



THE PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER CHALLENGE

Berean Academy is excited to announce a new summer enrichment program for its elementary students. This pilot program is an independent study that will mentally stimulate students as they sharpen their academic skills for the next grade level. Students who successfully complete the program will be recognized with a certificate of achievement in the fall. These students will also receive an “*I met the Principal’s Challenge*” t-shirt they can wear to school on designated days.

The Principal’s Summer Challenge will not be an easy adventure. Students will find that the program requires not only academic skills but also demands self-discipline and good time management. The program primarily focuses on math and reading skills, and there will be up to four science activities to complete.

The program is optional for all students. Some may choose to participate in portions of the challenge without completing the entire program. Those students would still benefit from any amount of work completed; however, only those who fulfill all the requirements of the Principal’s Challenge will receive the certificate and the t-shirt.

This summer, there is no cost to participate in this program for current Berean students who are registered for the 2020-2021 school year.

Registration for the program will be open until Friday, May 29th. Parents should complete and submit the online registration form to secure their children’s place in the program. A customized principal’s challenge program will be emailed to parents by June 8.

Requirements to Meet the Principal’s Summer Challenge

- Register for the program by May 29th.
- Satisfy the reading requirements associated with the appropriate grade level. Children entering grades 2-5 will have to pass Accelerated Reader (AR) quizzes to earn a requisite number of points.
 - Note: Books read for the Principal’s Summer Challenge may also count for the recommended optional elementary summer reading program.
- Complete the customized math component online through IXL Math.
- Verify completion of up to four assigned science activities.



THE PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER CHALLENGE

Reading Requirements

There are two levels of reading requirements for the Principal's Summer Challenge – one for rising 1st graders and one for rising 2nd through 5th graders. Rising 1st graders must read at least 25 of books at grade level or above grade level and complete a reading log. Rising 2nd – 5th graders must earn a specified number of points by taking and passing Accelerated Reading quizzes that correspond to the grade level or above grade level books they read. All components of the Principal's Summer Challenge are due on August 13, 2020.

Grade Entering

1st Grade
2nd Grade
3rd Grade
4th Grade
5th Grade

Book/Page Requirement

25 Books
10 Accelerated Reader points
12 Accelerated Reader points
14 Accelerated Reader points
16 Accelerated Reader points

The following lists of non-fiction books are recommended by respected author and educator E.D. Hirsch, Jr., and are part of the Core Knowledge Curriculum. The books are listed as possible resources for children. Other books may be read and applied to the challenge; however, **students participating in the Principal's Summer Challenge must read at least one book from their grade level's list.** Berean Academy strongly recommends that parents preview books before purchasing them or checking them out at the public library. If parents recognize inappropriate content or information that is not in harmony with Scripture, they are asked to share their findings with the administration. For this reason and several others, parents are highly encouraged to know what their children are reading.

Recommended Summer Reading Lists for the Principal's Summer Challenge

American History & Geography: Grade 1

Across the Wide Dark Sea: The Mayflower Journey by Jean Van Leeuwen
Samuel Eaton's Day: A Day in the Life of a Pilgrim Boy by Kate Waters
The Many Lives of Benjamin Franklin by Akili
Sam the Minuteman by Nathaniel Brenchley
Lewis and Clark: Explorers of the American West by Steven Kroll

American History & Geography: Grade 2

By the Dawn's Early Light: The Story of the Star-Spangled Banner (0.5 AR points)
The Amazing Impossible Erie Canal by Cheryl Harness (0.5 AR points)
Going West by Jean Van Leeuwen (0.5 AR points)
Wagon Wheels by Barbara Brenner (0.5 AR points)
Meet Abraham Lincoln by Barbara Cary (1.0 AR point)
Coming to America: The Story of Immigration by Betsy Maestro (0.5 AR points)

American History & Geography: Grade 3

People of the Breaking Day by Marcia Sewall (1.0 AR point)
Exploration and Conquest: The Americas after Columbus: 1500-1620 by Betsy and Giulio Maestro (1.0 AR point)
The First Thanksgiving by Jean Craighead George (0.5 AR points)

American History & Geography: Grade 4

And Then What Happened, Paul Revere? By Jean Fritz (0.5 AR points)
Voting and Elections by Dennis Fradin (0.5 AR points)

American History & Geography: Grade 5

The Boys' War: Confederate and Union Soldiers Talk about the Civil War by Jim Murphy (3.0 AR points)
The Way West: Journal of a Pioneer Woman by Amelia S. Knight (0.5 AR points)

Berean Academy

Recommended Summer Elementary Reading Lists for the Principal's Summer Challenge (continued)

World History and Geography: Grade 1

Gilgamesh the King by Ludmila Zeman
Bill and Pete Go Down the Nile by Tomi de Paola
I Wonder Why Pyramids Were Built by Philip Steele
Tut's Mummy: Lost and Found by Judy Donnelly
The Nativity by Ruth Sanderson
Mexico by Karen Jacobsen

World History and Geography: Grade 2

The Great Wall of China by Leonard Everett Fisher (0.5 AR points)
The Bicycle Man by Allen Say (0.5 AR points)

World History and Geography: Grade 3

Life in Ancient Rome by Shilpa Mehta-Jones (1.0 AR points)
The Real Vikings: Craftsmen, Traders, and Fearsome Raiders by Melvin Berger (2.0 AR points)

World History and Geography: Grade 4

A Medieval Feast by Alikei (0.5 AR points)
Sundiata: Lion King of Mali by David Wisniewski (0.5 AR points)

World History and Geography: Grade 5

Around the World in a Hundred Years: From Henry the Navigator to Magellan by Jean Fritz (4.0 AR points)
If You Were There in 1492 by Barbara Brenner (2.0 AR points)
Good Queen Bess: The Story of Elizabeth I of England by Diane Stanley and Peter Vennema (1.0 AR point)

Science: Grade 1

A Walk in the Desert by Caroline Arnold
Who Eats What? Food Chains and Food Webs by Patricia Lauber
The Magic School Bus on the Ocean Floor by Joanna Cole
Germes Make Me Sick! by Melvin Berger
It Could Still Be Water by Allan Fowler
The Sun is Always Shining Somewhere by Allan Fowler

Science: Grade 2

The Reason for a Flower by Ruth Heller (0.5 AR points)
How's the Weather? By Melvin and Gilda Berger (0.5 AR points)
Sun Up, Sun Down by Gail Gibbons (0.5 AR points)
Bugs by Nancy Winslow Parker and Joan Richards (0.5 AR points)

Science: Grade 3

Sound Experiments by Ray Broekel (0.5 AR points)
Comets, Meteors, and Asteroids by Seymour Simon (0.5 AR points)
Gravity Is a Mystery by Franklyn M. Branley (0.5 AR points)

Science: Grade 4

A Drop of Blood by Paul Showers (0.5 AR points)
Volcanoes by Franklyn M. Branley (0.5 AR points)
Weatherwatch by Valerie Wyatt (2.0 AR points)

Science: Grade 5

George Washington Carver by Ellen Labrecque (0.5 AR points)
Percy Lavon Julian by Darlene Stille (2.0 AR points)
Plants: Flowering Plants, Ferns, Mosses, and Other Plants by Shar Levine (2.0 AR points)
Sir Isaac Newton: Using the Laws of Motion to Solve Problems (0.5 AR points)



THE PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER CHALLENGE

Math Requirements

Students accepting the Principal's Summer Challenge will be assigned online math activities through IXL.com. Berean has a subscription to IXL Math, which allows teachers to customize the assigning of math lessons to individual students.

The customized math program will include lessons designed for skill reinforcement, critical thinking, and rigor. While the reinforcement lessons might present little challenge for some students, some of the lessons will be intentionally selected to challenge students to expand their math skills.

Remember, this program is optional and independent. No student should spend a summer struggling with anxiety over an optional program. If parents would like to use IXL Math at a leisurely, less-demanding pace, that is perfectly acceptable; however, that approach is not consistent with the design and purpose of the Principal's Summer Challenge. Furthermore, due to the independent nature of this enrichment program, teachers will not be available to assist students with the program.

Science Requirements

Science is a lesser but exciting focus in the Principal's Summer Challenge. Students will be required to complete up to four science activities to meet the science component. Instructions and expectations concerning the science components will be communicated via email and will likely include video demonstrations. The means of verifying students' completion of assigned science activities will be communicated in the instructions; verification methods may include uploading video recordings or completing activity logs.

All components of the Principal's Summer Challenge are due on August 13, 2020.