

Falcon Flyer

GET READY FOR A SUMMER OF GROWTH!

Summer vacation offers an array of opportunities for children to learn and grow in unique ways outside of the classroom. However, it is also important for students to have opportunities to apply and reinforce those academic skills they have been practicing in school all year. Last summer, the Reading scores of 47% of K-8th grade students in GCMS Schools dropped over the summer. Similarly, 54% of K-8th grade student Math scores dropped between May and August. Here are some ideas for how families can encourage children to keep using those academic skills learned during the school year.

Visit Our Local Library

Every student residing in the GCMS School District is eligible for a library card from the Moyer District Library in Gibson City. They have an extensive collection of children's and young adult books as well as many books-on-CD and movies. A library card will also get you access to thousands of e-books through the 3M app for electronic devices! The library will once again offer a summer reading program for all school-aged children. The kick-off to summer reading will be May 18 from 3:30 to 6:30.

Talk About Money and Budgeting

Summer is a great time to work with your child on saving up for a desired treat or trip. This can be an engaging and fun way to show the importance of math skills!

Fundraising for a worthy cause is another great way to practice currency skills during the summer. The Bank of Gibson City offers a free Lemonade Stand Kit which children can borrow to raise money for any purpose. Call Janna Friday at the Bank of Gibson City if you are interested in borrowing the display!

Get Into The Act!

The whole family can join in on a performance of a favorite play or movie for friends or family at home. Older kids could use their writing skills to create a script or a musical composition while younger children can create decorations and props.

Be sure to attend the ACT Theatre Group performance of Peter Pan Jr. on July 21 and 22 for a local and affordable opportunity to experience excellent live theatre! Visit <http://www.acttheatreco.org/> for more information.

Travel-- For Real or Virtually

You don't have to go far to experience unique culture and historical sites! There are many opportunities for exploration locally, such as the Museum of the Grand Prairie and Botanical Gardens at Lake of the Woods in Mahomet and the William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College in Champaign.

There are also an array of student-appropriate websites and apps available for children to explore other places and people. National Geographic Kids and Kids.gov both offer abundant opportunities and ideas for children of all ages on subjects from science to geography.

Tired of spending money on summer workbooks? Here is an excellent resource for printable worksheets. <http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/collection/more-printables/free-printables-all-ages>



SOURCES

- <http://www.summerlearning.org/?page=know-the-facts>
- <http://www.readingrockets.org/article/summer-loss>
- <http://www.onlinecollege.org/2012/05/15/15-critical-facts-everyone-should-know-about-summer-learning-loss/>
- <http://www.littlelearners.com/blog/summer-learning-loss-facts/>

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WHEN SCHOOL IS OUT, THE LEARNING CONTINUES FOR STAFF ALSO...

- Mr. Renchen will be completing the second year of his Masters of Education degree at ISU.
- Mr. Stone will be beginning his Masters in Graphic Design through Savannah College of Art and Design.
- Mr. Ertel plans on reading *Teaching With Poverty In Mind* and *Engaging Students With Poverty In Mind* both by Eric Jensen as well as several issues of Education Weekly.
- Mrs. Little will be finishing up her Masters in Health Education through the University of Alabama as well as renewing her personal trainers certification through ACE.
- Mrs. Freehill will continue working towards her Masters in Reading.
- Ms. Titus plans to read *Igniting a Passion for Reading: Successful Strategies for Building Lifetime Readers* by Steven L. Layne .
- Ms. Hughes will be attending the conference for IL Agriculture Teachers as well as the Illinois State FFA Convention.
- Mrs. Schmitt will be teaching her second masters level class for the school of social work for Aurora University in addition to continuing her service to the Gibson Area Food Pantry.
- Ms. Heap will be starting her Masters degree program in Early Childhood Education in addition to developing the Gibson City Early Education Resource website to better serve our community.
- Ms. Broaddus will be working on her second summer of her Masters in Music Education through U of I.
- Mrs. Lindelof plans on reading *Lead Like a Pirate* as well as completing her Teacher Evaluation Training over the summer.
- Mrs. Natywa, Mrs. Seneca, and Mrs. Frankie will attend the Jennifer Serravallo's Strategies & Structures Reading/Writing conference in June.
- Mrs. Nuss will be taking a continuing education class at Parkland College and will be exploring three state parks during her summer break.



A FOND FAREWELL FROM MRS. MCFERREN

I'd like to let you know that I am leaving my position as Assistant Principal at GCMS Elementary at the end of the 2016-2017 school year. I have greatly enjoyed my time serving the staff, students, and community of GCMS. I appreciate having had the opportunity to work with you all. Thank you for the support and encouragement you have provided me over the last 13 years. Even though I will miss my colleagues, students, and the community of GCMS, I am looking forward to starting a new phase of my career as a Principal at Lincoln Elementary School in Canton, Illinois.

I can be reached at my personal email address (klidwell@hotmail.com). I will forever be grateful for you all. GO FALCONS!
Best Regards,
KiLee Lidwell-McFerren

- * May 3-9: AP Exams at the High School
- * May 5: Student Dismissal at 11:30
- * May 15: Senior In-service
- * May 25: Elementary School Awards Assembly at 1:30
- * May 26: Last Day of School and End Quarter 4
- * May 27: High School Graduation
- * May 29: Memorial Day--No School
- * May 30: Teacher Institute Day
- * August 8: Registration for 2017-2018 School Year
- * August 16: First day of student attendance

