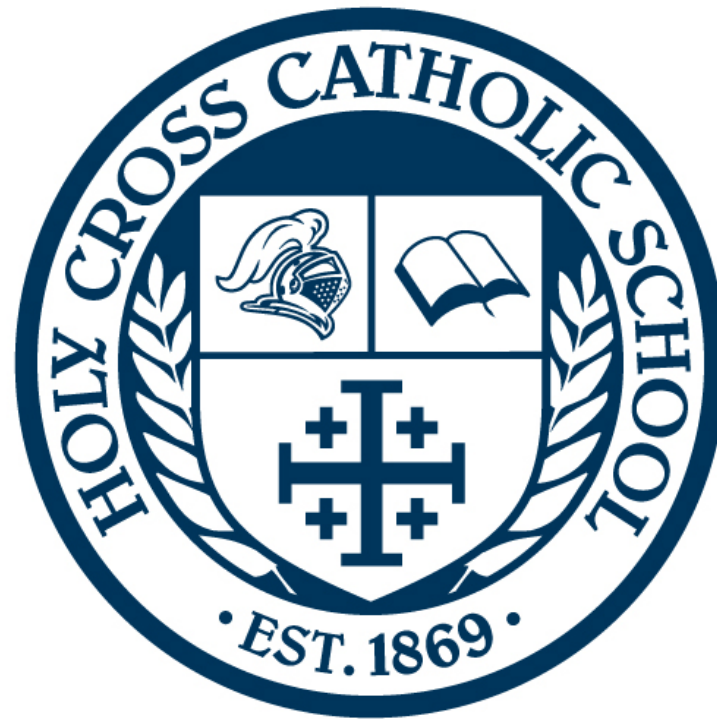


**Middle School Summer Enrichment  
Reading/English Language Arts & Social Studies  
for Students Entering Grades 6-8**



Dear Crusader Families and Friends,

We are providing these summer enrichment activities for children entering grades kindergarten through eighth grade. Working with your child throughout the summer will lessen the likelihood of the “summer slide,” which is a phrase used to describe the slide backwards that many children experience in reading and math skills over the summer. You can combat the “summer slide” by encouraging your child to devote a small bit of time each day to keeping up skills.

Countless studies show that reading is one of the single most important things a child of any age can do. Reading strengthens vocabulary, exercises the brain, improves concentration, improves language skills, develops imagination, and helps children to develop empathy.

We hope you find these activities helpful! Take time to preview the activities together. We encourage you to have your child create a summer journal.





Thank you for partnering with us in your child’s education!




Sincerely Yours in Christ,




Betsy Davenport


Principal

Holy Cross Catholic School

	<p>Make a list of 5-10 books you'd like to read OR topics about which you'd like to read over the summer. Share this list with a family member or a friend.</p> <p>Need ideas? Go to <a href="http://www.pgcmls.info/wbsite/teens-graded-reading-lists-447">http://www.pgcmls.info/wbsite/teens-graded-reading-lists-447</a> for lists and more!</p> <p>Get/make your journal.</p>	<p>Check out this first link for GUMs (Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics) practice!</p> <p>Visit <a href="http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/">www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/</a> and choose the Nouns Quiz for your grade. It's not as easy as you might think!</p>	<p><i>Journaling:</i> On the first blank page of your journal, draw a big heart. In that heart, write brief words about things dear to your heart. This "heart map" holds the people, places, events, and things you might ever write about.</p> <p> = a reminder to add to your heart map</p>	<p>This year is the 153<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of President Lincoln's assassination. Honor his legacy by visiting the Lincoln Memorial. Find details at <a href="http://www.nps.gov/linc">www.nps.gov/linc</a>.</p> <p>Make notes of your  thoughts and what you most enjoyed in your journal. <b>Add to your heart map each week.</b></p>		
<p>Make a family trip to the library, book store, or to your home library to select your first "summer read." It may be fiction or nonfiction.</p> <p>Think about partnering with a friend so that you can share your Summer Adventure together!</p>	<p>FICTION or NONFICTION: Make a list of 3-4 questions or wonderings you have about your book that you hope will be answered by reading.</p>	<p>Use a 4-tab Foldable to make note of four words from your book that are new or interesting. Put the word/phrase on the front and on the inside write the definition and draw an image to help you remember.</p> <p><a href="http://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/badlandsreadingcouncil/files/2012/03/reading-and-study-skills-foldables.pdf">blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/badlandsreadingcouncil/files/2012/03/reading-and-study-skills-foldables.pdf</a></p>	<p>FICTION: List the characters and jot down your initial impressions about characters.</p> <p>NONFICTION: As you read, make notes about a key person/event in history and why this person/event is significant.</p>	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/">www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/grammar/</a> and choose the Verbs Quiz for your grade. As you continue to read your book, notice how verbs are used.</p>	<p><i>Music Connection:</i> Find or write a song that relates to the book you are reading. In your journal, explain how this song is related to what you have read so far. Include text evidence in your entry.</p>	<p>Visit the website of the Museum of Natural History.</p> <p><a href="http://naturalhistory.si.edu/">http://naturalhistory.si.edu/</a></p> <p>Explore and talk about the history of national fossils or the Hope Diamond. </p>
<p>Gather family and friends and read about the Declaration of Independence at <a href="http://www.ushistory.org/declaration">http://www.ushistory.org/declaration</a>. Explore the links. Discuss why it is important to know about such documents in our country's history.</p>	<p>FICTION: Make a web that shows traits of one character that make him/her unforgettable. NONFICTION: Review your journal notes. Write a paragraph that explains the impact of your significant person/event. Defend your statement with evidence from the text.</p>	<p>In honor of the upcoming holiday, unscramble these letters to name the oldest signer of the Declaration.</p> <p><b>aaeiibfjklmnnnr</b></p> <p>Now, how many more words can you make from these letters?</p>	<p>FICTION or NONFICTION: Has your book answered the questions you listed last week? If so, jot down those answers with text evidence. If not, list how, where you might find the answers and try to answer at least one of your questions.</p>	<p>Test your knowledge of different parts of speech at <a href="http://www.funbrain.com/cgi-bin/gg.cgi?A1=m&amp;A2=0&amp;A3=0&amp;AFUNCT=1&amp;ALEVEL=1">www.funbrain.com/cgi-bin/gg.cgi?A1=m&amp;A2=0&amp;A3=0&amp;AFUNCT=1&amp;ALEVEL=1</a>. As you continue to read your book, notice how the author uses different parts of speech to make you "see" the story.</p>	<p><i> Casting Call:</i> Hollywood has invited you to cast the characters in your current book. Develop a list of actors who would play each role. What qualities does the character have that the actor must meet? If you can, include pictures/drawings of the actors you select.</p>	<p>Visit the website of the Freer Sackler Museum. <a href="http://www.asia.si.edu/">www.asia.si.edu/</a></p> <p>Let the beautiful and historic Asian artifacts inspire you! </p>

<p><b>POETRY WEEK!</b> Have a poetry workshop with family and friends. <a href="http://teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack_home.htm">teacher.scholastic.com/writewit/poetry/jack_home.htm</a>. Plan a Poetry Slam for next Saturday! Share your ideas with family and friends.</p>	<p>Start a poetry portfolio. Write your own poetry. Choose from the lessons at <a href="http://www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm">www.msrogers.com/English2/poetry/30_days_of_poetry.htm</a>. Refer to your heart map for ideas.</p>	<p>Use historical and cultural sources to inspire today's poems.</p> <p>Use images, books, and articles to stimulate your creativity.</p>	<p>Continue to work on your poetry portfolio. Use <a href="#">this link</a> and consider Lessons 1, 4, 7, 12, 19, and 29.</p> <p>Refer to your heart map for ideas.</p>	<p>Find a poem that appeals to you. Copy and include it with your poems. Why does this poem speak to you? What does it mean to you?</p>	<p><i>Culminating Project:</i> Finish your poetry portfolio. Use <a href="#">this link</a> or write your own free verse poetry.</p> <p>Make sure all is ready for your Slam.</p>	<p>Hold your Poetry Slam with family and friends at a fun location. Be sure to share some of your poetry.</p> <p>You might go to a poetry reading. With a trusted adult, search online for details. </p>
<p>Gather your family and friends to play games such as <i>Scrabble</i>, <i>Pictionary</i>, or <i>Boggle</i>. You can find some online at Pogo.com or through search engines.</p> <p>Select a new book and begin reading it today. Find a book with a movie adaptation or related documentary.</p>	<p>FICTION or NONFICTION: Focus on big ideas as you read.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What key idea(s) does the author introduce and develop?</li> <li>2. What evidence, details, or text features support this?</li> </ol>	<p>In honor of last week's poetry study, unscramble these letters to find the poet who wrote many sonnets.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>a a e e e h k p r s s</b></p> <p>Now, how many more words can you make from these letters?</p>	<p>FICTION or NONFICTION: Continue to note big ideas as you read.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What key idea(s) does the author introduce and develop?</li> <li>2. What evidence, details, or text features support this?</li> </ol>	<p>Commas matter! Review the rules and take a practice test at <a href="http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/9721">www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/9721</a>. As you continue to read your book, note the author's use of commas.</p>	<p><i>Graphic Design Project:</i> Create a map of the setting of your book. Be sure to include elements of a good map and notes about the setting from the book.</p>	<p>Plan and go on a trip to your favorite local park or beach.</p> <p>Ask everyone to be ready to share the name of their favorite book or text (fiction or non-fiction—maybe even both) and why that book made such an impression on them. </p>
<p>With family or a friend, watch the movie or documentary that is related to your book. Over a meal, share how the book and film version are similar and different and why this might be.</p>	<p>FICTION or NONFICTION: In a chart or in paragraph form, compare the book and media versions. Then, journal about how any differences affect the meaning and experience of the story being told.</p>	<p>Make another 4-tab Foldable to note four words from your book that are new or interesting.</p> <p>See the June 27<sup>th</sup> entry for instructions.</p>	<p>Based on your reading, what is THE BIG IDEA the author is trying to share with the reader? Refer to your recent journal notes and your reading to respond. Include text evidence.</p>	<p>Ensure you know how to end a sentence to make your meaning clear. <a href="http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/10411">www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/10411</a></p> <p>As you continue to read your book, notice how the author uses ending punctuation to make the meaning clear.</p>	<p><i>Graphic Design Project:</i> Create a book cover for the book you are reading. You can use the templates at <a href="http://readwritethink.org">readwritethink.org</a> or you can use your own creativity! In your journal, write about your design choices. Share it with family and friends.</p>	<p>Head to the website of Air and Space Museum. <a href="http://airandspace.si.edu">airandspace.si.edu</a></p> <p>Explore and talk about the history behind the science. </p>

<p><b>FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK</b></p> <p>Use the link provided each day or work with your family to complete the journal tasks. You might visit a local bank or credit union and ask for resources too.</p>	<p>Do <i>Setting Goals</i>. Visit <a href="http://makeeverydollarcount.ucr.edu/">http://makeeverydollarcount.ucr.edu/</a>. Or you can journal about your financial goals and how you currently get and spend your money. Also note how you could improve your \$ habits.</p>	<p>Use the previous link and complete <i>Making Choices</i>. Or you can write about your WANTS versus NEEDS. Chart information and prices about some things that you NEED and those you WANT.</p>	<p>Use the previous link and complete <i>Budgeting Basics</i>. Or you can work with a trusted adult and ask about a budget he or she uses. How are decisions made about what to spend and when, as well as how and when to save.</p>	<p>Use the previous link and complete <i>Food Advertising</i>. Or you can look at food advertisements at the store or on TV. What specific messages are in these “ads” that appeals to buyers? Write about 2 or more products.</p>	<p><i>Culminating Project:</i> Your best friend’s birthday is coming up. You are given \$200 to throw a party. Design a budget, and don’t forget all the details like food, entertainment, and even clean-up.</p>	<p>End this week’s study with a tour of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. <a href="http://www.moneyfactory.gov">www.moneyfactory.gov</a></p> 
<p>With your family or friends, visit your local library and choose another book to read. Please choose a FICTION title.</p>	<p>As you read for the next two weeks, use your journal to note your thoughts about the setting, characters, and plot of the story.</p>	<p>Practice with analogies at <a href="http://www.vocabulary.co.il/analogies/">www.vocabulary.co.il/analogies/</a></p>	<p>Continue to note your thoughts about the setting, characters, and plot of the story.</p>	<p>Test your knowledge of when to use capital letters at <a href="http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/9781">www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/9781</a>.</p>	<p><i>Graphic Design Project:</i> Make an illustrated timeline of events in your book. You can continue to add events until the book is finished.</p>	<p>Once again, visit D.C. and go to the website of the National Gallery of Art. <a href="http://nga.gov/">nga.gov/</a> Explore and talk about what we can learn about culture and ideas from these works.</p> 
<p>Gather your family and friends to play games such as <i>Scrabble</i>, <i>Pictionary</i>, <i>Outburst</i>, or <i>Boggle</i>.</p> <p>You can find some online at Pogo.com or through search engines.</p>	<p>Continue to note your thoughts about the setting, characters, and plot of the story.</p> <p>Add to the timeline you started Friday.</p>	<p>Make another 4-tab Foldable to note four words from your book that are new or interesting. If you like, you may design your own graphic organizer!</p>	<p>Outline a continuation or sequel to the story you are reading. Be sure to use what you have learned about the setting, characters, and plot of the passage. Need support? Look at items 4-7 at <a href="http://theliteracycookbook.wordpress.com/2014/11/22/parcc-prep-how-to-approach-the-narrative-writing-task/">theliteracycookbook.wordpress.com/2014/11/22/parcc-prep-how-to-approach-the-narrative-writing-task/</a>.</p>	<p>Become an expert in the use of apostrophes at <a href="http://www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/6726">www.timeforkids.com/homework-helper/punctuation-practice/rules/6726</a>.</p>	<p><i>Creative Writing:</i> Use your outline/notes from Wednesday to develop an original continuation or sequel to the story.</p> <p>Refer to the August 9th link, if needed.</p>	<p>Learn more about where you live – plan your own local trip! Enjoy this time with family and friends!</p> 

<p>With your family or friends, visit your local library and choose another book to read. Please choose another FICTION title.</p>	<p>FICTION: Make a list of 3-4 questions or wonderings you have about your book that you hope will be answered by reading.</p>	<p>Practice determining the meaning of words in context- <a href="http://www.vocabulary.co.il/context-and-definitions/">http://www.vocabulary.co.il/context-and-definitions/</a></p>	<p>FICTION: List the characters and jot down your initial impressions about characters</p>	<p>Visit <a href="http://www.eduplace.com/kids/home/6_8/grammar/">www.eduplace.com/kids/home/6_8/grammar/</a> and choose Unit 1- The Sentence for your grade.</p>	<p><i>Movie or TV Connection:</i> Find a movie or TV show that relates to the book you are reading. In your journal, explain how this show or movie is related to what you have read so far. Include text evidence in your entry.</p>	<p>Continue to learn more about where you live – Visit a new local place.</p>
<p>Gather family and friends and read a loud a portion of your book to them. Give your family a brief summary of what you have read this week.</p>	<p>As you read for the next two weeks, use your journal to note your thoughts about the setting, characters, and plot of the story.</p>	<p>Use a 4-tab foldable to highlight four words from your book that are new or interesting. Put the word on the front and write the definition and draw an image to help you remember on the inside. <a href="http://blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/badlandsreadingcouncil/files/2012/03/reading-and-study-skills-foldables.pdf">blogs.edutech.nodak.edu/badlandsreadingcouncil/files/2012/03/reading-and-study-skills-foldables.pdf</a></p>	<p>Select one character from the story. Who does he/she remind you of? Explain why.</p>	<p>Test your knowledge of nouns <a href="http://www.vocabulary.co.il/parts-of-speech/middle-school/what-kind-of-noun/">http://www.vocabulary.co.il/parts-of-speech/middle-school/what-kind-of-noun/</a></p>	<p><i>Graphic Design Project:</i> Illustrate an important scene or chapter from your book.</p>	<p>Continue to learn more about where you live- Once again, think of somewhere else that is new to you in the area you live!</p>
<p>Plan monthly Book Talks with your family and friends. Decide on dates, themes, authors, and other details. <a href="http://ehow.com/how_4621526_start-family-book-club.html">ehow.com/how_4621526_start-family-book-club.html</a></p>	<p>FICTION: Focus on big ideas as you read. What key idea(s) does the author introduce and develop?</p>	<p>Make another 4-tab Foldable to note four words from your book that are new or interesting. If you like, you may design your own graphic organizer.</p>	<p>Based on your reading, what is THE BIG IDEA the author is trying to share with the reader? Refer to your recent journal notes and your reading to respond. Include text evidence.</p>	<p>Review the parts of speech. <a href="http://www.vocabulary.co.il/parts-of-speech/old-yeller-parts-of-speech/">http://www.vocabulary.co.il/parts-of-speech/old-yeller-parts-of-speech/</a></p>	<p>Imagine that you are a character in the book and create a blog based on the characters interests.</p>	<p>Visit the Department of Labor website and read about the history of Labor Day. After reading, vote on who is the founder of labor day. <a href="https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history">https://www.dol.gov/general/laborday/history</a></p>
<p>Gather with your family and friends and tell them what Labor day means. Provide them with a brief overview of the history of labor day.</p>	<p>Review what you've written in your Summer Adventure Journal. For your last entry, set some goals for the new school year and explain how you plan to achieve them. <b>You are amazing!</b></p>					

## Summer Adventure ~ Books I've Read

**Name:**

**Chart your summer adventures here!** List the books you have read on this page. Depending on how fast you read and how much you read each day, you may have completed more books than suggested on the calendar. **Glue, tape, or insert this document to the first page of your Journal.**

Book Title	Author(s)	Genre	Number of Pages	Recommendation to Other Readers