

NCA English...Summer Survival Plan: Students Entering Grade 8

Wow! Can you believe that summer vacation is HERE? As I think about my own summer plans and goals, I have 3 things in mind. Students, you are soooooooooo lucky because my summer survival goals for you are similar to my personal goals! In fact, I'm determined to do much more than SURVIVE the summer...Let's THRIVE and come back to school stronger, smarter, and knowing God a bit better! Are you ready????????????

In order to do that, we are going to focus on 3 different areas...our spiritual fitness, our physical fitness, and our reading fitness.

Let me make clear that you will not be penalized if you do not complete the suggested spiritual or physical "assignments." You WILL receive bonus points and homework passes if you do complete these parts of our summer survival plan.

1. I'm asking you to use a composition notebook or a journal (nothing fancy) and to read a little bit of God's Word each day this summer. Each time you read, write in your journal the date, the passage you read, and at least a one sentence thought that summarizes what you read. Don't worry if you miss a few days, but discipline yourself to be as consistent as possible. I will not be reading your entries, but I will be looking at your journals to see how you did. Do NOT do several in one day to "make up" missed days. Let's just decide to be more consistent than we have been in the past.

If you're not sure what to read, try reading a Psalm or 10 verses from Proverbs chapters 10-31, or work toward reading through the Gospels over the summer. That would be waaaaaaay coooooool!

2. Let's work on our physical fitness too! I want to encourage you to participate in some sort of physical exercise for at least 30 minutes a day most days this summer. You might want to just put a check in your journal on the days you get some good exercise walking, biking, hiking, swimming, or playing soccer with friends. I'm going to do the same thing!

3. Finally, and this part is NOT optional, you must complete the following reading for the grade you are ENTERING:

Grade 8 Students-Record a list of the books you read over the summer. They will be worth valuable points at the beginning of the new school year! I recommend reading 30 minutes each day during the summer. My mom required us to read 30 minutes each weekday day of the summer, and ALL seven of us grew up to be avid readers...We still are!

1. You must read Do Hard Things by Alex and Brett Harris. Write 3 quotes from the book that you can use to write a paper in class during the first week of school.

2. Then, you may, of course, read more than one, but choose **at least one** from the list below. Do NOT choose a book you have already read or about which you have seen a movie.

- Ann of Green Gables-L.M. Montgomery
- A Wrinkle in Time-Madeleine L'Engle
- My Side of the Mountain-Jean Craighead George
- Crispin-the Cross of Lead-Avi
- Crispin-At the Edge of the World-Avi
- Crispin-The End of Time-Avi
- The BFG-Roald Dahl
- The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle-Avi
- Gentle Ben-Walter Morey
- *The Yearling-Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings
- *Little Women-Louisa May Alcott
- *All Creatures Great and Small-James Herriot
- Kidnapped-Robert Louis Stevenson
- Robinson Crusoe-Daniel Defoe
- The Giver-Lois Lowry
- The Chronicles of Narnia(any...all)-C.S. Lewis
- Hero Tales for Kids-Dave and Neta Jackson
- The Complete Book of Christian Heroes-Dave and Neta Jackson
- *The Hobbit-J.R.R. Tolkien
- Old Yeller-Fred Gibson

- Oliver Twist-Charles Dickens
- ANY book by historical fiction author Ann Rinaldi is also a great read!

ENJOY!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Make friends with your town's library or check for used books on Amazon. Sometimes they only cost a penny plus a couple of dollars shipping! Contact me if you have any questions at parsons.n@nashuachristian.org .

3. One other thing. I HIGHLY recommend that you complete a free on-line keyboarding program over the summer. There are MANY free ones, and Slam Dunk Keyboarding is an excellent program you can purchase.

Have a grrrrrrrrrrrrreat summer, and stay in touch! I am praying for you often!