

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It's hard to believe that the school year is almost over! On behalf of the math department, thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your children through their growth as students and mathematicians.

Many of you may remember the initiative we began last year to help reduce the “summer slide,” or loss of math skills and content knowledge during the summer holiday. Research shows that the summer decline of mathematics skills is more prevalent at higher grade levels and that on average, students’ skills regress by over one month of the learning done during the school year. In order to help support our students, the Math Department will be continuing with our Summer Math program as a means to lessen the impact of the “summer slide” and provide opportunities for a strong start to next year. Over the course of the year, we have revamped last year’s program based on student and teacher feedback, as well as additional research. In an online survey, individual conversations, and a drop-in meeting, students primarily indicated that they wanted something fun, useful, and applicable to their mathematical career. In addition to the puzzles and standardized test prep from last year, each student will also complete a course packet of review material from their previous course to help keep them on their toes for next year. The course packets will include practice problems, an answer key, and helpful links and videos for students to reference. Due to the addition of the course packet, we have adjusted the requirements across the board to keep the timing and workload consistent with last year.

The Math Department will be going over the changes and reviewing the details with students in the upcoming weeks. Below is a brief overview so that you can best support your students in this assignment.

- All students must complete 5 puzzles, one course packet and one standardized practice test.
- For current Prairie students, all materials will be distributed through Google Classroom, the learning management system that they already use in all of their classes.
- The final deadline for ALL work is Thursday August 15th by 11:59 pm.
- Students will not be graded on accuracy, but on completion and effort. ALL work must be shown on their course packet, standardized test prep, and puzzles. Students may do the work on paper, but all submissions must be electronic.
- The number of points completed over the summer will be recorded as the first quiz grade in their fall math class.

Finally, in addition to the Summer Math program, there are other ways to help support your child’s mathematical development and beat the summer math slump. For fun ways to incorporate math into your family activities this summer, see [this article](#) from Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please don't hesitate to contact Melissa Flynn (mflynn@prairieschool.com) or Brianna Kunstman (bkunstman@prairieschool.com).

On behalf of the Upper School Math Department,

Brianna Kunstman
Math Department Co-Chair
MS Mathematics Teacher

Kathryn LaLonde
Math Department Co-Chair
3rd Grade Teacher