja
5. Nailed it - Spain
6. Lo más sencillo es complicarlo todo
7. La reina del flow

Movies (not all on Netflix)

1. Coco
2. Pachamama
3. Ferdinand
4. Canela
5. Atlético san pancho
6. Anina
7. McFarland, USA
8. Casi Casi
9. Bizarre foods with Andrw Zimmerman (Managua, Veracruz, Santiago, Lima, Bogota, Puerto Rico, Mexico City, Buenos Aires, Barcelona)
10. Living on one dollar

Write a summary of the show or movie you watched in English and write 5 new Spanish words you learned from the show.

[Nicole](#)

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** (jgoodstein@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

The Universe/Astrophysics:

- *A Short History of Nearly Everything*, by Bill Bryson
 - A brief overview of not just what we know about the universe from the largest galaxies to the smallest sub-atomic particles but also *how* we know it
- *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*, by Neil deGrasse Tyson
 - An accessible overview that touches on many topics we will cover this year
- *Cosmic Queries*, by Neil deGrasse Tyson

- An accessible question and answer book based on the Startalk podcast
- *Cosmos*, by Carl Sagan
 - A broad, beautifully-written overview of what we know about the universe

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*

If You Want To Investigate More from Your Favorite Topics of Seventh Grade:

Climate Change:

- *How To Avoid a Climate Disaster*, by Bill Gates
 - An evidence-based approach to looking not only at the evidence for climate change but the most realistic and effective steps we can take to avoid the worst of it

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 Bezzarides
 - 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*, 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