THE WINSTON SCHOOL OF SHORT HILLS

RECOGNIZING DIFFERENCE. ENABLING SUCCESS.

June, 2026

Dear Middle School Parents,

As we all look forward to a relaxing summer break filled with family time, travel, and camp activities, it is important to review and retain key skills to prevent the 'summer slide.' A study conducted at the University of Tennessee shows that children who do not read over the summer lose at least two months of reading development. To prevent this learning loss, we have created summer reading/language arts assignments that will be posted on your child's Summer Google Classroom. There is a required reading book and activity for each grade. In addition, students will be required to work in IXL to review and practice LAR skills.

All students are expected to spend an average of 20 minutes each week on IXL. They will work on recommendations generated from their end-of-year diagnostic assessment. These activities will help build fluency, vocabulary, reading, and writing skills and help students make a smooth transition to a new year of learning.

Students will access their IXL dashboard through www.ixl.com/signin/winstonschool and sign in through Google. This link will be posted on Google Classroom along with a blank IXL LAR Calendar. Students should use the calendar to record how much time they spend on IXL each day. They should also indicate the skill or skills they worked on.

The Summer Google Classroom and IXL can be accessed from any computer or device. Directions can be found here. Students will need their Winston Gmail account information, including their email address and password.

New students will need to complete an IXL ELA Diagnostic before beginning the summer assignment. Instructions for completing the diagnostic can be found on Google Classroom. Please contact Jill Schuster (jschuster@winstonschool.org) or Johannah Cross (jcross@winstonschool.org) if you have any questions or need assistance.

We understand that there may be weeks when your child will not have access to a computer. That is why we are looking for a total of 240 minutes (4 hours) of IXL time by the end of the summer. The summer assignment will be the first Reading and Language Arts grade of the 2026-2027 school year.

Finally, we hope your child will not limit their summer reading to the required book. To help them with additional book selections, we have included a list of recommended reading books. This list can be found here, on the website, and in your child's Summer Google Classroom.

Summer assignments will be posted on the Summer Google Classrooms on Friday, June 12th.

Wishing you a happy, fun, and relaxing summer,

The Winston School of Short Hills Middle School LAR Teachers