

Grace Episcopal Day School

Summer Skills Practice

Each year, we provide academic suggestions to help our students retain skills and prepare for the upcoming school year.

Rising Kindergarten

To help your child feel confident and prepared for kindergarten, we recommend simple daily practice focused on foundational skills.

- Read together 15–20 minutes daily to build language, comprehension, and a love for books
- Practice letter recognition (A–Z), sounds, and writing first and last name
- Build number recognition and counting skills from 1–20 through everyday activities
- Strengthen fine motor skills; coloring, cutting, drawing, playdough (pinching and rolling)
- Encourage independence with tasks; dressing, opening snacks, and cleaning up on their own

Rising 1st Grade

To help your child feel confident and prepared for first grade, we recommend simple daily practice focused on foundational skills.

- Read together or on their own 15–20 minutes daily to build language, comprehension, and a love of books
- Practice letter recognition (Aa–Zz), sounds, and writing first and last name (with appropriate use of uppercase and lowercase letters) i.e LESLIE BRANSFORD should be Leslie Bransford
- Practice basic sight words
- Build number recognition, counting skills, and writing from 1–100 through everyday activities
- Strengthen fine motor skills with coloring, cutting, drawing, lacing, using small manipulatives, puzzles, and games
- Encourage independence with tasks; packing and unpacking backpack, cleaning up on their own, dressing, opening snacks, and tying shoes.

Rising 2nd Grade

To help your child feel confident and prepared for the school year, rising second graders should:

- Read on their own or with a family member 20 minutes daily with a focus on rereading for fluency and comprehension
- Practice and be able to recall addition and subtraction facts up to 20 automatically
- Write all uppercase and lowercase letters neatly with appropriate size and position on the line.
- Count and write numbers from 0 to 120
- Encourage independence with tasks; preparing and packing snacks and lunches, tying shoes, and following morning/bedtime routines.

Rising 3rd Grade

Reading: Please read one of the following: *The Dragon in the Library* by Louie Stowell, *Og the Frog* by Betty G. Birney, or *Wedgie and Gizmo* by Suzanne Selfors

A brief written assessment will be given on the chosen book the first week of school.

Math: Students should be able to add and subtract all facts up to 20 automatically. A pre-test will be given on multiplication facts the first week of school.

Workbooks: We recommend the Summer Bridge Activities (Grades 2–3) workbook (optional)

Rising 4th Grade

Reading: Please read two of the following: *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* by Judy Blume, *Frindle* by Andrew Clements, *Who Was Walt Disney?* by Whitney Stewart.

A quiz will be given on the books chosen the first week of school.

Math: Students should practice fluency with addition and subtraction facts to 20 and multiplication and division facts to 10. A quiz will be given on multiplication facts the first week of school.

Workbook: Spectrum Math Review Workbook–Review of 3rd grade math skills (optional)

Rising 5th Grade

Reading: Please read two of the following: *Island of the Blue Dolphins* by Scott O'Dell, *The BFG* by Roald Dahl, *Iron Thunder* by Avi, *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, or *Maniac McGee* by Jerry Spinelli.

Students will have a comprehension assessment the first week of school.

Math: Students should have quick recall of multiplication facts numbers 0-12. There will be a fact quiz the first week of school.

Rising 6th Grade

Reading: Choose two of the following books to read: *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan, *Percy Jackson and the Olympians Book 1: The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan, *Amelia Lost: The Life and Disappearance of Amelia Earhart* by Candace Fleming, or *The Chronicles of Narnia Book 1: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis.

Students will have a comprehension assessment the first week of school.

Math: Students should have a quick recall of multiplication facts numbers 0-12. There will be a fact quiz the first week of school.

Rising 7th Grade

Reading: Students should read two of the following books: *Red, White, and Whole* by Rajani LaRocca, *Hatchet* by Gary Paulson, *Winterhouse* by Ben Guttersen, or *I Am Malala - Young Reader's Edition*, by Malala Yousafzai. During the first week of school, students will discuss their novels and take a written assessment.

Math: Students should spend 30 minutes each week working on recommended skills in IXL.

Rising 8th Grade

Reading: Students should read two of the following books: *Uglies* by Scott Westerfield, *And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie, *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds, or *The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak. During the first week of school, students will discuss their novels and take a written assessment.

Math: Students should spend 30 minutes each week working on recommended skills in IXL.

