

Summer Resources
Bell School

Parents:

We hope you find these resources helpful as you move into the summer. We have three categories to share with you: SEL resources, Academic resources and resources for educating yourself and your child about race and racism.

We look forward to sharing more information with you in the coming weeks once we know more about the schedule for the fall. We hope you have a wonderful summer, and thank you for your partnership during remote learning.

Katie Miller

Academic Resources

FIRST, Check with your Child's Teacher...

Many teachers provided your child with summer learning options and recommendations. These recommendations certainly included online options for summer work in accounts students used actively throughout the year (like PebbleGo, NewsELA, No Red Ink, Scholastic, Lexia Core 5, RAZ-Kids, etc.).

Additionally, some teachers informed students that they will be posting videos of ongoing Math instruction throughout the summer, others provided access to Read-a-Thon and Read-a-Palooza opportunities and still others created summer packets and made specific novel/reading recommendations.

THEN, Check with any of the online options below to enhance core learning...

All Content Areas

[ixl.com](https://www.ixl.com)

IXL is offering FREE student accounts through COVID/Remote Learning and into the summer. The free student IXL account includes access to Common Core content in Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies. Be sure to use the Diagnostic Assessment tool to make sure the program provides suggested content in your child's optimal learning zone!

Literacy: Decoding & Fluency

[ABCya](#)

ABCya provides a variety of educational games across a variety of topics.

[Raz-Kids](#)

While K-2 parents know RAZ-Kids well, what most parents don't know is that RAZ-Kids supports reading development through 6th grade (level Z+). Parents can create a home account at an affordable rate that allows students yearlong access to leveled stories and activities.

Literacy: Reading Comprehension

[Readworks.org](#)

Using a variety of texts across a wide variety of topics, ReadWorks.org allows parents and teachers to create tailored practice with vocabulary building, reading comprehension and writing. ReadWorks provides both paper-pencil options as well as online options for students. Create a free account, click what areas you want to work on and get started!

[Lexile.com](#)

Lexile offers parents and educators a quick and easy way to find books at your child's reading level AND account for his/her interests as well. Simply input your child's Lexile range (ask your child's teacher if you need help with this), click on categories of interest and... wellah!! Lexile will provide you with an extensive list of suggested books AND where you can find and/or order them!

[Listenwise](#)

Research shows that listening WHILE READING significantly improves reading accuracy and comprehension. Parents can create a free account that provides students with access to an extensive library of "podcast lessons" intended to build vocabulary and comprehension skills through active listening. While [Learning Ally](#), [Audible](#) and [Epic](#) also provide similar listening-while-reading opportunities for students, Listenwise is unique in its follow-up with interactive transcripts and auto-scored quizzes.

[Common Sense Media](#)

Especially helpful to parents navigating the intermediate and middle school grades, Common Sense Media provides reviews of movies, books, TV shows and apps to help families thoughtfully choose developmentally appropriate reading and screen content for children. Not to worry if you have elementary school children... Common Sense Media also reviews and recommends helpful apps for young children on any number of topics, ranging from funny jokes to building empathy to developing problem solving skills!

Scholastic

Reading Rockets

Literacy: Handwriting

[Learning Without Tears](#)

Research shows that writing activates parts of the brain involved with processing, memory, attention and the development of the “reading circuit”. It is a critical component in “sealing” reading acquisition in young children. *Learning Without Tears* offers the go-to handwriting method recommended for ALL CHILDREN by Occupational Therapists and Dyslexia practitioners, as well as offers additional programs for Keyboarding and Writing development.

Math

[Xtra Math](#)

[Khan Academy](#)

[Prodigy](#)

The Arts

[The Art Institute of Chicago](#)

Visit the Art Institute virtually... and check out “The Stories Behind the Art” in their Interactive Features section or go to the Get Creative at Home section to get ideas for creating, making and/or writing about art!

[Education Through Music](#)

Education Through Music is a nonprofit organization founded in New York City in response to two criteria:

- At the time of ETMs establishment (1991), there was a concerning lack of music programs in schools throughout New York City public schools, and
- Research showed (and still shows!) that schools with music education programs had improved educational outcomes, putting students without access to music education at a significant disadvantage from those schools with music programs.

Recently, ETM created and shared Distance Learning Resources to support ongoing music education at home. Visit ETM’s Digital Learning Resources and click on any number of music experiences from virtual classes to music history to sing-a-longs!

SEL Resources

Staying Motivated while Learning at Home

EveryoneReadingIllinois.org

Everyone Reading Illinois was created to meet the needs of families tackling challenges related to dyslexia, but has expanded their parent resources to provide tips on virtual learning, finding educational resources and entertaining children while sheltering-in-place.

Schedules, Routines, Behavior, Parenting, Sibling Rivalry, Managing Emotions, Anxiety, Building Resilience, Developing Autonomy, Addressing Thought Patterns ... Strategies for Everything!

Understood.org

Originally created as a resource for parents navigating the 504 and IEP process, Understood.org has evolved into an amazing resource for families, students, young adults, educators, colleges, school districts and employers working to meet the learning needs and attention challenges that make us ALL unique.

Child Mind Institute

Child Mind Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing resources to families to address mental health and learning disorders. Active researchers in the science of the developing brain, the Child Mind Institute offers all of us research-based, practical strategies to support children from elementary-school age through young adulthood.

Mindfulness, Growth Mindset and Staying Positive

Inner Explorer

With everything going on this year, we all could use a deep breath! What was that app Mr. Kosko shared with the Bell community a little while back? Summer is a great time to revisit “oldies-but-goodies” and Inner Explorer is certainly one to revisit. Inner Explorer has a fantastic and FREE app that supports students PreK through 12th grade... and is great for the WHOLE family.

Join in the Minecraft experience at Bell! Here are some instructions for accessing Bell in Minecraft.

If you want to visit Bell School in Minecraft on your own, you can download the world file and visit it in singleplayer by following the steps below.

1. Download [this folder](#). Make sure to download the ENTIRE FOLDER by right-clicking and selecting download. Once downloaded, Google Drive will prompt you to leave the site; accepting will start the download. This folder contains the world files of Bell School, encapsulating all information about the build.

2. Open Minecraft and go to Options -> Resource Packs -> Open Resource Packs Folder. This will open up your "resourcepacks" folder.
3. The "resourcepacks" folder is located in the ".minecraft folder", which holds all your Minecraft worlds. Navigate to the ".minecraft" folder.
4. Open the "saves" folder in the ".minecraft" folder.
5. Copy the entire Bell School folder from your downloads and place it in the "saves" folder. Make sure to copy the entire folder and not rename anything.
6. The Bell School folder is downloaded in zipped format. Once the Bell School folder is in the "saves" folder, right-click the Bell School folder and select "extract all". This should create a new folder for the world files.
7. Once this process is done, open the new folder. Inside should be a folder named "Bell School". Move this folder to your "saves" folder.
8. Finally, go to Singleplayer on the Minecraft main menu, and a world named "Bell School" should appear. You can do whatever you want in that world - play basketball, find secret buttons, or even become a builder yourself and decorate unfinished classrooms. Have fun!

Resources for Talking to our Children About Racism

Have this e-newsletter delivered to your Inbox:

[Teaching Tolerance](#)

Lesson Plans:

[Unpacking the Protests](#)

A lesson plan for younger students created by a counselor at Jahn

[Share My Lessons: Death of George Floyd Sets Off Massive Protests](#)

Geared toward middle school students

[Toolkit: What is Bias?](#)

Awareness and understanding bias

Videos:

[Let's Talk About Race](#)

Youtube video by Julius Lester

[Being Black in America](#)

W. Kamau Bell on the experience of being black in America

[I Love My Hair Sesame Street Video](#)

[Sesame Street Town Hall](#)

Podcast (For Adults):

[Talking Race with Young Children](#)

[Seeing White Series on Scene on Radio](#)

[The Air We Breathe: Implicit Bias and Police Shootings](#)
[15 Informative Podcasts to Learn About Race Relations in America](#)

Books (For Adults):

[How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi](#)

[So You Want To Talk About Race by Ijeoma Oluo](#)

[White Fragility: Why It's So Hard For White People To Talk About Racism by Robin Diangelo](#)

[Between The World And Me by Ta-Nehisi Coates](#)

Electronic Resources:

Check out our 7th grade students Instagram Page

Mr. Schaefer created a visual platform for his students on Instagram to provide an outlet to help amplify their voices and allow them to contribute to the larger social conversation taking place outside of our school community. We would love for everyone to support our efforts by following, liking, and spreading awareness about our page: [chitown.middle.s](#). #amplifystudentvoices (Mr. Schaefer's email address is rmschaefer@cps.edu if you have any feedback or suggestions)

[Social Justice Resources: They're Not Too Young to Talk About Race](#)

[Anti-Racism for Kids 101: Starting to Talk About Race](#)

[Here's How W. Kamau Bell Talks About Race With His Kids](#)

[Engaging My Child: Parent Tip Tool Uplifting Families Through Healthy Communication About Race](#)

[Raising Race-Conscious Children](#)

[4 Things We Should All Teach Kids Right Now About Racism](#)

[Your Kids Aren't Too Young to Talk about Race](#)

Books for Children:

[THE 2020 ULTIMATE LIST OF DIVERSE CHILDREN'S BOOKS](#)

[Guide for Selecting Anti-Bias Children's Books](#)

[Black Lives Matter Instructional Library](#)

[Let's Talk About Race by Julius Lester](#)

[Embrace Race list of children's books to support discussion of race and racism](#)

[All the Colors We Are/Todos los colores de nuestra piel: The Story of How We Get Our Skin Color/La historia de por qué tenemos diferentes colores de piel by Katie Kissinger](#)

[Something Happened in Our Town: A Child's Story About Racial Injustice by Marianne Celano and Marietta Collins](#)

[Lovely by Jess Hong](#)

[Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom by Lynda Blackmon Lowery](#)

[Sugarplum Ballerinas by Whoopi Golberg](#)

[Not My Idea: A Book About Whiteness \(Ordinary Terrible Things\) by Anastasia Higginbotham](#)

While it is vitally important to discuss the realities of oppression, it is also important to remember that representation matters. Seeing Black children and adults, and people of color, in books and media, just living their lives and/or doing extraordinary things is also important.

[Black Boy Joy](#): 30 Picture Books Featuring Black Male Protagonists

[Black Girl Magic](#): 33 Picture Books Featuring Black Female Protagonists

[Children's Books Celebrating Black Boys](#)

A Mighty Girl: [List of Multicultural Fiction](#)