



Lenart Middle School Summer 2018 Learning Guide

Make your summer count! You have worked hard all year, and we want you to keep up that momentum.

We know, we know. Your idea of summer break: sleeping in, countless hours of meaningless binge watching your favorite show, playing endless rounds of your favorite video games, maybe a bike ride with friends or just hanging out by the pool.

However, the research is clear: during summer vacation, many students lose knowledge and skills. By the end of summer, students perform, on average, one month behind where they left off in the spring.

To help you reap the benefits of learning in the summer, we have provided you with lots of options and opportunities.

Good luck and have a fun and fantastic summer!

Mrs. Downes, Mrs. Doyle, and Ms. Smolen

Reading Guide

At a minimum, I would like you to read from **five** of the following suggestions, but I encourage you to read as many as you would like.



Dear my favorite middle schoolers,

The following books are required reading for the summer:

- 1) *All the books (and I mean ALL the books) you really want to read.*
- 2) *Any of the books that your friend wants you to read and once you start you actually like.*
- 3) *One (or more if you choose) of the books your mom/dad/grandparent/teacher/or any other person who looks a LOT older than you promises you will LOVE if once you start it you do indeed discover you do love it.*
- 4) *Something you think looks hard. You'll discover if you really want to read it, it won't actually be that hard.*
- 5) *An author or topic you haven't read before. You might discover a new topic or author you really like!*
- 6) *Joke books. They will keep you laughing (and will make your parents nuts). Be sure to tell the corniest jokes during dinner.*
- 7) *And then you simply must finish the summer with more of what YOU want to read.*

**Love,
Ms. Smolen**

P.S. There is a Summer Learning Challenge at the Chicago Public Library. Visit any CPL location to read, discover, and create, and to sign up for the CPL's learning challenge.

Science Guide

Summer Brain Games at the MSI

Summer Brain Games features eight free and fun at-home science experiments with step-by-step instructions, easily done with items found around the house. Register now and when activities kick off in June, you'll receive a voucher good for a FREE Museum Entry ticket to MSI this summer. MSI will also send you emails with tips on each experiment and ideas on other ways to play with science.

Register here: <https://www.msichicago.org/experiment/summer-brain-games/register/>



Visit a museum that appeals to scientific, technological, and mathematical side of human experience:

- Museum of Science and Industry
- Field Museum
- Shedd Aquarium
- Brookfield Zoo
- Lincoln Park Zoo
- Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum
- Adler Planetarium

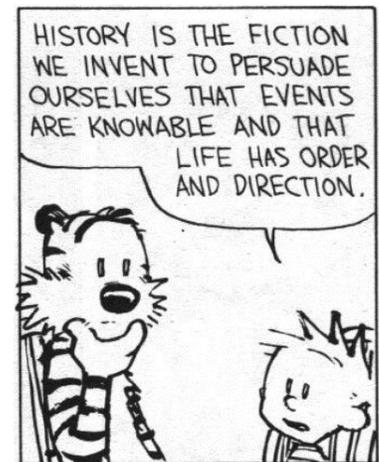
*For science extra credit, write about your science experiments, create a slideshow with pictures and captions, or a video of your work. **You may do up to 3 science-related assignments for up to 10 points each, for a maximum of 30 additional points to your first quarter science grade. Your science assignments may not be used for writing.***

History Guide

Get a head start on your History Fair project (6th & 7th grade only). The 2019 theme is **Triumph & Tragedy in History**.

Visit a museum or library to explore Chicago and its history:

- DuSable Museum of African American History
- Chicago History Museum (Check out their events here: <https://www.chicagohistory.org/events/>)
- Naper Settlement
- Chicago Cultural Center
- Museum of Broadcast Communications
- Chicago Public Library's Harold Washington Library Center
- Newberry Library



Art & Drama Guide

The Chicago area is rich in art and theater that appeal to the performer in us all.

- Attend a performance at one of the downtown Chicago Theaters.
- FREE FOR ALL Chicago Shakespeare in the Parks
 - More information here: https://www.chicagoshakes.com/plays_and_events/parks2018
- The Steppenwolf Theatre, located just north of the Loop, also will have summer productions.
 - More information here: <https://www.steppenwolf.org/>
- Art Institute
- Museum of Contemporary Art
- National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum
- Oriental Institute

Or maybe you are interested in being on the stage or creating your own art?

- Write, act, or produce a play
- Be part of the tech crew in a play
- Perform in a band
- Create a video/movie
- Write a short story or poetry
- Draw, paint, or take some photographs.
- Compose music.



Heading outside of Chicago? Become a Trip Advisor!

Are you traveling this summer? Your family vacation or sleep away camp can be a learning experience, too!

- Keep a diary/journal/blog of your trip/vacation. Record not only the itinerary you take but also your observations about these experiences.
- Visit historic and/or cultural sites that are important to the places you visit on your trip/vacation. Save and submit the admission ticket stub along with any memorabilia/souvenirs you collect.
- Keep an illustrated journal---one in which you draw pictures of the things you see and experience on your trip/vacation, and collect memorabilia or souvenirs from the sites you visit.
- Catalog the things you collect in a scrapbook or portfolio and compose captions that explain what you have collected or drawn, what the item shows about the location, why the item is important, what it meant to you.
- Take pictures of your trip/vacation, if photography is your strength. Take photos of the things you have seen and experienced and gather them in an album with captions that highlight your ideas and observations.



Staying Local? Become a Chicago Tour Guide

Tour the city of Chicago and its historic and cultural sites:

- The Chicago Architecture Foundation sponsors daily tours through the Archi-center on Michigan Avenue.
 - Check out this resource: <http://www.architecture.org/teach-learn/families/>
- Other tour examples are the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, the Clarke House and Glessner House Museums, the A. Philip Randolph Pullman Porter Museum Gallery, the Pullman Historic District and Jane Addams Hull House.
- Information about Neighborhood Tours is available at the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 E. Randolph or online at <http://www.chicagotraveler.com/attractions/chicago-neighborhood-tours.html>

Share your Summer experiences on Canvas

I would like to try out Canvas instead of Google Classroom this summer.

Look for an email invite from me. If you don't receive one before the end of school, please email me at kismolen@cps.edu

During the summer, **write three posts on our Summer Canvas class. Minimum of 3 paragraphs per post.**

Each post is worth 10 extra credit points on your 1st quarter writing grade. Maximum of 30 points. Your writing assignments may not be used for science.

First one is about the start of your summer: **Post between June 20 to July 11**

Second one is about the middle of the summer: **Post between July 12 to August 2**

Third one is about the end of summer: **Post between August 3 to August 31**

What should you write? Tell us about one of your tours!

- Write a review about about one of your summer experience. Was it a positive or negative experience? What would recommend? What could be improved?
- Write a review of a book that you read. Why would you recommend it? Favorite part? Don't spoil the ending.
- Rewrite the ending to a book.
- Choose at least one exhibit from the museum you visited.
 - Describe the exhibit you have chosen.
 - Explain what you learned in the exhibit and how the exhibit relates to things you have learned in your classes at Lenart.
 - Evaluate the exhibit. What did you like? What would you change if you were the museum curator?
- Summarize a tour you attended and then offer a review. Is there a connection to literature or did the performance remind you of anything?
- Write a narrative about one of your educational tours. What did you see? Do?
- Write a review of a play that you saw. Why would you recommend it? Favorite part?
- Write a journal entry from the perspective of your favorite character.
- Use your digital photos to construct a powerpoint presentation in which you include explanations, a narration of the experience, and your perspective.

Essential Skills for Lenart Middle School

- Read and think critically
- Write and speak clearly
- Research and evaluate information thoughtfully
- Collaborate effectively
- Use technology to improve and demonstrate learning