



# Bellevue Children's Academy

## Summer Study Guide 5<sup>th</sup> Grade



2020-2021 School Year

At Bellevue Children's Academy, we recommend that children reinforce what they learned during the school year by engaging in learning activities over the summer. Our Summer Study Guide contains suggestions for some fun and painless ways to bring a little "school" into your child's summer and prepare him or her for Sixth Grade. At the back of the Guide you will find a Recommended Summer Reading List.

### Language

We recommend that students read aloud throughout each day. Read chapter books aloud with your child. For many students, high-interest adventure, books about animals, and humorous fiction are popular, as are biographies about people who interest your student. Students are often interested in series of books such as *The Babysitters Club* so that they can follow the same characters. Series books are wonderful, since once your child is hooked on one book, he or she has plenty more to choose from!

Help your child choose books judiciously. Some good strategies for picking a book that he or she will like: Read the book description; open to a random page and read 2-3 pages; (the first couple of pages can be slow as the author sets up the story); and do the "five finger" trick (if there are more than five words your child doesn't know on any given page, the book is too hard).

Independent reading. Your student should read at least thirty minutes a day, for no less than fifteen minutes at a time. A reading time of less than ten minutes does less for a student's reading development.

Encourage your child to participate in summer reading events through the King County Library System. They host events throughout the summer for readers of all ages, all of which can be found on their website's calendar.

You can purchase excellent reading and writing skills' workbooks at Lakeshore Learning Store in Bellevue. Please limit your child's work to one to three pages per day.

Read a book, then watch the movie that goes with it. Compare and contrast the two versions.

Play Mad Libs to enforce parts of speech they have learned this year and to build interest in reading. Other word games: Scrabble, Boggle, Apples to Apples, Cranium, and Pictionary

Keep a journal of daily and weekly activities. This is especially valuable when on road trips or vacations. You can also have your child help make a vacation scrapbook with captions.

Vacation ideas: Play the alphabet game ("I see something that begins with the letter "M") and listen to books on tape.

Have your student read whenever possible: Cookbooks, in the grocery store, video-game manuals, Lego directions, comic books: It all counts!

Encourage your student to write for at least fifteen minutes a day. Students can also write a play for the family to perform, a movie if you own a video camera, or a poem about observations they make during the summer.

Read one current event article daily from the newspaper and discuss. Please practice this with your student;

the news will be built into their journal writing next school year.

## **Math**

A great way to review the math concepts taught this year is to have children apply them to their daily lives, making math over the summer fun and meaningful. You can also pick up a math workbook from any bookstore that reviews much of what we focused on this school year.

Math in the summer can be fun and meaningful. An enjoyable way to review math over the summer is to integrate it into your child's daily life. You can also find workbooks or use websites such as KhanAcademy.com or IXL.com to review topics from this school year.

What does your family do for fun over the summer? Your child can create tables or graphs to display sport statistics. Cooking is a great opportunity for a metric or customary unit review. When buying a small item, encourage your child to consider different combinations of coins that could add to the same amount or calculate the discount and taxes for the purchase. If you are out in nature, your child can look for both line and point symmetric objects. We can support their mathematical thinking by helping children find math in the world around them.

Some concepts that are worth reviewing in preparation for sixth grade include volume, integers, and graph analysis. It would be helpful to practice adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing decimals and fractions. Students can also continue to explore how decimals, fractions and percentages are related. Any practice in problem solving would be useful as well.

How do you and your family relax during the summer? Your activities might include playing sports, playing games, exploring your hometown, shopping, enjoying nature, or traveling. Math is our invisible friend in all those activities. If we can help our children enjoy finding and using math everywhere in the world around them, we are really helping them become mathematical thinkers, which supports your child's classroom learning.

## **Units of inquiry**

Students are encouraged to participate in activities associated with the scientific method. The Pacific Science Center, Museum of Flight, Burke Museum, and other organizations offer resources that include the scientific method as part of their programs, and many have great social studies applications as well.

Students can read books on genetics, diseases, engineering, robotics, chemistry, ecosystems, and biomes to review past material. Topics such as life and physical sciences are covered in sixth grade. In order to prepare for them, check out books that relate to biology, botany, earth science and even astronomy. There is a plethora of activities and labs you can access online that apply each of these concepts and more! You can also find numerous books and websites containing lab activity ideas and summarizations of how they apply to other aspects in real life.

Current events are an applicable way to get your student interested in social studies topics. Resources like scholastic news or other youth-targeted news sources are good tools to use, as well as any trusted news source that you would like to use. Students can read and respond verbally or in writing to events and topics.

Children naturally ask many questions. Why not explore those questions more in depth? Have the students create their own experiment using the scientific method or research a topic of interest to them that they are wondering about. Science also often correlates with many current events. Try discussing current events with your child while asking hypothetical questions about the possibilities of certain situations. This adds to the idea of asking questions and using critical thinking to deduce the effects of something and why they occur.

**We hope you enjoy these ideas. Have a wonderful summer!**

-Your 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers

## Summer Reading List Suggestions

- *Beetle Boy* by M. G. Leonard\*
- *The Bitter Side of Sweet* by Tara Sullivan
- *Booked* by Kwame Alexander
- *The Boys Who Challenged Hitler: Knud Pedersen and the Churchill Club* by Phillip Hoose
- *Dead to Me* by Mary McCoy
- *Dream On, Amber* by Emma Shevah
- *Fatal Fever: Tracking Down Typhoid Mary* by Gail Jarrow
- *Fearsome Creatures of the Lumberwoods* by Hal Johnson
- *Fish in a Tree* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt
- *The Great Greene Heist* by Varian Johnson
- *Grounded: The Adventures of Rapunzel* by Megan Morrison\*
- *Hour of the Bees* By Lindsay Eagar
- *I Kill the Mockingbird* by Paul Acampora
- *The Iron Trial* by Holly Black and Cassandra Clare
- *Lost in the Sun* by Lisa Graff
- *The Mark of the Dragonfly* by Jaleigh Johnson
- *Mark of the Thief* by Jennifer A. Nielsen\*
- *Masterminds* by Gordon Korman\*
- *Me & Miranda Mullaly* by Jake Gerhardt
- *Most Dangerous: Daniel Ellsberg and the Secret History of the Vietnam War* by Steve Sheinkin
- *The Night Gardener* by Jonathan Auxier
- *The Night Parade* by Kathryn Tanquary
- *Serafina and the Black Cloak* by Robert Beatty
- *Some Kind of Courage* by Dan Gemeinhart
- *Tesla's Attic* by Neal Shusterman and Eric Elfman\*



\*First book in a series

Also check out Newbery Medal Award Winners from past year

