

[Summer 2018 Math Information](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

THE PRAIRIE SCHOOL

May 22nd, 2018

Dear Parents:

Thank you for a successful school year! In an effort to keep the positive momentum going, we're looking forward to 2018-19 and want to share some details about a new initiative.

The "summer slide" — the loss of skills over the summer months — is something that can affect our students as they enjoy the carefree days of vacation. For decades, Prairie, like many other highly respected independent schools, has required summer reading to help students maintain the progress they've made in their Humanities courses. However, the summer slide is not unique to reading; math students and teachers know it all too well. That's why this year, the Math Department has designed a series of activities for Upper School students that will keep them thinking throughout the summer. Today, we met with all US students to explain the details of this new requirement, and the main points are outlined below.

When designing these summer assignments, we aimed to create something fun, enriching, useful, not too taxing, and most importantly, something that didn't look like a typical homework assignment. Plus, we wanted students to have choices. What we ultimately developed is a combination of puzzles, races, real-life scenarios and challenges, and standardized test practice. The exact combination varies by grade level, with the juniors and seniors doing more test practice and fewer puzzles than the younger students.

We have provided the students with all the details they'll need to access the assignments, turn them in, meet the deadlines, and earn full marks. Briefly:

- Each assignment is worth 1-5 points, depending on its difficulty and the time commitment involved. All students need to accumulate 20 points. Students may choose whether to get their points through several 1-point activities or a few 3-5-point activities.
- All materials will be exchanged through Google Classroom, the learning management system that students already use in all of their classes.

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before classes start (Monday, August 27th). As an incentive to get started early, students who submit 10 points' worth of work by **Friday, July 20th** will receive 2 free points.

- Students will not be graded on the accuracy of their work; rather, their grade will reflect completion. The number of points they earn over the summer will be recorded as the first quiz grade in their fall math class. We emphasized to the students that this assignment is for their benefit, and that they will get out of it what they put in. Please encourage your child to do their best work.

We are excited about this summer work and hope students will find it both fun and motivating. If you have additional questions, please don't hesitate to contact [Jean Weaver](#) or [Melissa Flynn](#).

On behalf of the Math Department,

[Jean Weaver](#), Ph.D.

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