

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 a few years ago 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.

Based on how we are ending this particular school year, we have modified the Summer Math requirement to best set up students for success. This summer, each student will complete a course specific packet of review material from their previous course as well as a practice ACT exam. While we are aware that some students have already taken the ACT exam and are happy with their score, the ACT practice portion is still required. Practicing multiple choice questions will be helpful for any future AP exams as well as assessments students will be presented with in college.

Because of the technology swap that is happening this summer, paper copies of the course packets and practice ACT exam will be distributed to students when they are on campus to turn in their iPads (materials will also be available online via Google Classroom). Before the students start their summer break, all math teachers will share these changes with their students. Below is a bulleted preview of the requirements and expectations so that you can best support your student(s) with this assignment:

- All students must complete one course packet and one ACT practice test.
- For current Prairie students, a hard copy of the materials will be distributed during the iPad collection dates (June 4-12) and will also be available in Google Classroom.
- The due date for work to be turned will be the first day students return to campus - **We will update as we learn more this summer. Stay tuned!**
- Students will not be graded on accuracy, but on completion and effort. ALL work must be shown on their course packet and practice ACT exam. Students may turn in a paper copy of their work OR submit through Google Classroom.
- The completed summer work 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 do not hesitate to contact Brianna Kunstman (bkunstman@prairieschool.com), Kathryn LaLonde (klalonde@prairieschool.com), or any of the other US Math Teachers.

On behalf of the Upper School Math Department,

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