



June 2019

Dear Rising Eighth Grade Students and Parents,

Congratulations, you have made it to your final year at Mary of Nazareth! We are excited for you! We know that there are many exciting memories to be made during the upcoming school year as well as many demands and challenges facing you. The summer work that is outlined in this letter is to help you to prepare for a very busy school year and to relieve some of the “eighth grade stressors” that can occur. Please take the time to do your best work, jot down any questions or concerns you may have, and feel free to email Mrs. Luongo with questions that you may have regarding the HSPT practice book, or email your math or language arts teachers with regards to the IXL practice and the literature projects.

In preparation for the HSPT (High School Placement Test), the SSAT (Secondary Scholastic Aptitude Test), and the MCPS magnet school exams, rising eighth grade students who wish to apply to these schools or programs and to take the HSPT-Prep class must purchase the **2019 Peterson's Master the Catholic High School Entrance Exams** practice book. If your child took the Pre-HSPT Practice test, he/she understands that the standardized tests for high school are very different from the Scantron test that he/she has taken in the past. Mrs. Luongo will meet with the seventh grade classes to explain the HSPT and the other high school entrance exams, how this resource will help the students to become better test takers, and highlight some strategies to implement when doing the required chapters.

Those rising eighth grade students who will be participating in the HSPT Prep class and taking any of the entrance tests should complete the following chapters in the HSPT book: **Chapter 5 (Synonyms), Chapter 6 (Antonyms), and Chapter 14 (Mathematics)** over the summer, rather than leaving them to be done in the fall when they will have high school visits and make-up work, essays to write, and applications to complete. A word of advice: when you do the practice exercises, do a question or two then check your answers in the answer key at the end of each chapter. It is a good feeling to recognize how well you know the material and it is a tremendous advantage to understand your errors before you repeat them. From past experiences, the students who do these review chapters, work to understand the vocabulary list in the back of the book, and read at least 30 minutes every day do much better on the standardized tests. Some of our past students have earned merit scholarships or been admitted to specialized programs in high school such as the Scholars Program at St. John's or the IB or STEM programs at Good Counsel based on their HSPT scores.

You are required to complete the IXL math and language arts skills that your teachers have designated and to do the assigned literature project. Your IXL work will count as a quiz grade in math and in Language Arts for the first marking period. The scoring is outlined on the attached IXL pages. MoN has been in contact with IXL; the company will be “updating” the selection of skill objectives over the summer. The teachers have “starred” the objectives listed in this

letter but if the that skill is renamed or moved to a different location on the list, it should remain “starred and/or highlighted.” Feel free to use your best judgement.

Literature Project:

As a way to continue your reading of classical literature and the fantasy genre, this summer’s novel is ***The Hobbit, Lord of the Rings*** by JRR. Toklein. This book can be found at the local library, Barnes and Nobel, or Amazon (paperback is about \$9, Kindle - \$0.00, Hardback - \$11.00). *The Hobbit* is an engaging story about overcoming personal doubts and fears to help others. We want to encourage you to write notes as you read, write questions when you are unsure about an event, and list any difficult vocabulary. Mr. Antonetti has planned a number of interesting activities based on *The Hobbit* as well as an assessment during the first weeks of school. You are encouraged to create a graphic organizer or another form of “memory tool” in order to recall characters, vocabulary, and important events in the novel.

If you have any questions or concerns about the HSPT or SSAT, please feel free to email Mrs. Luongo (kluongo@maryofnazareth.org), for literature questions please contact Mr. Antonetti (wantonetti@maryofnazareth.org)and for IXL contact your math teacher. We are happy to help you out. Please enjoy your summer! Remember to try to learn a new word or two every day, pray often, go to Mass, relax with your family and friends, and have a wonderful summer!

Have a blessed and peaceful summer,

The Middle School Teachers

Name: _____

IXL Username: _____

IXL Password: **mon2020**

jkavitz@maryofnazareth.org or wantonetti@maryofnazareth.org

IXL Language Arts Summer Work: Due September 3, 2019

Each of the ten IXL math skills listed below must be completed between June 15th--Sept. 3rd, 2019 to a *Mastery Score* of at least 85%, which will result in a first quarter quiz grade of 100% in the upcoming school year. *Please note that when logging in each time you should double check the skill name, number and grade level* listed below. (Websites get periodically updated - so be sure to rely first and foremost on the skill name). Throughout the summer, the math team will monitor your progress and address any possible IXL website issues you may encounter. You may contact your current math teacher directly using the email address listed above

Grade Level	Skill Number	Skill Name	Mastery Score of 85% (mandatory)	Highest Mastery Score Achieved (optional)	Date Completed
7th	A.7	<i>Is it a complete sentence or a run-on?</i>	✓	92	XX/XX/2018
7th	B.2	Determine the themes of short stories			
7th	C.3	Compare passages for tone			
7th	F.1	Analyze short stories			
7th	R.1	Choose the synonym			
7th	R.2	Choose the antonym			
7th	T.1	Describe the difference between related words			
7th	U.2	Analogies challenge			
7th	V.4	Use context to identify the meaning of a word			
7th	AA.5	Identify and correct errors with plural and possessive nouns			
7th	EE.1	Correct errors with subject-verb agreement			

*** If you need any assistance over the summer, please contact your teacher directly at the email address listed at the top of this page.**