Dear Parents of the Junior Class,

We look forward to working with your children in the fall and hope you are having a wonderful summer! We believe that summer is a time for children to relax and explore with friends and family. We understand that many children have full summers with camp experiences and travel that take them away from home. Even so, we believe that your children should be reading daily and keeping skills fresh. We also find value in having everyone to come to school on the first day with some background knowledge as a foundation from which to launch our year’s studies. Included here is required Summer Homework to be completed by the first day of school, followed by optional homework if you are looking for extra ideas.

REQUIRED SUMMER HOMEWORK

1. **Summer Reading**
   a. Please keep a summer reading log that lists a sampling of shorter books and a list of all longer chapter books read. The Junior Summer Reading List on our website is a great resource from which to choose. The reading log will provide us a picture of personal interests, favorite authors, and reading levels. Please use the enclosed form (you may duplicate the form if you run out of space) or use a similar format--if you are joining your local library’s Summer Reading Club you may photocopy and give us your completed list -- you do not need to record books twice.

2. **Map Making**
   a. To begin you will need a map of the United States. You may choose to draw your own or you may trace a map from a book. Printable outline maps may be found here. Your map should include state boundaries and names and should be no larger than 11” x 17,” so that we will have room to display it in the classroom. Since these maps will be displayed in the classroom, you should find a way to make your map original and beautiful. You may choose to write the state names yourself, color in each state, or make an interesting border. Be creative.

   b. On your map, please mark each state in which members of your family live. You need not specify cities and towns. You may decide how broadly to define family.
You may mark the map with labels, such as “grandparents,” “cousins,” etc., or you may simply identify the state with a symbol, such as a star.

c. Please write a paragraph (more if you like) describing how your family came to Oregon. Perhaps your relatives followed the Oregon Trail, or maybe your mother moved here to go to college. Tell us that story. You may write this yourself or have a family member write it for you as you tell the story in your own words. We plan to share these stories during the first days of school in the fall, and we look forward to hearing yours.

3. Math Practice
Summer provides a great opportunity for Juniors to practice math facts and we know that students who do not keep their facts fresh during the summer often experience “summer slide.” Playing math games, reciting facts during car trips, or using an online resource such as Khan Academy can work well. The product of this work will not be collected in the fall, but we know that the benefits will be evident.

What follows is a description of the suggested scope of the practice as well as some recommended sources for practice activities.

We suggest that incoming 2nd graders begin by working for ready recall of the addition and subtraction combinations for the numbers 0 -12. If these have been mastered, then combinations to 20 should be practiced. Linking facts such as 12 + 8 = 20 and 20 – 8 = 12 helps build a deeper understanding of number and makes for efficient learning. Incoming 3rd graders will benefit from a review of these facts so that they remain fresh through the summer. Incoming 3rd graders should also practice multiplication facts for the numbers 0 -12. These children should begin by reviewing the 2’s, 5’s and 10’s. If they have good recall of these, then move on to the 3’s, 4’s, and 6’s, and so on. Flash cards make excellent tools for this practice. You may make your own sets, a great opportunity for number writing practice, or purchase them. Dice games and card games also make practice fun, especially if children make an effort to move beyond counting dots and using fingers. Grocery shopping and other errands can provide easy opportunities to work with numbers too. Regular practice is the key to keeping current knowledge fresh and to building on that knowledge. We know that children who have these facts within easy reach approach their math work with well-founded confidence. We also know that each student will learn and retain these facts at their own pace, so no set benchmark is expected for our incoming students.

Some suggested resources for math practice:
Khan Academy practice pages: https://www.khanacademy.org/math/arithmetic-home/addition-subtraction/add-subtract-20/e/addition_2

Math for Love: http://mathforlove.com/lesson-plan/
We use a variety of dice games in order to support practice in the classroom, and you may enjoy these as well. Part of the fun of these games is that we use non-traditional dice. We have 8-sided, 9-sided, 10-sided, 12-sided, and even 20-sided dice. With these multi-faceted dice you can play the games below. Multi-sided dice can be found at Things from Another World, a game store in Portland, Beaverton and Milwaukie, or in a dice game called MathDice—available at most toy stores.

**Addition-**

**Hi-Lo:** You need two dice (same kind-- to get all facts use 10-sided dice or for a challenge use the 20-sided dice). Play Hi-Lo by making up a game sheet of 20 turns. Decide if you are playing for a High score or a Low score. Take turns throwing the dice, adding your two numbers together and recording your individual scores. For each round, circle the high or low score, depending whether you’re going for high or low scores. The person with the most high or low scores wins the game. This can be played multiple times. **Subtraction:** You can play Hi-Lo with subtraction, but remember to take the smaller number away from the larger number.

**Subtraction-**

**Free The Animals:** This printable game (complete with board(s) and directions) is a good one for practicing subtraction. Twelve-sided dice are needed for the second sheet. [http://www.mathwire.com/games/freeanimalsgame.pdf](http://www.mathwire.com/games/freeanimalsgame.pdf) or play Diffy Squares [http://mathforlove.com/2011/04/squares_of_differences/](http://mathforlove.com/2011/04/squares_of_differences/)

**Divide and Conquer:** For this game the players will need paper and pencils and multiple dice. The first person rolls up to six dice (you choose the # of sides). Players add up the total of the rolled dice. That number is the dividend. The same person throws one 12-sided die (or two 6-sided dice added together). This number is the divisor. The first player to call out the correct answer wins and gets to roll the dice for the next problem.

**ALL OPERATIONS- MathDice (a game to buy):** This is a great game that uses all math facts and is easy to take on trips. Visit: [http://www.math4love.com/games](http://www.math4love.com/games)

**Card games:**

**Card Flip:** Beginning with the x2 facts you can use a deck of cards with the face cards removed and flip over cards one at a time and multiply that card by the fact family you are working on. When you get most of the facts up to 10 you can play **Flip Up.**

**Flip Up:** (Multiplication facts card game) This game is played by two people with a deck of cards with the jokers and face cards removed. Students shuffle the deck and deal them all out face down. Each player flips over a card from his or her pile. The first player to call out the correct product gets to collect those two cards. If a player calls out the wrong answer the other player gets the cards. Players continue until all the cards have been flipped over. The winner is the player with the most cards at the end.
We hope you can use one or more of these suggestions. As always you can make up your own ways to practice these facts, and remember that Laurel and Robin are available for any questions.

**OPTIONAL SUMMER HOMEWORK**

**Writing**

We love to get mail and to hear about how you are enjoying your summer. If you wish, send a postcard to one of your classroom teachers (either Junior Up or Junior Down) to tell her about one summer adventure (first-years will need to wait to receive class lists, sent near the end of June).

**Junior Up:**

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**Junior Down:**  
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**Apprentice:**  
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**Additional Suggestions - Optional**

**Writing activities could include:**
- invitations
- postcards
- letters
- travel journals
- stories
- interesting facts on any news
- lists (shopping, new words, places visited)
- letters to your teachers

**Activities using numbers could include:**
- practicing math facts
- math practice books
- counting and using money
- timing things
- finding averages
- counting things
- following recipes
- playing math games
- figuring out time problems
- keeping scores in games
- measuring things
- building something
- graphing things

As always, do not hesitate to call or email with your questions. Robin and Laurel can be reached at:
Robin: 503-775-1432, robin@arborschool.org
Laurel: 503-310-0608, laurel@arborschool.org

HAVE A WONDERFUL SUMMER!

The Junior Team