



NATIVITY CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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Rising 8th Graders

2019-2020 RECOMMENDED SUMMER LEARNING

To continue skill-building during the summer, below are the recommended activities for your child, tailored to grade level.

Language Arts:

REQUIRED: Rocket Boys by Homer H. Hickam, Jr., a true story based on a high school student in rural West Virginia in 1957, who seemed destined to repeat his father's harsh life in the coal mines until he turned his attention to the skies. At odds with his father, determined to better himself, and inspired by the dawn of the space age, he embarks on a mission that changes his life forever. With the help of his friends, Homer wins first prize in a national science fair and learns he can do anything he sets his mind to doing. In his quest, Homer also is aided by a supportive teacher. Through his determination, he eventually gains the respect of the whole community and his father (*Interdisciplinary Unit* by Kris Anderson).

NOTE: Students are required to read **Chapters 1-6** before the start of school. Choose three-five unfamiliar words, write the definition, and create a sentence using the word in context. This assignment will be included with a list of tasks upon return to school. Also, students will write **two** summaries/reflections – one for Chapters 1-3 and another for Chapters 4-6 and will be shared in groups.

Connection: Science Fair

REQUIRED: The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton, a story of peer pressure, rebellion, and identity which centers on two rival groups of teens, the lower-class "outsider" Greasers and the more well-heeled, popular Socs (short for "Socials"). The indelible characters and compelling story have consistently hooked middle school students since the book was first published in 1967. The theme of **tolerance of others** will be connected to Religion lessons and bullying discussions. Students will discuss positive ways to address personal and social challenges of today. Students need to bring purchased copy or library copy later in the year (reminder will be sent). Response activities will be assigned in class.

Suggested Additional Book (not required) - Connection to Religion: Human Dignity

Petey by Ben Mikaelson ... The story is based on the real-life man, Petey Corbin, who was born with Cerebral Palsy. It will serve as an added "tie-in" to the themes of **Overcoming Adversity and Tolerance of Others (The Outsiders)**.

We will also be participating in the **Sunshine State Young Readers Program** (see attached book list) next school year as we continue to prepare and inspire our students academically. The purpose of the SSYRA Program is to encourage students to read independently for pleasure and to read books that are on, above, and below their reading level in order to improve their reading fluency. We are including the list of 6th-8th books for your reference so that students can begin reading them over the summer. We will have a classroom copy of each book available next school year for students to check out within their classrooms, but we highly recommend picking a book or two off the list after students have completed their required reading over the summer. The titles are available at local public libraries as well as online or in bookstores. You can find our more at: <https://www.floridamediaed.org/ssyra.html>.

Math:



KHAN ACADEMY: <https://www.khanacademy.org/>

Khan Academy is a great free resource where you can help your child explore math concepts such as addition/subtraction, multiplication/division, fractions, measurement & data, geometry and place value. When you visit the website, be sure to choose "8th Grade" under the Math by Grade menu to find these learning activities. Your child can also explore Pre-

Algebra Concepts by choosing “Algebra” under the Math by Subject menu. If you feel your child is in need of support of strengthening their understanding of 7th grade concepts, try visiting the “7th Grade” section first.

All Subjects:



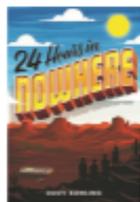
<https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/signin>

This summer, students can begin to explore a resource that we will be using in the classroom next school year. Discovery Education’s Streaming Plus platform ignites learning with a premiere collection of curated K–12 content, matched with research-based instructional strategies.

Username: 8.NCSstudent

Password: #Nativity1

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2019-2020 List for Grades 6-8



24 Hours in Nowhere by Dusti Bowling

Gus hopes in just a short twenty-four hours, he can explore and escape the abandoned mine in his home of Nowhere, Arizona. He just has to find the rumored gold, win back a dirt bike from a thirteen-year-old bully, and try not to die from dehydration, cave-ins, and wild animal attacks. But man can't survive on Twinkies alone. A life-threatening adventure such as this requires the companionship of the dirt bike-riding new girl in town and Gus's two former friends. Throughout the day and night, the group of outsiders learn that they have more things in common than they realized, and it's their newly formed bond that will be the key to their survival. Bikes might get damaged and bones might get broken, but their newly formed friendships will thrive in this desert town.



The Adventurers Guild by Zack Loran Clark

Zed Kagari and Brock Dunderfel are preparing for the Guildcullen. The day where children find what path they will take for the rest of their life. Before they can be chosen, they find themselves drafted into the Adventurer's Guild. The guild that travels outside the walls of Freestone, into the wild lands between cities filled with monsters and "Dangers". When the boys uncover that the city might have a traitor, looking to destroy all the city had worked for, they have to work with new allies to save their town and prove their worth.



All's Faire in Middle School by Victoria Jamieson

As a squire-in-training, eleven-year-old Impy must demonstrate her bravery to move up in the ranks at the Renaissance Faire where her family works. Though she can wield a sword and handle the threats of dragons, will she survive the challenge that is MIDDLE SCHOOL? Impy will learn how to transition from home-schooled child to a public school student. How will she navigate the school hallways? How will she deal with hard teachers? Will she make friends who accept her for who she is? Impy is about to find out just how brave she can be and which dragons she needs to slay to conquer middle school.



Boy X by Dan Smith

Twelve-year-old Ash wakes up in an unfamiliar room with an IV in his arm, a head full of jumbled memories, and a host of superhuman abilities. He has no idea what he is capable of, but if he is going to save the world, he needs to evolve. With the lead scientists locked in quarantine including his mother, it is up to Ash to track a group of criminals intent on releasing a deadly virus into the world. Unfortunately, a dense jungle full of terrifying creatures is between the biosphere where he is being kept and the getaway boat.



Breakout by Kate Messner

Nora Tucker is looking forward to summer vacation in Wolf Creek—two months of swimming, popsicles, and brushing up on her journalism skills for the school paper. When two inmates break out of the town's maximum security prison, everything changes. Doors that were never locked are locked, helicopters fly over, and the police are on patrol. The worse part is everyone is on edge. The fear has brought out the worst in people Nora has known her whole life. Even if the inmates are caught, she worries that home might never feel the same.



Captain Superlative by J.S. Puller

Janey Silverman doesn't know what to make of the girl in the red mask, blue wig, silver swimsuit, high top sneakers and a cape. She's determined to find out more about the girl who runs through the halls of Deerwood Park Middle School championing good deeds and standing up to bullies. When she tries out her secret identity, she gets more than she bargains for as Captain Superlative's new sidekick. Janey also finds out some secrets about herself and what makes a good hero, and a good friend.



Elephant Secret by Eric Walters

Samantha Gray is known as the "elephant girl" since she lives in an animal sanctuary with eleven elephants and her dad. She finds her elephant family much easier to get along with than most people, including her dad's lawyer girlfriend, Joyce. When a beloved elephant dies giving birth to a newborn, Sam's world is upended. She knew raising a newborn would be a challenge, but something is very different about *this* baby. *Secrets begin to threaten not only the herd's peaceful existence at the sanctuary, but even Sam and her dad's place among the elephants.*

Sunshine State Young Readers Award Books 2019-2020 List for Grades 6-8, Page 2



Ethan Marcus Stands Up by Michele Weber Hurwitz

Ethan Marcus isn't usually a rule breaker but one day at school he decides he is fed up with sitting all day. His refusal to sit does not go over well with his teachers and leads to detention.

While in detention it is suggested that Ethan participate in the school's upcoming Invention Day. Ethan's sister and her goody two shoe friends participate every year but Ethan has never had the desire or an invention idea, until now. Will an idea be enough to motivate Ethan to participate at Invention Day?



Greetings from Witness Protection by Jake Burt

Nicki's father is in jail and her grandmother is dead so she's in the foster care system. One day two US Marshalls show up and offer her "the adventure of a lifetime." They need her to help hide a family in witness protection from a very dangerous criminal. Since the criminals are looking for a family of 3, adding a daughter to the family will make it easier to keep them hidden. Adding a street-smart, savvy, kleptomaniac like Nicki may help to keep them alive - unless her past puts them all in danger!



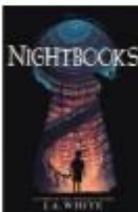
Ivy Aberdeen's Letter to the World by Ashley Herring Blake

Ivy is trying to pick up the pieces of her life--both literally and figuratively. After a tornado destroys her family's home, life throws her another blow when her notebook containing several drawings of girls holding hands goes missing at the shelter. Ivy feels ignored by her family as they struggle with rebuilding their home and their lives, so she has no one to turn to about all the feelings about her identity. One day, the drawings from her notebook start appearing in her locker along with anonymous notes that encourage Ivy to be herself. Ivy has hopes that the keeper of the notebook might be her crush, but does Ivy have the courage to share her true self with the world? Ivy soon learns that sometimes you have to have your world turned upside down to find out who you really are.



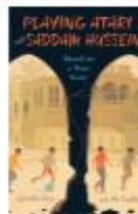
Knockout by K.A. Holt

When Levi discovers his love for boxing, he finds himself in the ring with those who love him most. He knows he's strong enough to fight for his life. But can he convince everyone else to believe in him too? This funny and emotional novel in verse looks at what it means to be a typical kid- and all the many definitions of strength.



Nightbooks by J.A. White

Everyone loves a good scare, right? Alex is a kid who loves scary stories so much that he writes his own spooky tales. One night he finds himself knocking on a stranger's door after hearing the sounds of one of his favorite movies, *The Night of the Living Dead*. This stranger invites him inside, but she has no intention of letting Alex leave. Natacha is a witch who only finds joy from Alex's spooky storytelling from his nightbooks. With the help from the other prisoners at Natacha's place, Alex makes up new stories to please the witch. But then his writer's block puts an end to his stories and--now--possibly his life. Can Alex write his way out of danger and out of this prison?



Playing Atari with Saddam Hussein by Jennifer Roy

At the start of 1991, eleven-year-old Ali Fadhil was consumed by his love for soccer, video games, and American television shows. Then, on January 17, Iraq's dictator Saddam Hussein went to war with thirty-four nations led by the United States.



Slider by Pete Hautman

David is an average kid with an unusual talent - eating large amounts of food in a small amount of time. It's just something his two best friends, Cyn and Heyman, time him at for fun. That is until he accidentally charges \$2000 on his mom's credit card - then he has to figure out how to use his talent to earn some cash before his mom finds out what he's done! Will David find enough time to train while still keeping an eye on his little brother? Will he be able to handle competing with professional competitive eaters, or will he have to confess to his mother?



Small Spaces by Katherine Arden

"Avoid large places. Keep to small." Seems like sound advice for Ollie to heed as she now finds herself on a stalled bus during the trip to the farm. Armed with a broken wristwatch displaying alarming warnings to her, Ollie and two classmates make the decision to leave their classmates on the bus and venture into the misty fields with only scarecrows around. But scarecrows only scare crows, right?