

Dear New Fifth Grade Parents!

Welcome! We are excited that your student will be with us in the fall! It's really essential that our students stay engaged with learning over the summer to prevent the academic slide that sometimes happens in the time away from the classroom! Summer is an opportune time to get kids to see and experience that learning happens anywhere and any time! All of these activities require parent/student togetherness. Our hope is that you will find an activity or two that fits your summer plans. Most important, of course, is spending quality time with your child! Help him/her to continue to discover and be curious about the world. Encourage critical thinking! Enjoy!

1. **Plant a garden!** What better way to learn about science and how things grow than in a garden? An added bonus is that if you grow vegetables, they go from the garden to the dinner table!



2. **Clip, paste, and write about your family adventures.** A family vacation is a perfect opportunity to make a scrapbook! It could end up being a cool treasure of memories that will last a lifetime. Suggestions for collectables are postcards, brochures, menus, napkins, coasters, photographs.

3. **Stage an opera or drama with puppets!** The kids create the

story, the dialogue, the puppets, even the stage. Great fun with nothing more than a box, a paper towel roll, some yarn, and imagination!

4. **Follow a recipe!** Whether it's making world famous chocolate chip cookies or building a model airplane, following step-by-step directions is valuable learning! The bonus is the finished product!



5. **Take responsibility!** Kids love being given a chore that requires more of their thinking and planning. Babysitting, or walking the dog, or even caring for a neighbor's garden while they are on vacation are super fun ways to increase a child's responsibilities.



6. **Become a junior travel agent!** Involve your student in making the travel plans. Looking in tour books, plotting out the route on a map, noting fun pit stops along the way. If you have the internet, together you could check out tourism sites near your destination. Even planning a budget for the trip is a real eye-opening experience for someone who gets a limited (or no) allowance!

7. **Visit a local museum or specialty factory.** You needn't

go far from home to have opportunities for fun learning! Michigan is the home of many awesome artists and craftspeople who ply their wares locally!

8. **Turn a trip to the museum into a scavenger hunt!** Visit the museum's website before heading there. Jot down some



interesting finds related to what your

child might have learned in school. Together find the list of treasures when you arrive.

9. **It's all free!** Writing letters is a fun way to keep skills honed. *Free Stuff for Kids* has over 1000 different places to which your child can write letters and receive something free in return!

10. If your student is interested in **math and number crunching**, there are many websites for learning about the stock market and investing. One highly recommended site is www.fool.com/teens/teens.htm.

11. **Join our Schoolcraft Community Library summer reading program!** It begins soon after school is out! www.schoolcraftlibrary.org or call 679-5959 for further details.

12. **Be a reading model!** Model reading everywhere there is a moment!

13. **Check out these family-friendly websites:**

www.eduplace.com
www.scholastic.com
www.pbskids.com
www.timeforkids.com

14. **Play together** – fly kites, walk the beach, go on bike rides, visit, have picnics, play games, get to know your neighborhood!

15. **Check out our school website** for an array of interesting links for learning, thinking, and practice!

www.schoolcraftschools.org
Click on the Upper Elementary tab, then click on the link on the left called Information for Parents.

Enjoy these possibilities that have been brought to you by the Schoolcraft Upper Elementary fifth grade teachers and www.greatschools.net.

Have a wonderful summer of learning and relaxing!

Kelli Mein
Rita Parker
Pat Pawlak
Gina Puhalski



Suggested list of school supplies to look for over the summer!

- ~ 2 two-pocket folders with paper holding clips in the middle
- ~ A composition book (Writer's Notebook) with a black/white hard cardboard cover (not spiral)
- ~ Pencil pouch or small pencil box
- ~ A supply of #2 pencils
- ~ 24 pack of crayons
- ~ 24 pack of colored pencils
- ~ Scissors
- ~ A glue stick
- ~ Plastic ruler
- ~ Yellow high lighter
- ~ A hand-held pencil sharpener
- ~ A box of tissues
- ~ A container of Chlorox wipes
- ~ Hand sanitizer

