

Dear Junior High Parents,

Each summer, incoming OLMC 7th and 8th grade students are assigned a summer reading book. They must read the book, write answers to questions, and be prepared to discuss when they return in August. This assignment gives students the opportunity to stay engaged throughout the summer and start the year off in a productive manner. Eighth grade students will read *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton. It is available in your local libraries and at your local bookstores. OLMC does not provide copies of the summer reading books. **Reading the book and completing the attached assignment is required and will lead into the first unit of Language Arts in August.**

Our goal is to further engage students in the materials they will be taught in class while striving to develop their reading comprehension and synthesis skills. Development of these skills is critical to a student's success in multiple subjects as they progress through Junior High, High School and College.

For maintaining math skills, students are encouraged to log in to IXL for some practice over the summer. Mrs. Knox has included the instructions in the attached letter. **This extra math practice is optional, but students that complete 8 hours of IXL math over the course of the summer and their reading assignment will earn a free dress day on the first Friday of the school year.**

Sincerely,

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8th Grade Summer Reading Assignment: *The Outsiders* by S.E. Hinton

The Outsiders is a fictional story about two social groups that clash often. The story examines the conflicts these social groups have and the individual consequences that occur due to these frictions.

Be prepared to turn in the following when you return to OLMC in early August:

- 1) The author only provides numbers for each chapter of the story. For each of the 12 chapters of the book create chapter titles. In two or three sentences, explain why you selected each title and briefly summarize what occurred in each chapter.
- 2) Which characters were “The Outsiders?” Identify at least three characters that were “outsiders” and explain why they were treated or viewed as “outsiders.”
- 3) Were Pony-Boy and Johnny heroic? Think in terms of the 12 step Hero’s Journey that we examined with the novel *Shane*, the short story *The Hard Way* and the movie *The Lion King*. Was the character Dally heroic or tragic? Explain your response.

*Questions 2 and 3 will be topics for larger in class discussions.

Besides the items from above, you should expect a test on your summer reading. The test will be on basic understanding of the plot, characters and setting of the novel.

Have a restful and blessed summer.

Mr. Abbott

Dear Students/Parents,

You have worked very hard this year in math learning many skills and concepts. Practice helps us maintain what we have learned.

For practice this summer, you will be using IXL to maintain your computation and problem solving skills. In order for optimal retention and maintenance of skills, we are asking that you spend time working on IXL in June and July (it's more beneficial than doing it all in June and then taking a month off).

**This is optional. If you would like to have a free dress day,
8 hours needs to be completed.**

Instructions:

- 1) Go to: <https://www.ixl.com>. You can use your home computer or you can download IXL's free tablet apps for iPad, Android, or Kindle. 2) Enter your username and password and click "sign in" You **MUST** sign in **with your username and password every time you work on IXL or your session will not be reported/saved.**
- 2.) Go to: Diagnostic in the green bar at the top (click on it). Click on "Step into the Arena" and choose a question to start. Take the diagnostic, IXL will let you know when you are done.
3.) After you take the Diagnostic, you will begin your summer practice (Yes! The diagnostic counts towards your 8 hours.)
- 4.) Sign into IXL again. Go to Diagnostic and scroll down to "Print Diagnostic Action Plan" (You do not need to print) These are the skills the diagnostic found you need to work on. You can click on each one of the skills in the action plan to practice.
- 5.) Remember this is optional and a way to keep your math brains active. Please do not work solely on the diagnostic, but also do the practices it suggests for you.

Have a wonderful summer!

Mrs. Knox