



# Marcum Matters

2452 El Centro Blvd., East Nicolaus, CA 95659

[www.marcum-illinois.org](http://www.marcum-illinois.org)

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## Board of Trustees

Jeff Moore	Board President
Jill Bramhill	Board Clerk
Emily Daddow	Board Member
Keith Turner	Board Member
Josh Wanner	Board Member

## May/June 2023

### Upcoming Events

#### May 2<sup>nd</sup>

Site Council Meeting 3:30

#### May 3<sup>rd</sup>

GATE 3:30-4:30

#### May 5<sup>th</sup>

Softball Tournament @SSLL

11:45-2:15

#### May 8<sup>th</sup>

Board Meeting

#### May 12<sup>th</sup>

6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade South Sutter

County Elementary Schools

Dance @ Marcum 6:30-9:00

#### May 17<sup>th</sup>

GATE 3:30-4:30

#### May 19<sup>th</sup>

Brown's Track Meet (4<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

Grades)

#### May 24<sup>th</sup>

Game Day TK-4<sup>th</sup> Grade

Minimum Day

Dismissal: 12:20 TK-2, 12:25 3-

5, 12:30 6-8

#### May 25<sup>th</sup>

Open House 6:00-7:00

#### May 26<sup>th</sup>

ROAR Assembly 2:15

#### May 29<sup>th</sup>

No School-Memorial Day

#### May 30<sup>th</sup>

Water Day TK/K

Pool Day 1<sup>st</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>

#### May 31<sup>st</sup>

PK Graduation 10:30

GATE 3:30-4:30

#### June 1<sup>st</sup>

Awards Assembly 9:00

PK Water Day

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation 6:30

#### June 2<sup>nd</sup>

Last Day of School!

Minimum Day

Dismissal: 12:20 TK-2, 12:25 3-

5, 12:30 6-8

No Den!



### Marcum Parents' Club

Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 2nd at 6pm. We will be finalizing our plans for staff appreciation, reviewing scholarship applications, preparing for the end of the school year and holding elections for next year's Marcum Parents' Club board. If you are interested in getting more involved next year, we'd love to see you there. As always, we will have pizza and kids are welcome.

### Staff Appreciation Week, May 8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

Marcum Parents' Club is getting ready to celebrate the amazing staff at Marcum with a magical, fantastic Disney-themed staff appreciation week. We have a week's worth of fun planned and could use your help gathering a few items so we can provide some delicious meals and yummy treats to the awesome staff. Please see the flyer for the specifics and if you would like to help with supplies, sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/yz2wcndp>.

### Open House

Please come join us on campus for Open House on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup>. All classrooms, PK-8<sup>th</sup> grade will be open from 6:00-7:00 and student work will be on display. We will be serving pizza between 6:00 and 6:45 (first come, first serve). The 5<sup>th</sup> grade class will be selling desserts to earn money for their class trip to Shady Creek next year. Please see the attached flyer for more details about Open House.

### Game Day

Our annual Game Day for the TK-4<sup>th</sup> graders will be held on Wednesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to come out and watch this fun-filled morning of races and challenges and cheer on the Red, White and Blue teams. For Game Day only, we set aside our "House Colors" and students are a part of the Red, White, and Blue teams. A flyer will be coming home noting which team your child(ren) will be on (they remain on their same Red, White, or Blue team throughout their time at Marcum). Please have them wear that color on Game Day.

### Yearbooks

We have ordered a very limited number of yearbooks that will be available for purchase in the office. If you didn't already order online, and you'd like to purchase a Yearbook from the school, please bring \$30 cash (exact amount, please) to the office to order. These will be sold on a first come, first served basis. If we run out, you may purchase a yearbook on the TreeRing Website and it will be sent to your house. All Yearbooks will be distributed the last week of school.

### Wildcat Run

Our Wildcat Run was another successful event put on by Marcum Parents' Club! Our Wildcats raised more than \$7,000! We celebrated this successful fundraiser with popsicles, popcorn, and pajamas on April 20<sup>th</sup>! There were also 94 students who collected \$30 or more and had the chance to slime Mrs. Irby and Mrs. Brazil! Everyone did an amazing job during the run and participating in the fundraiser! Thank you for all of your support with this great event!

### **Social Emotional Curriculum Adoption**

Marcum has been piloting a Social Emotional Curriculum with our TK-8<sup>th</sup> grade students this year, and we are planning to adopt the curriculum for use in future school years. Choose Love for Schools™ is a Character Social Emotional Development (CSED) program for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, designed to teach students, educators and staff how to choose love in any circumstance thereby creating a safer, more connected school culture. Aligned with CASEL, Common Core and ASCA, Choose Love For Schools is also the first program of its kind to fully incorporate state of the art Character Social Emotional Development (CSED) model standards, while also incorporating neuroscience and positive psychology to teach mindfulness, character, and emotional intelligence. These essential life skills and tools make students better learners, more desirable employees and happier, healthier, human beings. If you would like to look further into the program, please contact Mrs. Brazil to set up an appointment to get an overview of the curriculum. There will be a public hearing prior to Board Approval of this curriculum at the May 8<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### **End of Year ROAR Assembly**

We will be holding our End of Year ROAR Assembly on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am. During the assembly, we will be recognizing some of our TK-7<sup>th</sup> grade students for their achievements throughout this school year. We will also be recognizing our kindergartners with a promotion certificate. We hope you can join us to celebrate the success of our students. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students will be recognized at 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation.

### **Before and After School Care Applications**

The enrollment paperwork for our Before and After School Care Programs will be emailed to all families on May 15, 2023. Space in both of these programs is limited due to staffing and required program ratios. Enrollment is first come, first served for each program. Please return your Before and/or After School application packets as soon as possible. These are two separate programs, so if your family needs to utilize both programs, you must complete both applications and apply to both programs. Applications are Due May 26, 2023. If your child only needs to attend on Monday afternoons due to our upcoming weekly early release, you do not need to fill out an application. On Mondays only we will allow more flexibility for additional attendees and will provide additional staffing to accommodate this increase.

#### **After School Program, The DEN (TK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 2:45-6:00)**

Students enrolling in the After School program should stay after school 5 days a week until at least 4:30pm daily. The After School program is free, as it is grant funded.

#### **Before School Care (TK-8<sup>th</sup> Grade, 7:00-8:10)**

The fee to attend this program is \$250 per family, per year. Payment will be due once your family is accepted into the program.



**TUESDAY, MAY 2ND 6PM**

# PARENTS CLUB MEETING

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
LAST MEETING OF THE  
SCHOOL YEAR**

We'll be discussing scholarships,  
staff appreciation week and  
elections for next school year.  
We have multiple board seats opening.

MARCUM PARENTS' CLUB PRESENTS...

Disneyland

Staff Appreciation Week

May 8th - 12th

We are going to celebrate our staff - Disney style!

ALL WEEK

Help us feed our staff—

<https://tinyurl.com/yz2wcondp>

MONDAY

We've got ears, say cheers! Wear Disney ears or wear your other favorite Disney wear.

TUESDAY

Wear Peter Pan green today. You never know when you'll be invited to Neverland.

WEDNESDAY

You can learn a lot from the flowers—especially in the month of May! Bring your teacher or another staff member a flower today (real, fake, drawn or crafted)

THURSDAY

It's Thank You Thursday. Please send a note of thanks to your teacher or another staff member to thank them for all they do!

FRIDAY

Andy's Coming! Dress up as your favorite Disney character or a toy.



Marcum-Illinois



# OPEN HOUSE



THURSDAY, | 6:00PM-  
MAY 25TH | 7:00PM



Stop by the classrooms to see some amazing student work on display and check out the 6th-8th Grade Science Fair Projects!



Pizza will be served between 6:00-6:45  
First come, first served



The 5th Grade class will be selling desserts to raise money for their trip to Shady Creek next year!





# MARCUM-ILLINOIS SCHOOL BOOK DONATION DRIVE

Marcum Parents Club is working on growing our SCHOOL LIBRARY . We're taking any book donations from preschool to 8th grade reading levels. We will have boxes in the office. We're also taking any cash donations for us to purchase books. Please make checks payable to "Marcum Parents Club" and put "library" in the memo. Please contact Ashley Ferreira at 916-316-7288





# MARCUM-ILLINOIS SCHOOL

2452 El Centro Blvd., East Nicolaus, CA 95659  
530.656.2407 www.marcum-illinois.org



## 2023-2024

### 180 Day Student Attendance Calendar

- ☆
First/Last Day of School
- Student Non-Attendance Day
- Minimum Day 12:30 Dismissal
- Early Release 1:45 Dismissal
- Teacher In-Service Day

	<b>July 2023</b>	<b>August 2023</b>	<b>September 2023</b>
8/21-8/22 Teacher In-Service Days	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
8/23 First Day of School	1	1 2 3 4 5	1 2
9/4 Labor Day	2 3 4 5 6 7 8	6 7 8 9 10 11 12	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
10/16 Teacher In-Service/No School	9 10 11 12 13 14 15	13 14 15 16 17 18 19	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
10/31 Minimum Day/Prof. Dev.	16 17 18 19 20 21 22	20 21 22 23 24 25 26	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
11/3 End of 1st Trimester	23 24 25 26 27 28 29	27 28 29 30 31	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
11/10 Veteran's Day	30 31	7	20
11/13-11/17 Minimum Days/Parent Conferences	<b>October 2023</b>	<b>November 2023</b>	<b>December 2023</b>
11/20-11/24 Thanksgiving Break	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
12/21 Minimum Day	1 2 3 4 5 6 7	1 2 3 4	1 2
12/22-1/5 Winter Break	8 9 10 11 12 13 14	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1/15 Martin Luther King Day	15 16 17 18 19 20 21	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
2/16 Lincoln's Birthday	22 23 24 25 26 27 28	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
2/19 President's Day	29 30 31	26 27 28 29 30	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
3/1 End of 2nd Trimester	21	16	15
3/15 Parent Conferences/Minimum Day	<b>January 2024</b>	<b>February 2024</b>	<b>March 2024</b>
4/1-4/5 Spring Break	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
5/27 Memorial Day	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3	1 2
6/7 Last Day of School/Minimum Day/No DEN	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	4 5 6 7 8 9 10	3 4 5 6 7 8 9
6/10 Teacher In-Service Day	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	11 12 13 14 15 16 17	10 11 12 13 14 15 16
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	18 19 20 21 22 23 24	17 18 19 20 21 22 23
	28 29 30 31	25 26 27 28 29	24 25 26 27 28 29 30
	17	19	21
	<b>April 2024</b>	<b>May 2024</b>	<b>June 2024</b>
	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S	S M T W T F S
	1 2 3 4 5 6	1 2 3 4	1
	7 8 9 10 11 12 13	5 6 7 8 9 10 11	2 3 4 5 6 7 8
	14 15 16 17 18 19 20	12 13 14 15 16 17 18	9 10 11 12 13 14 15
	21 22 23 24 25 26 27	19 20 21 22 23 24 25	16 17 18 19 20 21 22
	28 29 30	26 27 28 29 30 31	23 24 25 26 27 28 29
	17	22	5



# May/June Breakfast Menu

2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Chef's Choice Fruit Milk	2 Strawberry Mini Bagels Fruit Milk	3 Coffee Cake Fruit Milk	4 Pizza Bagel Fruit Milk	5 Cinnamon Roll Fruit Milk
8 French Toast Fruit Milk	9 English Muffin Fruit Milk	10 Blueberry Bagel Fruit Milk	11 Pancake on a Stick Fruit Milk	12 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit Milk
15 Chef's Choice Fruit Milk	16 Strawberry Mini Bagels Fruit Milk	17 Coffee Cake Fruit Milk	18 Pizza Bagel Fruit Milk	19 Cinnamon Roll Fruit Milk
22 French Toast Fruit Milk	23 English Muffin Fruit Milk	24 Blueberry Bagel Fruit Milk	25 Chef's Choice Fruit Milk	26 Breakfast Sandwich Fruit Milk
29 No School Memorial Day	30 Strawberry Mini Bagels Fruit Milk	31 Coffee Cake Fruit Milk	1-Jun Chef's Choice Fruit Milk	2-Jun Cinnamon Roll Fruit Milk

This institution is an equal opportunity employer

\*Menu is subject to change

**At Marcum-Illinois UESD under California's Universal Meals Program, all students in Preschool through 8th grade, regardless of their parents' income, are eligible for free breakfast and lunch.**





# May/June Lunch Menu

2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>1</p> <p><b>Hot Dog</b> Baked Beans Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>2</p> <p><b>Cheeseburger</b> Tater Tots Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>3</p> <p><b>Max Stix</b> Marinara Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>4</p> <p><b>Chicken Nuggets</b> Mashed Potatoes Artisan Roll Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>5</p> <p><b>PIZZA!</b>  Salad Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>
<p>8</p> <p><b>Lasagna</b> Garlic Knot Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>9</p> <p><b>Crunchy Tacos</b> Refried Beans Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>10</p> <p><b>BBQ Pork Patty Sandwich</b> Macaroni and Cheese Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk Treat</p>	<p>11</p> <p><b>Chicken Nuggets</b> Mashed Potatoes Artisan Roll Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>12</p> <p><b>PIZZA!</b>  Salad Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>
<p>15</p> <p><b>Corn Dog</b> Baked Beans Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>16</p> <p><b>Cheeseburger</b> Tater Tots Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>17</p> <p><b>Taco Pocket</b> Spanish Rice Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk Treat</p>	<p>18</p> <p><b>Chicken Nuggets</b> Mashed Potatoes Artisan Roll Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>19</p> <p><b>PIZZA!</b>  Salad Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>
<p>22</p> <p><b>Lasagna</b> Garlic Knot Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>23</p> <p><b>Taquitos</b> Refried Beans Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>24</p> <p><b>Chef's Choice</b> Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk Treat</p>	<p>25</p> <p><b>Chicken Nuggets</b> Mashed Potatoes Artisan Roll Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>26</p> <p><b>PIZZA!</b>  Salad Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>
<p>29</p> <p><b>No School</b> Memorial Day</p>	<p>30</p> <p><b>School BBQ @ SSRA</b> Cheeseburger Fruit &amp; Veggies Chips Kona Ice!! TY Parents' Club</p>	<p>31</p> <p><b>Chef's Choice</b> Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk Treat</p>	<p>1-Jun</p> <p><b>Chicken Nuggets</b> Mashed Potatoes Artisan Roll Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>	<p>2-Jun</p> <p><b>PIZZA!</b>  Salad Choice of Fruit and Veggies Choice of Milk</p>

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# May/June Snack Menu

2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Cereal Bar Milk	2 Sunflower Seeds Banana	3 Bean and Cheese Burrito Juice	4 Applesauce Cheez-Its	5 Chef's Choice
8 Chef's Choice	9 Apple Slices Wowbutter	10 Cheese Stick Fruit Cup	11 Graham Crackers Juice	12 Cereal Milk
15 Cereal Bar Milk	16 Sunflower Seeds Banana	17 Bean and Cheese Burrito Juice	18 Applesauce Cheez-Its	19 Chef's Choice
22 Chef's Choice	23 Apple Slices Wowbutter	24 Cheese Stick Fruit Cup	25 Graham Crackers Juice	26 Cereal Milk
29 No School Memeorial Day	30 Sunflower Seeds Banana	31 Bean and Cheese Burrito Juice	1-Jun Applesauce Cheez-Its	2-Jun No Den Enjoy Summer Break! 

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# Elementary School Parents<sup>®</sup> make the difference!

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## Support your child as the end of the school year approaches

**B**y May, some students act like summer vacation has already started. They “forget” to do turn in schoolwork. They stop giving their best effort and start avoiding anything that seems difficult or challenging.

But the school year isn’t over yet. Students need to stay focused on learning until the last day of school. Here’s how to help your child:

- **Review past schoolwork papers,** quizzes and tests. Use them to talk about how much your child has learned this year. Having these papers close at hand will also be useful when studying for end-of-year tests.
- **Shape year-end learning** around your child’s interests. If there is

one more book project due, suggest choosing a book on a favorite topic. If there is a social studies report, suggest focusing it on something your child is interested in learning more about.

- **Help your child manage** big end-of-year projects. Long-range assignments can be overwhelming. So, in addition to helping your child break the assignment down into smaller steps, encourage this rule of thumb: Move the deadline for finishing the project earlier by two days. If a report is due on Wednesday, your child should plan to get it finished by Monday. That way, your child will have a cushion if something comes up.

## Offer your child motivation to keep learning



Students who remain motivated to learn are likely to be more successful in school than those who are not. Motivation comes from within your child, but the right words and actions from you can encourage it.

Try these ideas:

- **Be a learner yourself.** Let your child see you read books. Watch educational programs. Attend school functions. Try new things. Show curiosity.
- **Share what you learn.** Talk about new ideas or scientific discoveries with your child. Discuss things you read or hear.
- **Show an interest** in what your child is learning. Ask questions to learn and share—not to check up on your child.
- **Stay positive.** If your child has problems in school, talk about how problems can be solved. Meet with the teacher to figure out ways your child can improve. Then discuss ways you can work together to help your child succeed.
- **Show faith** in your child’s ability to learn. Offer praise when your child shows effort.

# Teach your child these healthy stress-management techniques



In one recent national survey conducted by Boys and Girls Clubs of America, 70% of youth rated their ability to cope with challenges as medium to very low. And 71% said that when something important goes wrong in their life, they can't stop worrying about it.

As student stress and anxiety continue to rise, it's important to share coping strategies with your child. Offer ideas such as:

- **Deep breathing.** When anxiety strikes, have your child breathe in through the nose and out through the mouth several times.
- **Physical activity.** Ride bikes, shoot baskets and visit the playground as a family. Encourage your child to take up a sport or another active hobby. Suggest your child play outside with friends. They might

play catch, kick a ball around or enjoy a game of hopscotch or tag.

- **Nature.** Spend time outdoors appreciating the sights, sounds and scents of nature. Go for hikes, explore parks or camp out in the backyard.
- **Creative pursuits.** Drawing, writing, painting, singing or playing a musical instrument can all reduce stress.

Source: *The State of Youth Mental Health*, Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

**“The greatest weapon against stress is our ability to choose one thought over another.”**

—William James

# Three simple strategies can boost reading comprehension



As students get older, they will be expected to read and understand more complex text.

They will need to transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*.

To support this transition, share these three reading comprehension strategies with your child:

1. **See the big picture.** Before starting to read an assignment, have your child think about the material. What is the title of the chapter or assignment? Does it offer any clues about the content? Suggest your child look for other clues, such as subheadings, words in boldface or italics, pictures or graphs.
2. **Take notes.** Taking notes while reading will make it easier for your child to comprehend and remember information. It will also make reading active and engaging. Your child should write down the most important ideas in the reading assignment. Your child should also write down any unfamiliar words and look them up later.
3. **Make connections.** The best way to remember new information is to relate it to something already learned. When your child finishes reading, ask questions such as: *How is this topic similar to something else you know? What key ideas did you already know? What new information did you learn?*

# Are you helping your child prepare for year-end tests?



The end of the year often means lots of tests for students. Are you preparing your child to succeed on them?

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

\_\_\_1. **Do you write down** test dates on your family calendar and avoid planning big activities on the day before a test?

\_\_\_2. **Do you encourage** your child to study a little each day instead of cramming the night before a test? Research shows this is the best way to learn and remember facts.

\_\_\_3. **Do you make sure** your child regularly gets enough sleep and eats a healthy breakfast before a big test?

\_\_\_4. **Do you encourage** your child to wear comfortable clothing and dress in layers on test days?

\_\_\_5. **Do you say** that you have confidence in your child's ability and effort?

**How well are you doing?**

Mostly *yes* answers mean you're giving your child the support to succeed on tests. For *no* answers, try those ideas.

Elementary School  
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# Take advantage of these fun May learning opportunities



There's more to May than Mother's Day, Memorial Day and Victoria Day.

Here are some other occasions that offer fun

learning opportunities for you and your child:

- **May 1**—Mother Goose Day. Read favorite Mother Goose rhymes together.
- **May 4**—National Weather Observers Day. Go outside and observe the clouds together. Or make a collage of weather-related pictures cut from magazines.
- **May 5**—Cinco de Mayo. Learn more about this celebration that honors the rich culture of Mexico and Mexican-Americans, and enjoy some Mexican food!
- **May 18**—International Museum Day. Talk with your child about the importance of museums. Visit one online or in person.
- **May 20**—National Armed Forces Day. Have your child write a letter to thank someone for their military service. Check out Operation Gratitude at [www.operationgratitude.com/volunteer/anywhere/letters](http://www.operationgratitude.com/volunteer/anywhere/letters) to get started.
- **May 21**—On this day in 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross. Head to the library or go online to learn more about this compassionate leader of humanitarian causes.
- **May 30**—Water a Flower Day. Celebrate by planting flowers outside or in containers.

## Regular review helps your child strengthen math skills



Success in math is built on mastery of basic skills.

Help your child establish math review habits that reinforce these skills.

Here's how:

- **Regularly quiz your child** on basic math facts:  $2 \times 9$ ,  $12 - 4$ ,  $6 + 6$ , etc. Together, make a set of flash cards with math facts your child needs to know. Review them together often—at the breakfast table, in the car or while waiting at the doctor's office. Your child has mastered a math fact when it takes less than three seconds to give the correct answer.
- **Resist providing the answers.** Your child will learn better if you demonstrate *how* to find them instead. For instance, if your child doesn't know what  $3 \times 5$  is, draw three parallel horizontal lines. Cross them with five vertical lines. Then have your child count the intersections to get the answer.
- **Have your child practice** writing numbers neatly. Many of the math errors students make are due to messy number writing. Your child could use graph paper to make sure numbers are neatly lined up. A sharp pencil and a clean eraser can help, too.
- **Encourage your child** to work more problems than the teacher assigns. Strong math skills come with lots of practice.
- **Issue mental math challenges.** See if your child can figure out a problem without using pencil and paper or a calculator. Ask questions that encourage estimating, too.

**Q:** My child is starting middle school next year and won't be attending the same school as friends. What can I do over the next few months to ease my child's anxiety about this transition?

### Questions & Answers

**A:** Middle school is a really big adjustment for all students. Instead of having one teacher, students will have several. Instead of staying in one classroom, they will have to move from room to room. Instead of being in the highest grade level in the school, they will now be in the lowest. And the move often causes upheaval in student social lives.

To reduce anxiety and boost your child's confidence:

- **Sign up for a tour** while classes are in session, if possible. Just walking around the building and seeing students will give your child a better idea of what to expect (and even what to wear) on the first day.
- **Remind your child** that their will be many other students new to the school. Everyone in your student's grade will be starting fresh. Then remind your child that there will still be opportunities to see old friends, even if they're at a different school.
- **Connect your child** with a current middle schooler who would be happy to explain things and answer questions.
- **Check out school activities.** Getting started on a team or in the band over the summer will allow your child to make some new friends before the school year starts.

If your child still seems worried, reach out to the school counselor for support.

# It Matters: Summer Learning

## Treat reading as an enjoyable summer activity



To keep your child reading over the summer, treat it like any other fun summer activity.

Demonstrate that reading can be an enjoyable activity that can be done in lots of different ways. Try not to make summer reading feel like an assignment.

If you help your child make the connection between reading and the simple pleasures of childhood, the desire to read may last a lifetime.

To take a summer approach to reading:

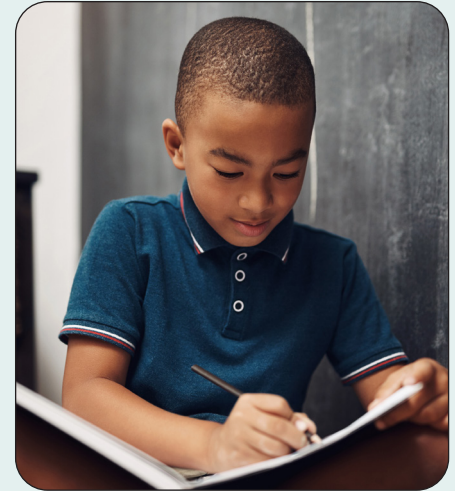
- **Suggest that your child** reread a favorite book. Then find another book by the same author. Or find one on the same topic.
- **Connect books** with summer activities—sports books for a summer league player, for instance, or camping books for a camper.
- **Let your child** stay up past bedtime when a book is just too good to put down.
- **Start your child** on a series of mystery or thriller books. These page-turners hook kids into a reading habit.
- **Encourage a change** of venue. Read books at the beach or pool, in a tent or at the park.
- **Watch movies**, videos and plays based on children's books. Then read the books together and compare the versions.
- **Share your favorite books** and magazines with your child.
- **Encourage your child** to retell or act out stories from books.

## Inspire journal writing this summer with creative ideas

The summer is a great time to begin writing in a journal. All your child needs is an empty notebook and a few fun ideas to get started.

Suggest that your child keep:

- **A research log.** Have your child pick a subject, such as penguins, and then research and write about it. *What do penguins eat? Who are penguins' predators? How do penguins communicate? How do penguins move from one place to another?*
- **A travel log.** Each time you go somewhere special—whether it's far away or close to home—your child can keep a record by taking pictures, drawing or writing notes. *What did your child see? Who did your child meet? What did your child think about the place?*



- **An observation log.** Suggest that your child observe something over a period of time, such as a summer vegetable as it grows. Or, pick something to describe in great detail, such as a bug or an animal.

## Prioritize unplugged activities over recreational screen time



The lazy days of summer can lead to lazy hours staring at digital devices. But experts say it's vital to provide plenty of healthy screen-free time during the summer.

Encourage your child to:

- **Be the entertainment.** Instead of watching a show, encourage your child to star in one. Have your child choose an exciting story line and act it out with friends or stuffed animals.
- **Play classic games.** Fill a bucket with traditional summer toys, such as sidewalk chalk, balls, bubbles

and water sprayers. When the weather is right, have your child take it outside for hours of fun.

- **Be a mad scientist.** Go online to find simple science experiments to conduct together.
- **Plan a treasure hunt.** Hide several clues, with each one leading to the next. The last clue should lead to a treasure, such as a yummy snack or a fun activity.
- **Create a masterpiece.** Gather supplies such as glue, construction paper, fabric, yarn, washable markers and paint. Ask your child to create something.

# Daily Learning Planner

Ideas families can use to help children  
do well in school

Marcum-Illinois



THE  
**PARENT**  
INSTITUTE®

## May 2023

## Daily Learning Planner: Ideas Families Can Use to Help Children Do Well in School—Try a New Idea Every Day!

- 1. Teach your child how to prepare nutritious after-school snacks.
- 2. Have each family member make a list of personal strengths. Read them aloud. Add to one another's lists.
- 3. Role-play a sticky situation together. What would your child do if friends were teasing someone at school?
- 4. Remind your child that it is not necessary to like a teacher in order to learn something in a class.
- 5. Learn together. Watch a "how-to" video with your child today.
- 6. Give your child some sidewalk chalk. Do math problems outside together.
- 7. Ask your child to give you an "evening news" report about what happened at school today. What's the scoop?
- 8. Play Alphabet Mix-up. Choose a word and put the letters in alphabetical order. Can your child figure out the word?
- 9. Have your child thread a button onto some string, then make the button spin.
- 10. Low grades indicate a problem to be solved. Ask what your child thinks the problem is. What could your student do to fix it?
- 11. Challenge your child to do a secret good deed for someone at school.
- 12. Create a display of your child's best schoolwork. Rotate the work on display frequently.
- 13. Have your child write and send a letter or email to a relative.
- 14. Tonight, let your child stay up later to read.
- 15. Ask the school about dates for year-end tests. Make sure your child gets enough sleep the nights before.
- 16. Teach your child how to disagree respectfully.
- 17. Make up a song featuring your child's name.
- 18. Ask your child, "What is the nicest thing a friend has ever done for you?"
- 19. Talk with your child about your family's origins.
- 20. Go on a picnic with your child today. After eating, stretch out on a blanket and read together.
- 21. Do a crossword puzzle with your child today.
- 22. Cover the illustration on a page of a book. Read the page aloud. Can your child guess what's in the picture?
- 23. Make a list with your child of words that came from other languages. Here's a start: *vamoose, taco, pasta*.
- 24. Have a pattern day. Ask your child to notice patterns all around, such as a striped shirt or streets arranged alphabetically.
- 25. Ask your child to choose a country and learn more about it.
- 26. How many types of punctuation can your child find today?
- 27. Celebrate National Bike Month by having your child review the "rules of the road."
- 28. If you give your child an allowance, set guidelines for how much should be used for buying things, saving and giving to charity.
- 29. It's Memorial Day. Talk with your child about why this holiday is celebrated in the United States.
- 30. Get out five pipe cleaners. Challenge your child to twist and bend them to create an animal.
- 31. Together, read a book about your town or state.