Letter: Scholars Guide

Dear KCS Families,

As the school year concludes, it is important to our educators and families that we provide opportunities for children to stay engaged with learning during the summer, especially with the unexpected school closure related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

KCS has created a Summer Scholars Guide for grades K-8 that serves as a resource for families and aims to minimize summer learning loss and promote preparation for the upcoming school year. Suggestions in the Scholars Guide are optional activities to help students maintain and expand their academic growth over the summer.

In the Scholars Guide, you’ll find a list of academic standards from the grade level that your child recently completed, with practice tips on subjects that are already familiar. You’ll also find a list of academic standards related to your child’s next grade level, allowing them to prepare for the upcoming school year. In both cases, you may need to adapt the suggested activities to meet your child’s specific needs. Reading is one of the best things your child can do over the summer, and your local branch library has books for students of all ages. The Scholars Guide includes a list of reading topics and suggested educational websites. We wish your family a fun and safe break and look forward to seeing your child back in school next fall!

*Please adhere to CDC recommendations during COVID-19 and consider virtual options where available.

**Glossary**

**Comprehension** – Showing that the reader understands the texts that he or she just read.

**Equation** – An equation says that two things are equal and it will have an equal sign.

**Fiction** – Stories and books that are about imagined events.

**Math fluency** – The ability to multiply and divide within 100 (within three to five seconds) orally or in writing by the end of the year. Fluency with larger numbers includes being able to quickly and efficiently use mental strategies, number patterns, place value strategies (breaking apart numbers into tens and ones), or written steps when adding and subtracting.

**Math operations** – A mathematical process that includes addition, subtraction, multiplication or division.

**Nonfiction** – Books and articles that are about real-life events, science, and other subjects that are not imagined.

**Primary sources** – Immediate, first-hand accounts of a topic from people who had a direct connection with an event. Primary sources can include: texts of laws and other original documents; newspaper reports by reporters who witnessed an event or who quote people who did; speeches, diaries, letters and interviews - what the people involved said or wrote; original research; datasets or survey data, such as census or economic statistics; photographs, video, or audio that capture an event.

**Secondary sources** – One step removed from primary sources, a secondary source is created by someone who did not directly witness an event, though they often quote or otherwise use primary sources. These sources can cover the same topic as a primary source but add a layer of interpretation and analysis. Secondary sources can include: most books about a topic; analysis or interpretation of data; scholarly or other articles about a topic, especially by people not directly involved; documentaries (though they often include photos or video portions that can be considered primary sources).
**What you learned this year and need to keep practicing**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
- Read third-grade text accurately and with expression to support comprehension
- Retell a story in your own words
- Engage in conversations with others and express ideas clearly
- Write a paragraph that includes a main idea, details, and a conclusion

**MATH**
- Understand properties of multiplication and the relationship between multiplication and division to multiply within 100 (up to 10 x 10). Ex., 2 x 4 = 8 is same as 4 x 2 = 8; related to 8 ÷ 2 = 4 and 8 ÷ 4 = 2
- Develop understanding of fractions as numbers
- Apply concepts of area to multiplication/addition. Ex., area of rectangle measuring 4 x 2 could be found by multiplying 4 x 2 or adding 4 + 4 or 2 + 2 + 2 + 2
- Fluently multiply/divide within 100 (up to 10 x 10)

**SCIENCE**
- Understand impact of natural hazards and humans on the environment
- Read graphs/tables to determine science data
- Observe and describe volume, temperature and mass in matter

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
- Learn geography/mapping skills: globes; world, U.S. and TN geography, keys, legends, cardinal directions
- Understand economics, including natural resources and goods and services in TN
- Learn about early American and TN history: indigenous peoples, European exploration, early North American settlements

**What is ahead next year that you can prepare for**

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
- Read fourth-grade text accurately and with expression to support comprehension
- Identify main idea of a text, explain supporting details
- Determine meaning of words or phrases within text
- Write a paragraph that includes a main idea, details, and a conclusion

**MATH**
- Use math operations (+, -, x, ÷) with whole numbers (no decimals or fractions) to solve problems
- Round, compare (> =), and understand the value of each digit for whole numbers up to 1,000,000
- Fluently add/subtract within 1,000,000 (total is not > 1,000,000)
- Understand equivalent fractions and compare
- Understand decimal notation for fractions and compare (fractions with the denominator of 10 or 100) Ex., 3/10 = 0.3

**SCIENCE**
- Create graphs/data tables
- Make predictions about what would happen if a variable changes
- Ask questions that can be investigated and predict reasonable outcomes

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
- Learn causes, key figures of the American Revolution
- Learn about the U.S. Constitution, including writers, events leading to, and ideas embedded within
- Learn about Westward expansion. impact on American Indians
- Learn about the U.S. industrial economy
- Learn about the Civil War and Reconstruction

**Things to do and places to go during the summer**

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**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
- Write a story about an imaginary video game, with yourself as the main character
- Find an old picture of your parents, grandparents or other relative and write a story based on the picture

**MATH**
- Use dice or playing cards to make a game out of practicing math facts (within 100)
- Plant a vegetable garden and track the plants’ height from week to week
- Bake cookies and measure all of the ingredients in the recipe you are making

**SCIENCE**
- Measure the outdoor temperature at the same time every day and keep a journal tracking the changes
- Find an unusual insect and draw a picture of it
- Explore Zoo Knoxville and talk about what you see and learn

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
- Watch the Women’s World Cup and mark winners on a world map
- Go on the downtown Knoxville Civil War Walking Tour
- Visit East TN History Center, Fort Loudoun, McClung Museum, Farragut Museum

**RTI2, ELL, SPED**
Students participating in interventions should receive individual reports related to their specific goals from the school throughout the year.
Keep reading all year long!

Visit these websites for free reading materials and other important information about why literacy matters.

- ReadCityUSA.com
- Knoxschools.org/mackinvia
- Knoxlib.org

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Reading List

**ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS**
- *Spiderwick Chronicles* by Tony DiTerlizzi
- *Black Panther: The Young Prince* by Ronald Smith
- *Geronimo Stilton Series* by Geronimo Stilton (Also Thea Stilton Series)
- *Toys Go Out* by Emily Jenkins (series)

**MATH**
- *The Best of Times: Math Strategies that Multiply* by Gregory Tang
- *Circles* by David A. Adler
- *Snippets: A Story about Paper Shapes* by Diane Alber
- *Fractions in Disguise: A Math Adventure* by Edward Einhorn

**SCIENCE**
- *Animals by the Numbers: A Book of Infographics* by Steve Jenkins (reading graphs)
- *Hurricane Katrina and the Flooding of New Orleans: A Cause and Effect Investigation* by Mary K. Pratt (one of a series)
- *The Great Monkey Rescue: Saving the Golden Lion Tamarins* by Sandra Markle

**SOCIAL STUDIES**
- *Sitting Bull: A Lakota Warrior* by S.D. Nelson
- *Thomas Jefferson Grows a Nation* by Peggy Thomas
- *Mapping Sam* by Joyce Hesselberth
- *Civil War on Sunday* by Mary Pope Osborne