

Dear Incoming 4th Grade Families,

Summer is here. Time for sunshine, sleeping in and fun! But before we jump fully into summer mode, we want to share a few important ways students can keep their brains growing and avoid the “summer slide” before starting 4th grade in August.

Fourth grade is an exciting year filled with more independence, stronger expectations, and lots of growth. A little practice during the summer makes a huge difference once school begins.

### Reading Requirement

All incoming 4th graders are required to read Wonder by RJ Palacio, before the first day of school. The novel must be finished before returning in August. Students will take a test over the novel during the first week of school.

### Writing Expectations

Incoming 4th graders should continue practicing:

- Writing complete sentences
- Using correct punctuation
- Capitalizing proper nouns correctly
- Writing a paragraph with at least 5 complete sentences

Examples:

Keeping a daily journal of their summer activities is a great way to practice these skills in a fun way.

### Cursive Expectations

ALL letters should sit on the line they are written on. The size of the letters matters as well. A lowercase e should not be as tall as a lowercase l.

Students who have attended IC School since 2nd grade are expected to form cursive letters and numbers correctly.

For example:

- Lowercase cursive “m” has 3 humps
- Lowercase cursive “n” has 2 humps

Students new to IC who have not learned cursive before will not be expected to write in cursive immediately. However, they are still expected to form manuscript letters and numbers correctly.

### Math Expectations

Incoming 4th graders must know their math facts FLUENTLY..

Students should practice:

- Addition, subtraction and multiplication facts with proficiency and quick recall

### Handwriting Practice

I am attaching handwriting paper for students to print and use throughout the summer for both manuscript and cursive practice. Consistent handwriting practice helps students build neatness, confidence, and proper letter formation habits before entering 4th grade.

### Easy Summer Practice Ideas

\* IXL and i-Ready math are available to current IC students. Both provide excellent practice for all students.

\*Read for 15-20 minutes each day

\*Practice math facts while riding in the car

\*Practice handwriting neatly

\*Use online math games to develop fluency

We hope everyone has a safe, relaxing, and fun summer break. We are excited for a wonderful year together and cannot wait to meet all of our new 4th graders in August.

Enjoy your summer adventures.

Ms. Bibb and Ms. Stafford/ 4th Grade Team