



# SJS Middle School

## Summer Activities 2024-2025

### REQUIRED Summer Activities:

- Reading
- Math

Optional Summer Activities: Science, Social Studies, and Spanish

**ALL assignments must be completed and turned into your respective teacher by the first week of school!**

**Required Middle School Summer Reading:** Your Summer Reading assignments below are **REQUIRED** to be completed **before** school starts in the fall. It is fine to check out books from the library, but if you do choose to purchase them, bring them to school the first week back for extension and reflection activities.

### **Middle School Teachers:**

**ELA/Literature-** For questions please email Mrs. Ward or Mrs. Rodriguez

**Math/Religion-** Mrs. Sarah Rodriguez [sarah.rodriquez@sjsathens.org](mailto:sarah.rodriquez@sjsathens.org)

**Science/Social Studies-** Mrs. Laura Ward [laura.ward@sjsathens.org](mailto:laura.ward@sjsathens.org)

**Spanish-** Mrs. Ana Korin [ana.korin@sjsathens.org](mailto:ana.korin@sjsathens.org)

### **Rising 8<sup>th</sup> graders:**

- Read ONE book from the list below.
- Read at least ONE book of your own choosing.

| <b>Title</b>   | <b>Author</b>          |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>  | Lucy Maud Montgomery   |
| <i>Artemis Fowl</i>  | Eoin Colfer            |
| <i>Brown Girl Dreaming</i>   | Jacqueline Woodson     |
| <i>Countdown</i>   | Deborah Wiles          |
| <i>The Hobbit</i>  | J.R.R. Tolkien         |
| <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>   | Sir Arthur Conon Doyle |
| <i>Hunger: A Tale of Courage</i>   | Donna Jo Napoli        |
| <i>Little Women</i>  | Louisa May Alcott      |
| <i>The Princess Bride: S. Morgenstern's Classic Tale of True Love and High Adventure</i> | William Goldman        |
| <i>Rangers Apprentice: The Ruins of Gorlan</i>   | John Flanagan          |
| <i>Temple Grandin: How the Girl who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World</i> | Sy Montgomery          |
| <i>Treasure Island</i>   | Robert Louis Stevenson |

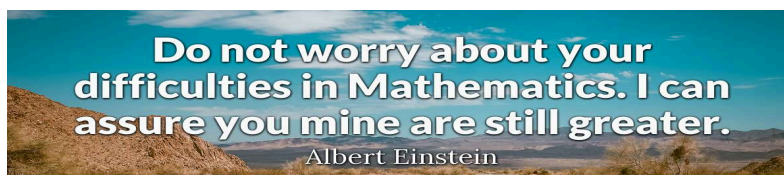
**Rising 7<sup>th</sup> graders:**

- Please choose at least ONE book to read from the list below.
- Read at least ONE book of your own choosing.

| <b>Title</b>  | <b>Author</b>             |
|---|---------------------------|
| <i>Airborn</i>  | Kenneth Oppel             |
| <i>Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607</i>                                   | Elisa Carbone             |
| <i>The Boy Who Dared</i>  | Susan Campbell Bartoletti |
| <i>The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club</i> | Phillip Hoose             |
| <i>Chains</i>   | Laurie Halse Anderson     |
| <i>The Crossover</i>  | Kwame Alexander           |
| <i>Echo</i>   | Pam Munoz Ryan            |
| <i>The Graveyard Book</i>   | Neil Gaiman               |
| <i>I am David</i>   | Anne Holm                 |
| <i>Okay for Now</i>   | Gary D. Schmidt           |
| <i>Refugee</i>  | Alan Gratz                |
| <i>In the Shadow of the Sun</i>   | Anne Sibley O'Brien       |
| <i>The Shadow Thieves</i>   | Anne Ursu                 |
| <i>A Wrinkle in Time</i>  | Madeleine L'Engle         |
| <i>Woods Runner</i>   | Gary Paulsen              |

**Rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders:** Please choose at least TWO books to read from the list below.

| <b>Title</b>                           | <b>Author</b>            |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Crispin: The Cross of Lead</i>      | Avi                      |
| <i>Crossing the Wire</i>               | Will Hobbs               |
| <i>Fever, 1793</i>                     | Laurie Halse Anderson    |
| <i>Found</i>                           | Margaret Peterson Haddix |
| <i>The Girl Who Drank the Moon</i>     | Kelly Barnhill           |
| <i>Hold Fast</i>                       | Blue Balliett            |
| <i>Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery</i> | John Feinstein           |
| <i>Legend</i>                          | Marie Lu                 |
| <i>Loser</i>                           | Jerry Spinelli           |
| <i>Pax</i>                             | Sara Pennypacker         |
| <i>Peak</i>                            | Roland Smith             |
| <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i>    | Mildred D. Taylor        |
| <i>The Running Dream</i>               | Wendelin Van Draanen     |
| <i>The Safest Lie</i>                  | Angela Cerrito           |
| <i>Stargirl</i>                        | Jerry Spinelli           |
| <i>Stella by Starlight</i>             | Sharon M. Draper         |
| <i>Stormbreaker</i>                    | Anthony Horowitz         |
| <i>Travel Team</i>                     | Mike Lupica              |
| <i>The Wednesday Wars</i>              | Gary D. Schmidt          |
| <i>The Worst Class Trip Ever</i>       | Dave Barry               |



## Required- Middle School Summer MATH:

Below you will find the requirements for maintaining those math skills you worked so hard to build over the course of this school year. **All summer work will be completed on IXL.** If internet connectivity is an issue, please contact Mrs. Rodriguez ([sarah.rodriquez@sjsathens.org](mailto:sarah.rodriquez@sjsathens.org)) as soon as possible.

- Current St. Joseph students must complete 25 hours of practice over the summer **through their school IXL accounts.** (This averages to 30 minutes per weekday over the summer.)
  - Students should practice skills from the grade level they have just completed.
    - If a student has skills “From Your Teacher,” they should practice those skills.
    - Some students/parents may receive an email from Mrs. Rodriguez with other instructions. Please follow those instructions if you receive an email from Mrs. Rodriguez about your summer math work.
  - Students should achieve a “Smart Score” of 90 or higher before moving on to the next skill.
- New St Joseph students for the 2024-2025 school year will need to purchase an IXL membership for the summer. (1 subject membership is \$9.95/month)
  - Students should practice skills from the grade level they have just completed and accumulate 25 hours of practice unless they receive an email from Mrs. Rodriguez indicating otherwise.
  - At the end of the summer, two reports will need to be printed of the completed hours. (See [this video](#) for instructions on how to print the reports.)



**4H Contests:** Earn Science Extra Credit and Enter in the 4 H Contest! Follow the directions for the contests listed below. To receive Science Summer Extra Credit create a

Google Slide presentation on your school account documenting the growth along the way. You will need to take pictures and insert them into your presentation. In August you will be able to turn it into Google Classroom.

- **GEORGIA 4-H PUMPKIN GROWING CONTEST-** To receive Summer Extra Credit, you will need to document your pumpkin growth by taking pictures and measurements of it each week or every other week and put pictures and information into a google slideshow (using your school account). Final picture before submitting for credit must show the weight of the pumpkin. To enter the 4-H contest- An extension staff member must certify the weight of your pumpkin and photograph you and the giant fruit by October 19th to be eligible for a PRIZE! More information and contest rules visit [www.georgia4h.org/pumpkin](http://www.georgia4h.org/pumpkin)

**Science Summer Extra Credit:** *Whether you are traveling near or far this summer, put your scientific eyes on and examine the WORLD! Here is what you will need to do...*

- *Find a science specimen. that you are **ALLOWED** to take it. (If not you can document it with pictures or a video. )*
- ***Make sure it is not something that is dead and will SMELL, MOLD or make a MESS!** (If it is you can document it with pictures or a video. )*
- *Make sure it is not ALIVE! (If it is you can document it with pictures or a video. )*
- *Place your specimen in a **plastic container. NO GLASS ALLOWED!** **And THEN...** Put your name on your container to bring to school*
- *In a Google Slide Presentation tell the following about your specimen:*
  - *Name*
  - *Identify your specimen. Bonus if you can identify it with its scientific name.*
  - *Location: Tell us where you found this. City, State, etc.*
  - *Why: Tell us why you chose this specimen.*
  - *Facts: Include 5 interesting facts about your specimen. You may need to do a little research!*
  - *Include a picture of your specimen in your presentation.*

**Areas of Study in Middle School:** 6th- Earth Science, 7th- Life Science, 8th- Physical Science (Chemistry & Physics)



## **Summer Postcards:**

*Social Studies FUN Summer Assignment:*

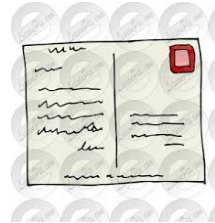
*As your travels take you near or far, take some time to tell about the history around you by dropping a postcard in the mail! Your postcard needs to be related to HISTORY and focus on two of the five themes of geography -- location and place. Here's what is needed from you:*

- Must be in STUDENTS' own handwriting!
- Proper letter writing technique on your postcard. greeting, body, and closing signed with **YOUR NAME!** You should remember that from the writing class! Don't forget proper punctuation! **THIS IS A POSTCARD, NOT A LETTER!**
- You must include the two themes, **location, and place**, in your writing. How will you do that? Well, on your postcard you will include the latitude and longitude (**LOCATION**) of your destination and some specifics about the **PLACE** such as climate, culture, or the landforms, for example.

Even if you don't leave Athens, there is LOTS of history here, too! **Postcards can be mailed to the address below or brought in during the first week of school**, but the above information needs to be included to receive credit.

### **Mailing Address:**

St. Joseph Catholic School  
Attn: Middle School Social Studies  
958 Epps Bridge Pkwy  
Athens, GA 30606



# ESPAÑOL



## Rising 6th, 7th, and 8th Graders:

- <https://studyspanish.com>
  - It is a great way to learn Spanish grammar through free helpful lessons and fun exercises.
  - **Spanish Pronunciation**
  - **Spanish Grammar**
  - **Spanish Vocabulary**
- <https://www.duolingo.com>
  - Duolingo is an online platform that includes a language-learning website and mobile app, as well as a digital language-proficiency assessment exam.
  - Duolingo also includes Duolingo Stories.
  - The company's mission is to make education free, fun, and accessible to all.
- <https://www.rockalingua.com>
  - Rockalingua is an online resource to help students learn Spanish.
  - Its methodology presents vocabulary and grammar structures in a way that students can enjoy.
  - Rockalingua uses videos, games, songs, worksheets, picture dictionaries, and short stories as a way to promote the learning process.
  - Please look for the word FREE when choosing an activity.
- **Recommended Youtube Channels for Learning Spanish:**

[Señor Jordan](#)- Grammar lessons, stories, and songs.

[Butterfly Spanish](#)- Grammar and vocabulary lessons.

[Spanish Pod 101](#)- Short grammar and vocabulary lessons as well as videos on Hispanic culture.

[Spanish Playground](#) - Conversations and short episodes in slow, comprehensible Spanish.