

# The Blue Ash Elementary Summer Challenge!



Research shows that between the end of one school year and the start of the next, every student risks summer learning loss. As educators we have experienced this from year to year, and we want to work with our students and families to help bridge between each learning year.

**On average, students lose 2 months of reading skills and 2.6 months of math skills over summer. It takes 6 weeks of instruction to re-learn information “lost” over summer. It can take up to 2 months from the first day of school for students’ brain development to get back on track.**

**Regular physical activity can lead to increased concentration and improved mathematics and test scores.**

**The good news is there are quick and easy activities that children can do to to maintain their skills over summer....some they can do independently and some are best done with others (parents or siblings)**

Grade level teachers have been collaborating to determine the most important skills for students to focus on to create the best path for success next year.

Attached you will see this information that your child's teacher has put together. In addition to the information shared by teachers, here are some other suggestions from recent research....

Reading four to five books over the summer has a positive impact comparable to summer school enrollment. Plus, this gives your child a chance to choose books that he or she is interested in, keeping the activity fun and interesting too!

### **Ways to incorporate reading and math into your summer plans**

- Take a trip to your local library
- Bring a book with you to the park or the beach
- Read a chapter in the morning, when your child is used to learning and before other plans cause distraction
- Play a game with flashcards to work on math fluency
- Solve math problems using sidewalk chalk
- Practice counting by 2, 5, 10 etc as children swing at the park.

Children are at risk of losing more than just academic knowledge during the summer – physical fitness levels also take a hit. Encouraging physical activity all summer long will help your child stay at peak mental form, as physical health is known to enhance academic performance.

### **Ways to incorporate physical activity into your summer plans**

- Sign your child up for a team sport
- Encourage learning a new skill such as swimming
- Go on walks and explore your area

**Below you will find options from your child's teacher that will help them keep their skills strong.**

**We hope that you all enjoy a wonderful summer!**

