



## THE PRINCIPAL'S SUMMER CHALLENGE

Berean Academy is once again offering an optional summer enrichment program for its elementary students. This 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. Only those who fulfill all the requirements of the Principal's Challenge by the deadline will receive the certificate and the t-shirt.

**The cost to participate in this program is \$20 per student and is only available to rising 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are registered for the 2021-2022 school year.** This fee will be paid through the online registration form.

Registration for the program will be open until **Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Parents should complete and submit the online registration form to secure their children's place in the program. More details concerning the principal's challenge program will be emailed to parents by June 9.

### Requirements to Meet the Principal's Summer Challenge

- Register for the program by June 4.
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> graders and one for rising 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> graders. Rising 1<sup>st</sup> graders must read at least 25 of books at grade level or above grade level and complete a reading log. Rising 2<sup>nd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6, 2021.

#### Grade Entering

1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
5<sup>th</sup> 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  
*Germs 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 6, 2021.**