



# Bellevue Children's Academy

## Summer Study Guide

### 2023-2024

### Second Grade



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 fun and painless ways to bring a little "school" into your child's summer and prepare him or her for third grade. At the back of the Guide, you will find a Recommended Summer Reading List.

**Timings:** All students can benefit from repeated practice of two-digit subtraction and addition, along with multiplication to improve speed and accuracy. A great way to accomplish this is by using their old timing sheets or flashcards.

#### Language Skills

**Students:** *Read for at least thirty minutes every day from a chapter book. You can read fifteen minutes twice a day or thirty minutes all at once. Tell a parent or older sibling what you just read; summarize it for them. Practice reading aloud to adult to practice fluency and expression.*

- When in a store with your parents, find ten things to read: the "for sale" signs posted throughout the shop, the front of a pasta box, the names of exotic vegetables in the produce bins, or the ingredients on a container of double-chocolate-chunk ice cream.
- Participate in King County Library System's wonderful Summer Reading Program, "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!" You can sign up for KCLS's summer reading program either online or at your local library.
- Read a magazine twice a week, in addition to your chapter book reading. Older copies of magazines may be checked out from your local library. There are numerous great choices, including *Sports Illustrated for Kids*, *National Geographic for Kids*, *Highlights*, *Cricket*, and *Ranger Rick*.
- When you watch a TV show, summarize the episode for a parent or older sibling.
- Read a children's cookbook. Select a few recipes you'd like to try. Try them!
- Sometime during the day, have a parent read to you. You and your parents can choose a book together.
- Keep a journal of your daily activities. Remember to write in complete sentences.
- Play fun word games such as Scrabble or Boggle.

#### Math Skills

*A good way to review the math concepts taught this year is to have children apply them to their daily lives. You can also pick up a math workbook from any bookstore, or online, that reviews much of what we focused on this school year.*

- Do you root for the Seattle Mariners? You might enjoy following the team's statistics in the newspaper throughout the summer. Create a graph to track changes over time. If you play a sport, keep track of your own statistics.
- What about the geometry of sports? Playing fields and balls are geometric shapes. Take a look at how a baseball or a football is formed from several flat shapes. Can you make an indoor softball or football or soccer ball by cutting and sewing together pieces of cloth and filling with a soft material? Try researching the math terms for familiar shapes: Of course, a baseball is a sphere, but did you know that a football is a "prolate spheroid" and a soccer ball is a "truncated icosahedron?" What do those terms mean? What's the story behind the shape of the football?
- The kitchen is a great place to practice math (if there's an adult to supervise). How many tomatoes will you need to double the recipe for sauce? If there are three people in your family and fifteen strawberries to divide equally among them, how many strawberries will each person get?
- What's the biggest building in town? How can you find or estimate its dimension? How many windows does it have? Take a home inventory: How many books or toys or items of clothing or pairs of shoes are in your home? Take a math hike: What geometric shapes can you find in your neighborhood or in your own home? What comes in clusters? What is symmetrical?

- Use estimation skills to predict how much the grocery bill will be.
- Comparison shopping: How much do you save per ounce (or another unit) by buying in bulk?
- Look at expiration dates: Which products have short shelf lives? Long shelf lives? Why?
- How much can you save by buying products on sale?
- Compare clothing prices at two or more stores.
- Dream-shop without spending: Imagine that you had \$1,000 to spend. Take some time to look around your favorite stores and make a wish list. How close can you come to spending exactly \$1,000?
- Math scavenger hunt: What is the most expensive item you can find in the entire mall? What is the cheapest item? What is the biggest item? How large is it? What is the smallest item? What is the size and cost of the largest TV? The smallest TV? Make up your own questions and keep exploring.
- Food Court: Where can you get the best deal on a meal?
- Can you figure sales tax in your head?
- Are you planning a road trip? Use a map's scale of miles to estimate distances and travel times.
- How many miles per gallon does your car average on highways? In town?
- What are the highest and lowest gas prices you can find on your trip? How much money can you save by filling up your car at the lowest price?
- How much is the trip likely to cost, taking into account gasoline, tolls, meals, lodging, recreation, and souvenirs? Compare the actual costs of the trip to your prediction.
- License plate math: Add or subtract or multiply or divide the numbers you find on license plates. You can work with as many digits as you wish. For instance, you might treat the first number on a license plate as a divisor and the next three numbers as a three-digit dividend.

### Units of Inquiry

#### Who We Are

- Interview a friend or family member from a different culture about their traditions
- Participate in another culture's traditions or invite someone outside your culture to participate in your own! Use your five senses!
- Create a dream vacation itinerary where you visit new places around the world. Where will you go? How long will you stay? What traditions do you experience? Calculate how much money you would need to save.

#### How We Organize Ourselves

- While on a road trip, examine the land around you and hypothesize with your family how it became the shape that it is now. Was it erosion by water, wind, or ice? Was it formed by a lava flow from a nearby or maybe extinct volcano? If you can, do some research about the area and see if your hypothesis was correct!
- Go in your yard or a nearby park and see if you can find an example of a sedimentary rock (formed by deposits of sand, dirt, or mud), an igneous rock (formed by cooled magma), and a metamorphic rock (formed by one of the other two kinds being transformed by heat and pressure deep under the earth).
- Make a cake with one (or both) of your parents using food coloring or different ingredients to model the different layers of the earth: crust, mantle, outer core, inner core. Enjoy, but be sure to save some slices of the planet for your family!
- Find and watch a documentary about the formation of the earth. Record ten facts you learned and share them with a friend or family member!

#### Sharing the Planet

- Research an extinct animal from Earth's past. Try to predict what living animals it is related to by examining its unique body parts. What role did this animal play in its ecosystem? Is it the same role that its relatives play today? Does it look or behave like a different, unrelated animal? Think about why this may be!
- Watch a nature documentary and keep track of how many animal adaptations are described. How many different adaptations can you count? Try putting them into two groups: **body adaptations** and **behavioral adaptations**.
- Ask yourself this question: If I could be any animal, what would I be? Don't just pick your favorite animal, but try to really think about its habitat, food, predators, and life cycle when you pick. Write a paragraph about what a day in the life of your chosen animal would really be like.
- Spend some time outside, whether it is in your backyard, the park, or on a summer trip and observe the animals in that environment. Use a notebook to record them and try to classify them as either mammals, birds, reptiles,

fish, amphibians, or invertebrates (insects, arachnids, worms etc). Then research the animals you saw and see if your classification was correct!

#### **Where in Place and Time**

- Look around your house and in your neighborhood for tools /gadgets/devices that make our lives easier. List them down and discuss with your parents to add more things to the list.
- Do a journal writing on: 'What would life be without the tools/gadgets and devices listed above?'
- Watch a documentary on the top ten inventions of the 21st century.
- Visit the school/ public library and seek permission to ask a few questions about the library systems. If they are free to answer your questions, ask the librarian how they categorize and sort books. What kind of technology enables them to search books easily and efficiently. Was the technology the same a decade ago?
- Think of challenges that you currently face and predict futuristic technology which may assist you in solving this problem. Write the idea down and build a prototype (model) using recyclable materials if possible.

#### **How We Express Ourselves**

- Play the "SYMBOL I SPY" game around the house, on vacation, or in a specific room
- Safety sign bingo
- Learn basic signs for sign language together and use sign language for a portion of the day.
- Write a letter in Morse Code
- Create a family symbol to hang in one of your rooms
- Create a "Symbols I Know" book

#### **How the World Works**

- Discover all the different ways electricity is used in your home. Hunt down appliances and electronics, then determine why and how each one is using electricity.
- Take a trip to a home improvement or electronic parts store (such as Home Depot) and ask to see circuits and breaker panels up close.
- If you have an electrician fixing something in the house, ask him or her questions about the project—letting an electrician share what they do is a great learning opportunity!
- Explore magnetism around your home. First, choose items to test and make predictions. Then, use a magnet to test your predictions and discuss conclusions. Research the composition of those items to gain further knowledge.

We hope you enjoy these ideas. Enjoy your summer!

Sincerely,

Second Grade Teachers

## Second Grade Recommended Summer Reading List

*Caddie Woodlawn* by Carol Ryrie Brink

*Look to the Stars* by Buzz Aldrin

*The Magical Ms. Plum* by Bonny Becker

*Class Clown* by Johanna Hurwitz

*Summer According to Humphrey* by Betty Birney

*26 Fairmount Avenue* by Tomie dePaola

*How to Train Your Dragon* by Cressida Cowell

*Celebritrees: Historic & Famous Trees of the World* by Margi Preus

*The Birthday Ball* by Lois Lowrey

*Freckle Juice* by Judy Blume

*Hank the Cowdog* series by John Erickson

*Knights of the Kitchen Table* by Jon Scieszka

*Shoeshine Girl* by Clyde Robert Bulla

*The Mysterious Benedict Society* by Trenton Lee Stewart

*The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

*The Borrowers* by Mary Norton

*Stuart Little* by E. B. White

*The Mouse and the Motorcycle* by Beverly Cleary

*Dragon Slayers' Academy 1: The New Kid at School* by Kate McMullen

*First Flight: The Story of Tom Tate and the Wright Brothers* by George Shea

