

Dear Parents of OLA Middle School Students,

Experts from Johns Hopkins University, the University of Tennessee, the University of Virginia and elsewhere say most students, regardless of family income or background, lose 2 to 2 1/2 months of the math computational skills that they learned during the school year. These findings suggest the obvious, children lose math ability when they don't use it.

This summer, to prevent this learning loss, keep the students' math computational skills sharp, and to reinforce the skills that they learned this year, we will be using an interactive website math program, IXL. It is our hope that this will help all of our students enter their next math course well prepared and ready to go!

Over the summer, students are expected to complete at least 10 hours of math skills practice within IXL. Our hope is that the review will take place over the entire summer rather than during the last few days before we return to school. Ideally, your child will be working on IXL about three times a week over the course ten weeks. All work should be completed between June 15th and August 31st

Work completed after this deadline, although great, WILL NOT be counted towards your grade. If you do not have a home computer, we encourage you to visit a local library or partner with a friend with internet access.

The summer assignment will be graded based on the amount of time spent actively working on IXL and it will be weighted as the equivalent of a test – 100 points. Thus, each ½ hour fully completed is worth 5 points. Any student who goes above the assigned 10 hours will receive 1 point of extra credit for each extra hour of work they do! It is an easy way to start the term with an A+!

It is our hope that the students will find this a valuable opportunity. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

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Thank you for your support!
Kian Olia

Dear Students,

This summer you need to practice AT LEAST ten hours of math skills on IXL. For each skill you choose to do, you should reach a “smart score” of at least 80. Getting started is easy! Sign on to IXL using your username and password assigned during the school year. Choose the 5th grade tab, select any skill start answering questions! If you answer a question correctly, you will be given another question. If your answer is wrong you will be given an explanation of why your answer is wrong. Once you understand it, click on “Got it” and you will be given another question. The skills you are assigned will be needed in the course you are entering in the fall. If you encounter a skill that you don’t remember, or think that you have not learned, you can view tutorials on the topic at www.khanacademy.org as well as other websites you find helpful.

If you have questions I can be reached at kian.olia@ourladysacademy.org

Have a great summer!

-Mr. Olia