



June 19, 2019

Dear Lower School Families:

I hope that you are all preparing for fun and memory-filled summer days. As the current school year closes, we look toward next year with great anticipation and high expectations for the continued academic growth of our students.

IDEAL's summer reading lists are designed to foster students' love of reading, curiosity, and skill retention. Reading lists for each grade level can be found on our website under the *Academics tab* by clicking on [Summer Work](#). Our posted reading lists include titles spanning a range of levels and subject matter. Each grade's list includes several social justice-themed titles that we hope will serve as springboards for discussion. Please use these lists as a guide, but feel free to have your child read books that they find inspiring and interesting. We have provided a [reading log](#) for you to record your child's progress. Our goal for all students is to read at least five days per week, on their own or with an adult, for 30 minutes. Reading logs should be returned to your child's classroom teachers in the fall during the first week of school. We will celebrate with a fun, schoolwide project that will include book recommendations from every student based on their favorite summer reading book.

Summer math work will include packets for students entering Grades K-3, which have been sent home and can also be downloaded from the [Summer Work page](#) on our website. Additionally, we are providing students in Grades 4 and 5 with access to IXL over the summer. IXL is a learning website that offers individualized math skills practice for every grade level. The website features diagnostic and analytic information that will allow you to track your child's progress over time as well as in real-time as they are using the website. IXL can be accessed from any computer as well as via IXL Mobile Apps on cell phones and tablets.

On your home computer, please follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://www.ixl.com/signin/theidealschool>
2. Enter your child's username and password
3. Your child's username is their first name followed by the first letter of their last name. Everyone's password is idealschool

Example: If your child's name is Jane Smith, her IXL information is:

Username: janes

Password: idealschool

The *Diagnostic tab* is the best place to start. The *Diagnostic tab* helps the software understand the skills your child has mastered. Students can then go to the *Recommendations tab* to practice math skills. Along with practicing their skills on IXL, have your child take on everyday math tasks like counting, sorting, and problem-solving as these topics come up throughout the day. All are important for your child's development as a lifelong learner. **Students should plan to work in IXL for 15 minutes five times a week.** Time spent will be logged in IXL.

Families of newly-enrolled fourth and fifth grade students should reach out to me for more information about summer math work.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with any questions you may have.

Best regards,
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