



# St Stephen Catholic School

## Suggested Summer Work

### For Incoming Students

### Background

Research indicates the following:

- All young people experience learning losses when they do not engage in educational activities during the summer months.
- On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of grade-level equivalency in mathematical computation skills over the summer months.

St. Stephen Catholic School is devoted to inspiring students to achieve their full academic potential. We encourage all families to continue their student's learning during the summer months to ensure they are prepared to master the content in the upcoming school year.

### Math

We encourage parents to ensure their child has mastered the standards and benchmarks for their grade from the previous school year. In math, this is critical for students to build on knowledge from year to year. Two high-quality and free resources for helping parents and students to identify and remediate any holes in learning are Khan Academy and IXL.

### IXL:

To use IXL prior to your child starting school at St. Stephen, please contact Yesenia Dieringer ([ydieringer@sscsfl.org](mailto:ydieringer@sscsfl.org)) to set up an account for your child. IXL allows your child to begin by taking a diagnostic assessment to identify areas of mastery and areas where remediation may be needed. Once the diagnostic is complete, the program will suggest activities for your child to complete based on their needs. These identified areas can also help direct you to which levels and domains to start with on Khan Academy.

### Khan Academy:

Khan Academy has grade-level learning plans as well as fun, mission-oriented explorations of math topics. Start here for a parent's guide to setting up a free account for your student:

<https://khanacademy.zendesk.com/hc/en-us/articles/360040168512-Parent-Quick-Start-Guide#h.s89zjb4vnwed>

- **Students who need remediation:** If your child is performing below grade-level, missions such as Early Math, Arithmetic, or Pre-Algebra can help solidify their math foundations first.

10424 Saint Stephen Circle, Riverview, FL 33569 ♦ T. 813-741-9203 ♦ F 813-741-9622 ♦ [sscsfl.org](http://sscsfl.org)

#### Mission Statement

*St. Stephen Catholic School is devoted to inspiring students to achieve their full academic potential while demonstrating a desire to continue Jesus' mission by applying Catholic morals, beliefs, values, and practices in their everyday lives. We are committed to motivating students to sustain a lifelong love of learning.*



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- **Students who are at grade-level:** These students can use their corresponding grade-level or subject-level missions to reinforce what they learned in class and move at their own pace through the year's curriculum to fill in any gaps or just refresh what they learned.
- **Students who are above grade level:** If these students want to make sure that they are prepared for their grade-level or subject-level exams, they can do so by working through the appropriate grade-level or subject-level missions. If they want to challenge themselves to learn more advanced material, then they can explore missions above grade level. And, they can always work on multiple missions at once!

## English Language Arts

The most critical activity for students to continue through the summer months in English Language Arts is reading. St. Stephen Catholic School recommends a minimum of 20 minutes of reading per day over the summer. Research has shown that children who are encouraged to choose and read books they are interested in, develop a love of reading and read at a higher level than their peers. For this reason, we are not assigning specific titles for summer reading, but asking students to read a variety of genres and titles, both fiction and nonfiction.

### Grammar:

- IXL and Khan Academy both include sections in English grammar and usage that can keep students' skills sharp over the summer.
- BrainPop and BrainPop Jr. also include helpful videos and activities in grammar and usage topics. For access to BrainPop, please contact Mrs. Dieringer ([ydieringer@sscsfl.org](mailto:ydieringer@sscsfl.org)) to set up an account.

### Writing:

Becoming a good writer requires children to become good thinkers. As with reading, writing is best completed daily or as frequently as possible. Encourage your child to keep a summer journal or write weekly letters to family members and friends. The reading and writing curriculum at St. Stephen requires students to write frequently about what they are reading, so having your child keep a reading journal to respond to what they are reading is a perfect way to prepare for the upcoming school year. Here are some guiding questions and prompts for them to use in response to reading:

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<i>For Fiction</i>	<i>For Nonfiction</i>
Explain a character's problem and then offer your character advice on how to solve his/her problem.	Copy a short passage that you found to be interesting. Explain what made it interesting for you.
Explain how a character is acting and why you think the character is acting that way.	Write a summary of what you read in your book today.
From what you've read so far, make predictions about what will happen next and explain what in the text makes you think it will happen.	Explain some of the things that you have learned so far that you are not likely to forget in the near future.
Pick one character and explain why you would/would not like to have him/her as a friend.	What ideas might you have for turning this work of nonfiction into a work of fiction? Give a brief summary of what your story might be like.
Describe and explain why you would/would not like to have lived in the time or place of the story.	Explain the basic information that is being presented in terms of the 5W's: Who? What? When? Where? Why?
What real-life people or events are you reminded of by characters or events in the story? Explain why.	What seemed to be the Author's Purpose in creating this text? Why do you think they might've written it? What were they hoping this text would accomplish? Why do you think so?
Write about what would happen if you brought one of your characters to school or home for a day.	Who wants or needs to know this information? Does there seem to be a specific audience the author is trying to reach? Why do you think so? If not, what makes you think there is not a specific audience?
Pick a scene in which you disagreed with how a character handled a situation/person and rewrite it in the way you think it should have happened.	Describe how you can use what you learned from this book in your own life.
What quality of which character strikes you as a good characteristic to develop within yourself over the years? Why? How does the character demonstrate this quality?	Describe any text features the author used and how they affected your reading experience.

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