

Dear Families,

We hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy as you are reading this. We want to begin this letter by commending your efforts to support your scholars during the past few months. We are inspired by your dedication to your scholars and are honored to have you as members of our broader Uplift family. As you know, distance learning at Uplift has been in full effect. When thinking about summer, we wanted to provide opportunities for scholars to practice and refine skills that they will need in their upcoming grade. Please see below for information and tips around how to help your scholar successfully engage in and complete their summer Reading & Math assignments. Scholars should work on these assignments throughout the summer and plan to submit them to their teachers on the first day of school.

We are excited to be able to provide you with these resources for extra scholar practice over the summer. If you have any questions, please reach out to your school's leadership team. Thank you for all that you do! We are so fortunate to have you in our Uplift family.

Summer Reading Assignment:

Studies show that when scholars do not read every day, they are at risk to slide in their reading level. This is known as the "summer slope". To help fight this, we have created a summer Reading assignment that will allow them to both critically and creatively engage with a grade-level science fiction or dystopian novel.

If your scholar is entering grade 6, please have them read *The City of Ember* by **Jeanne DuPrau**. After reading each chapter, your scholar should select one question to answer from the "Questions While Reading" list on page 3 of his or her scholar packet. Your scholar may choose any of the questions to answer but should not answer the same question more than twice over the course of the novel. Once your scholar has finished the novel, he or she should complete the "Questions After Reading" (page 4) according to the directions then select one "Alternative Book Report" (page 5) project to complete.

If your scholar is entering grade 7, please have them read *The House of the Scorpion* by **Nancy Farmer**. After reading every even numbered chapter (i.e. chapter 2, chapter 4, etc.), your scholar should select one question to answer from the "Questions While Reading" list on page 3 of his or her scholar packet. Your scholar may choose any of the questions to answer but should not answer the same question more than twice over the course of the novel. Once your scholar has finished the novel, he or she should complete the "Questions After Reading" (page 4) according to the directions then select one "Alternative Book Report" (page 5) project to complete.

If your scholar is entering grade 8, please have them read *Life As We Knew It* by **Susan Beth Pfeffer**. After reading each chapter, your scholar should select one question to answer from the "Questions While Reading" list on page 3 of his or her scholar packet. Your scholar may choose any of the questions to answer but should not answer the same question more than twice over the course of the novel. Once your scholar has finished the novel, he or she should complete the "Questions After Reading" (page 4) according to the directions then select one "Alternative Book Report" (page 5) project to complete.

Please clarify directions for your scholar if necessary but allow them to complete as much work as possible independently. Encourage your rising 6th or 8th grader to read one chapter and answer one question per day; encourage your rising 7th grader to read two chapters and answer one question per day. This pace will ensure your scholar is able to finish reading the novel, answer all questions, and produce a quality alternative book report before

the August 10th due date. This pace also allows your scholar to take the weekends off – making sure we fairly balance our academic expectations with your middle schooler’s need to simply be a “kid”.

In addition to the Summer Reading Assignment, we also want to provide your scholars with the opportunity to engage in online Reading skill practice through the use of an online platform called Study Island. Directions for how to access this online practice are included in your scholar’s summer assignment directions page. Please encourage and check in on your scholar to make sure they aim to spend 90 minutes each week practicing their Reading skills online. This online practice is designed to help your scholar work on the specific skills they need the most help with to prepare them for the next grade.

Summer Math Assignment:

It is not uncommon for scholars to return to school in August performing at a lower level in Mathematics than before the end of the previous school year. To help close this gap, we have created a Summer Math assignment that will allow scholars to engage in problem solving activities using Math skills they developed throughout the past year. The first part of their assignment involves Math Mini-Projects as outlined below:

- **If your scholar is entering grade 6**, please have them complete the all 4 parts of the mini project titled *Putting it All Together*.
- **If your scholar is entering grade 7**, please have them complete all 3 parts of the mini project titled *How Do We Chose*.
- **If your scholar is entering grade 8**, please have them complete all 4 parts of the mini project titled *Designing a Course*.

Please clarify directions for your scholar if necessary but allow them to complete as much work as possible independently. If the scholar is entering 7th or 8th grade, we encourage parents who wish to support them on the project tasks to visit www.openupresources.org and create a free account. Within each project, further information is given regarding where to find support materials for the specific project.

For rising & rising 8th grade only: In addition to the Math Mini-Projects, we also want to provide your scholars with the opportunity to engage in online Math skill practice throughout the summer, using an online platform called MATHia. This online program supports scholars to work independently by providing help and strategies along the way. Please encourage scholars to show their work on scratch paper as their work through the lessons and to spend 90 minutes each week practicing their Math skills online.