

## AVOID SUMMER BRAIN DRAIN!

Dear Parents -

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

I am aware that the kids have had to spend too much time in front of a computer screen this last term. Acknowledging that the students need a break from screens, I will be revising their math summer work, but still conscious that learning loss needs to be mitigated. I have gone through and selected the most pertinent skills to ensure Sixth Grade success. These are skills the kids have already learned and practiced over the school year. Over the summer, the students are expected to work for five hours or reach 90% on each of these skills, whichever comes first. When we return in the fall, after a brief review period, the kids will be quizzed on their ability with these skills.

The summer assignment will be graded based on 90% completion of the suggested skills or the amount of time spent **actively** working on IXL and it will be weighted as the equivalent of a quiz - 50 points. Thus, each  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour fully completed is worth 5 points. The quiz they will complete will also be worth 50 points.

My 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 of ten weeks. All work should be completed between **June 16<sup>th</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>**. **Work completed after this deadline WILL NOT be counted towards your child's 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.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. Sarah.Treacy@ourladyacademy.org

Thank you for your support!

Sarah Treacy

## My Awesome Almost Sixth Graders -

This has been a tough year! You should be proud of yourself, your resilience, and your ability to adapt to difficult circumstances. I know it feels like you have spent much of this school year sitting at a desk often looking at a computer screen - and the last thing I want is to keep you there during the summer! I want you to be swimming, playing, and building memories with your family! However, (come on, you knew there was going to be a however!) we do need to make sure you don't lose any of the math skills you worked so hard to gain this year.

To ensure you don't spend one more minute inside than you have to, I have listed the most important skills you need to ensure that you start sixth grade math strong. The list doesn't cover everything we learned this year, but it does represent the skills you will need to have when you walk through the classroom door in September. You need to reach 90% on each of these skills OR spend five hours in total practicing - whichever comes first! This work will represent 50 points, half of a test grade. When you return in the fall, after a brief review of these skills, you will take a quiz on the material I listed. This September quiz will be worth 50 points, the other half of your test grade!

If you encounter an assigned skill that you don't remember how to do, use the problem solving techniques you learned in fifth grade: go back to your notes, on IXL choose "Learn by Example," or "Not Feeling Ready - Try these Skills First", ask a friend, or view tutorials on the topic at Khan Academy, Math Antics or Math is Fun.

If you complete the material in your grade level rather quickly and you want to keep working please either master all the skills or challenge yourself by finding the corresponding skill in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and attempt those problems! Any skill you master will be  $\frac{1}{2}$  a point of extra credit.

Have a great summer! Play, play, play! I can't wait to see you in the Fall.

Mrs. Treacy

Below are the skills you should be working on this summer. All work in in the 5th Grade tab. IXL often changes their Skill numbering during the summer, so instead of using A2 for example, I have used the permanent skill ID you should search to work on the skill. This skill ID never changes.

HU7	Convert between standard and expanded form
83P	Place value
NSP	Multiply by 3-digit numbers
35K	Divide 4-digit numbers by 2-digit numbers
XFF	Evaluate exponents
F5F	Prime factorization with exponents
WEX	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers
SNZ	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide whole numbers: word problems
SCJ	Write numerical expressions: one operation
HGW	Evaluate numerical expressions with parentheses
TVY	Evaluate numerical expressions with parentheses and brackets
NZG	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals
7SX	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals: word problems
VFX	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers
APD	Add, subtract, multiply, and divide fractions and mixed numbers: word problems