



Kulam Summer Learning

Lower School

Thank you so much for being a part of the Kulam community of learners. Our staff is looking forward to continuing to develop our knowledge of each learner, enhance his/her strengths and support those areas that are weaker. Together, we will be working hard, learning new skills, and meeting challenges. During this past school year, students have made solid gains. We are proud of their effort, their growing stamina for learning and the progress each has made. We want to keep those hard earned skills sharp over the summer and avoid the summer “brain drain.” Yes, it really exists. Research shows that even under optimal conditions students can lose up to 60% of what they have worked so hard to gain. The following represents some of the recommendations and assistance for you and your student.

It is important to remember that your child works on an instructional level matching his/her grade level, but often independent levels vary. For continuing students, a lexile level range for reading will be provided.

Why do we require ‘Summer Learning?’

All of our current students and those entering the Posnack School and Kulam Program have worked hard to achieve learning goals. We want this learning to continue, flourish and grow. Keeping skills sharp over the summer levels the playing field when students return to school. Review is integral as students return to school but we want that review to be just that, review, and not complete reteaching.

What will my child need to do?

First and foremost, we want our students to enjoy their summer experiences whether camp, travel or just plain fun. These meaningful activities cannot and should not be replaced. To

enhance the meaning discuss the experiences and build vocabulary from each one. Each experience then becomes a language learning opportunity.

Literacy:

For students entering 1st Grade:

Each student should read 12-15 books on *Raz Kids A -Z* following the instructions and supervision of Mrs. Jacobs throughout the summer. Remember that these books tend to be quite short and therefore the number required is really reasonable.

For students entering Grades 3-5:

each student is assigned one book to read as a grade level requirement.

- 2nd to 3rd : *The One in the Middle is a Green Kangaroo* (330 Green)
- 3rd to 4th: *Freckle Juice* (400 Green)
- 4th to 5th: Donovan's Word Jar (670 Green); Highlight 15-20 vocabulary words that you DO NOT know. In the margin, write what you THINK the word means based on the context of the sentence.

In addition, we ask each student to read a book of his/her choice. Therefore, the children will read **a minimum of two books**, one selected by us and one of free choice.

Of course, in our opinion, we would love each child to read, read and read. Please remember the more a child reads, the more words they bank. Reading is about building word banks, adding to comprehension, and feeding the brain.

How do I help my child select their "choice" book?

The teachers will provide a lexile range for an independent reading level. Additionally, a simple tool to judge whether or not a book is a good fit for your child's reading level is the 'Five Finger Test.' Have your child open the book to the middle, read a page. For every error that they make, hold up a finger. The following results are often valid: one finger means the book may be too easy but if there is interest, encourage reading the book; if three fingers are raised, the book will

probably be fine but may require some assistance; if five errors are made (five fingers raised) the book is far too difficult.

What IS reading?

- Child reads to him/herself
- Loved one reads to the child
- Child reads aloud to a loved one
- Taking turns reading; parent or sibling & child
- Audible books
- Read on a device (Kindles; iPads, etc.)
- Read and then watch the movie to enhance comprehension and recall

Math:

For students entering Grade 1:

- Complete the “Step Up to Grade 1” packet and bring to school on the first day (Aug. 23)
- For extra practice, log into ixl.com to enhance skills focusing on addition, subtraction, place value, and/or word problems

For Students entering Grade 3:

- Complete the Envision Math practice packet and bring to school on the first day (Aug. 23)
- For extra practice, log into ixl.com (Grade 2) to enhance skills focusing on addition, subtraction, time, multiplication, and word problems

For students entering Grade 4:

- Complete the Envision Math practice packet and bring to school on the first day (Aug. 23)
- For extra practice, log into ixl.com (Grade 3) to enhance skills focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and/or word problems

For students entering Grade 5:

- Complete the Envision Math practice packet and bring to school on the first day (Aug. 23)

- For extra practice, log into [ixl.com](https://www.ixl.com) (Grade 4) to enhance skills focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and/or word problems