



Dear Middle School Dragons,

Summer is the perfect time to recharge your batteries, and we truly mean that! We encourage you to **unplug, get outside, and explore the world around you**. Math is all around us: calculating tips at a restaurant, measuring ingredients while cooking, tracking scores in a game, budgeting your summer money, or even figuring out the fastest route on a bike ride. We hope you find joy in discovering math beyond the screens this summer.

At the same time, keeping your math skills sharp over the summer can make all the difference when you return to the classroom in September. For our 8th graders especially, as you begin thinking about where you want to go to high school and preparing for the SSATs, having strong math skills can truly set you apart.

For those who enjoy using digital resources to keep progressing, one simple and effective way to maintain your math momentum is to practice weekly on IXL. A little consistency each week keeps your mind engaged, your skills fresh, and your confidence growing. Other resources, such as Khan Academy or AOPs Online, can also be beneficial.

Whether you go digital or keep it real-world, we suggest that you:

- Find **real-world ways** to practice math: cooking, shopping, building, playing games, or exploring nature all count!
- If you choose to use IXL, complete practice **weekly** to keep your math skills sharp (see note below for sign in reminders for returning students).
- Step into the IXL arena and complete the math diagnostic **monthly** to measure your progress and see how much you've grown.

**A note for students new to St. Michael's:** You will not have an IXL account set up until the beginning of the school year, so please do not worry about logging in to IXL over the summer. Focus on enjoying your break and exploring math in the world around you. We will get you set up once you arrive on campus!

**A note for returning St. Michael's Students:** You can access your school-managed IXL account over the summer by logging into your school Google account on a personal computer. Once you are logged into your school account, you can go to the STM Bookmarks tab on the left-hand side of your browser and select IXL login. This will take you to the school-specific IXL login page, where you can log in using the "sign in with Google" option. There is no need for a username or password when logging in using this method, as long as you are signed into your school Google account on whatever device you choose to use. As a reminder, student school Google accounts are monitored by the school year-round, so please limit your summer use of school-issued accounts to accessing IXL.



Math is a skill built over time through consistency and hard work. You've worked hard to get to this point, so let's keep the momentum going!

Best,  
Mr. Williams