

WILLOWS ACADEMY

Summer Enrichment
Requirements
Summer 2025



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Summer Enrichment Guidelines

The goal of the summer break is to give our minds, bodies and spirits a time to rest, relax, grow, and prepare for what comes next in our lives. Summer is designed to be a break from the ordinary, to rest, and enjoy all that the Chicago area has to offer during the summer months. Willows believes that this rest is accomplished by a change of activity rather than an absence of activity; see this [short article](#) for some good advice.

In order to help the students use their time well and keep their minds sharp while they relax, Willows expects students to continue their studies over the summer by completing the summer enrichment expectations.

The Summer Reading is designed to be enjoyed throughout the summer months. Texts are chosen not just for their correlation to the curriculum but also for their literary worth and enjoyment by the student. During the summer, students have the time to read slowly and to savor the texts they are reading, adding this literature to their intellectual fund of knowledge. Students are required to read the texts indicated, but very much encouraged to read from the recommended titles list. Students are also reminded that many libraries carry unabridged copies of these texts on audiobooks, which, when read together with the text, can greatly enhance the reading experience.

Students are encouraged to practice their math skills throughout the summer. The Math Review for Grades 6 through 9 utilizes MathIXL software and other recommended websites to help students maintain and refine their skills, enhance math fluency, and prepare for the upcoming academic year.

Learning through service to others is an integral component of a Willows education. We encourage our students to begin their Service Hours over the summer months. A blank service log can be found on Resources within WillowsWeb. Students in grades 6-12 are required to serve *10 hours of service* (total) from any one, or combination of, the following categories: care for the elderly, service to the community, and assistance to the impoverished. Service Hours are not due until **May 1, 2026**, but we advise to get a head start over the summer.

In addition to these required activities, we also encourage parents to closely monitor student use of technology and television during the summer months. One quick guide a parent can use is to balance reading and other wholesome activities with television/technology/cell phone time. For every hour your daughter spends on the computer, in front of the TV, or on her phone, has she spent an hour reading, doing a craft, playing music, exercising, playing sports, engaging in a service activity, or helping out at home? As you well know, as parents, it's all about balance!

6th Grade Summer Enrichment

Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice their math skills over the summer using **MATH IXL**. This learning platform offers an unlimited number of practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool for math. This summer, the idea is to provide your daughter with a vehicle to practice their skills and build confidence at their own pace.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to begin practicing with **MATH IXL**:

IXL LOGIN INFORMATION:

- The website is **www.ixl.com**. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress. Usernames are of the form **firstnamelastname94**. Passwords are your **last name** in all lowercase.

For example, a student named Jane Doe would have:

Username: **janedoe94**

Password: **doe**

- Once logged into Math IXL, find the **Learning Tab** at the top of the Math IXL banner and click on it. Scroll down to find the **6th-grade** math skills row. Click the skills button and select the skill you want to practice.
- Generally, for every skill, your goal is to achieve about 90 points of mastery. You earn points by answering questions correctly and will lose points for answering incorrectly.

Additional practice problems are available through the websites below:

- www.khanacademy.org
- www.coolmath.com
- www.chilimath.com
- www.mathplanet.com

Assessment: Be prepared for a math readiness quiz and activity during the first week of school.

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the texts marked “REQUIRED.” The books listed under “SUGGESTED” books are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Assessment: In-class activity and/or quiz during the first weeks of school.

It is recommended that students purchase their own copies of the books to bring to class; however, a library copy will also suffice.

Required for all 6th Graders:

Angel on the Square by Gloria Whelan

Suggested Titles for Enrichment:

The Secret Garden or *A Little Princess* by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Trumpeter of Krakow by Eric P. Kelly

Summer of the Monkeys by Wilson Rawls

The Mitchells: Five for Victory by Hilda van Stockum

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The Story of the Treasure Seekers by E. Nesbit

7th Grade Summer Enrichment

Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice their math skills over the summer using **MATH IXL**. This learning platform offers an unlimited number of practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool for math. This summer, the idea is to provide your daughter with a learning instrument to practice their skills and build confidence at their own pace.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to begin practicing with **MATH IXL**:

IXL LOGIN INFORMATION:

- The website is **www.ixl.com**. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress. Usernames are of the form **firstnamelastname94**. Passwords are your **last name** in all lowercase.

For example, a student named Jane Doe would have:

Username: **janedoe94**

Password: **doe**

- Once logged into Math IXL, find the **Learning Tab** at the top of the Math IXL banner and click on it. Scroll down to find the math class you have placed into this fall. Click the skills button and select the skill you want to practice.
- Generally, for every skill, your goal is to achieve about 90 points of mastery. You earn points by answering questions correctly and will lose points for answering incorrectly.

Additional practice problems are available through the websites below:

- www.khanacademy.org
- www.coolmath.com
- www.chilimath.com
- www.mathplanet.com

Assessment: Be prepared for a math readiness quiz and activity during the first week of school.

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the texts marked “REQUIRED.” The books listed under “SUGGESTED” books are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Students must have access to a hard copy of the required book during the first month of class. It is encouraged that students purchase their own copy of the book so that they can use it during class.

Required for all 7th Graders:

Little Women by Louisa May Alcott (L750)

Assessment: In-class activity and/or quiz during the first weeks of school.

It is encouraged that students purchase their own copies of the books to bring to class, but a library copy will suffice.

Suggested Titles for Enrichment:

Anne of Green Gables or **Anne of Avonlea** by L.M. Montgomery

D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths by Ingri d'Aulaire and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire

Small Acts of Amazing Courage by Gloria Whelan

King of Shadows by Susan Cooper

Fever 1793 by Laurie Halse Anderson

The Ranger's Apprentice series by John Flanagan

Inkheart by Cornelia Funke

8th Grade Summer Enrichment

Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice their math skills over the summer using **MATH IXL**. This learning platform offers an unlimited number of practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool for math. This summer, the idea is to provide your daughter with a vehicle to practice their skills and build confidence at their own pace.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to begin practicing with **MATH IXL**:

IXL LOGIN INFORMATION:

- The website is **www.ixl.com**. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress. Usernames are of the form **firstnamelastname94**. Passwords are your **last name** in all lowercase.

For example, a student named Jane Doe would have:

Username: **janedoe94**

Password: **doe**

- Once logged into Math IXL, find the **Learning Tab** at the top of the Math IXL banner and click on it. Scroll down to find the math class you have placed into this fall. Click the skills button and select the skill you want to practice.
- Generally, for every skill, your goal is to achieve about 90 points of mastery. You earn points by answering questions correctly and will lose points for answering incorrectly.

Additional practice problems are available through the websites below:

- www.khanacademy.org
- www.coolmath.com
- www.chilimath.com
- www.mathplanet.com

Assessment: Be prepared for a math readiness quiz and activity during the first week of school.

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the text marked “REQUIRED.” The books listed under “SUGGESTED” books are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Assessment: While reading *The Hiding Place*, students are expected to annotate their books using the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method. Sample annotations can be found in high school summer reading directions in this packet, if that helps. Students will be expected to complete an in-class writing assignment on *The Hiding Place* when they return to school.

Required for all 8th Graders:

The Hiding Place by Corrie Ten Boom, John Sherrill, Elizabeth Sherrill. [Click here](#) to purchase the 2006 edition on Amazon.

Suggested Titles for Enrichment:

An Old Fashioned Girl by Louisa May Alcott

The Dark Is Rising by Susan Cooper

Invincible Louisa by Cornelia Meigs

Outlaws of Ravenhurst by Sr. M. Imelda

9th Grade Summer Enrichment

Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice their math skills over the summer using **MATH IXL**. This learning platform offers an unlimited number of practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool for math. This summer, the idea is to provide your daughter with a vehicle to practice their skills and build confidence at their own pace.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to begin practicing with **MATH IXL**:

IXL LOGIN INFORMATION:

- The website is **www.ixl.com**. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress. Usernames are of the form **firstnamelastname94**. Passwords are your **last name** in all lowercase.

For example, a student named Jane Doe would have:

Username: **janedoe94**

Password: **doe**

- Once logged into Math IXL, find the **Learning Tab** at the top of the Math IXL banner and click on it. Scroll down to find the math class you have placed into this fall. Click the skills button and select the skill you want to practice.
- Generally, for every skill, your goal is to achieve about 90 points of mastery. You earn points by answering questions correctly and will lose points for answering incorrectly.

Additional practice problems are available through the websites below:

- www.khanacademy.org
- www.coolmath.com
- www.chilimath.com
- www.mathplanet.com

Assessment: Be prepared for a math readiness quiz and activity during the first week of school.

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the texts marked “REQUIRED” and try to read those “HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.” The books listed under “suggested books” are not required, rather, they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Required for all 9th Graders:

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (Purchase it [here](#))

Assessment: [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access an example of a short story that is annotated using the RECAP method.

Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:

Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

The Innocence of Father Brown by Gilbert Keith Chesterton

Lay Siege to Heaven: A Novel of St. Catherine of Siena by Louis de Wohl

The Once and Future King by T.H. White

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

The Quiet Light: A Novel of St. Thomas Aquinas by Louis de Wohl

The Robe by Lloyd C. Douglas

Gifted Hands by Ben Carson

World Language

For students entering Spanish I and French I: No summer enrichment! :)

For students entering Spanish II: Create a short slideshow in Spanish about your favorite summer vacation experience from summer 2025. Be ready to present it during the first few weeks of school.

For students entering French II: “Look du jour” video. Show off your *look du jour* and record yourself narrating your outfits on five different occasions throughout the summer. Before each “look,” you should tell the camera the date, the time, and the weather, *en français* of course! Make sure you **record yourself outside or near a window** so we can see the actual weather. **You only have to say “le look du jour” intro once.**

10th Grade Summer Enrichment

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the text marked “REQUIRED” and try to read those “HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.” The books listed under “suggested books” are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Assessment: While reading *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, students are expected to annotate the book using the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method. Students must include at least one Encapsulation per chapter. There should be approximately 5 of the following in the book: Reaction, Encapsulation, Connection, Analysis, or Prediction. All words that are unknown should be circled and defined.

Required for all 10th Graders:

The Scarlet Pimpernel by Baroness Emmuska Orczy Please use this link [HERE](#) to obtain a SDE Classics 2019 edition. Books will be collected, and annotations will be evaluated on the first day of class. There will also be an in-class discussion and writing assignment on the book.

Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Chosen by Chaim Potok

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand

The Death of Ivan Ilyich by Leo Tolstoy

I am Malala: How One Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Changed the World by Malala Yousafzai

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

Madame Curie by Eve Curie

Night by Elie Wiesel

World Language

For students entering French II: “Look du jour” video. Show off your *look du jour* and record yourself narrating your outfits on five different occasions throughout the summer. Before each “look,” you should tell the camera the date, the time, and the weather, *en français* of course! Make sure you **record yourself outside or near a window** so we can see the actual weather. **You only have to say “le look du jour” intro once.**

For students entering French III: [French III Summer Work](#)

For students entering Spanish II: Create a short slideshow in Spanish about your favorite summer vacation experience from summer 2025. Be ready to present it during the first few weeks of school.

For students entering Spanish III: Create a short slideshow in Spanish about your favorite summer vacation experience from summer 2025. Be ready to present it during the first few weeks of school.

11th Grade Summer Enrichment

Summer Reading

Assignment for BOTH AP and Honors American Literature: Read the text marked “REQUIRED”. The books listed under “suggested books” are not required but are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Assessment for BOTH AP and Honors American Literature: While reading *Death Comes for the Archbishop*, students are expected to annotate their books using the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method.

Additional Assignment for AP American Literature ONLY: Students must follow one current event throughout the summer and must locate 10 articles about this current event. These articles must come from at least three different reliable news sources (BBC, *The Epoch Times*, NBC, CNN, *National Catholic Register*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, etc.). Students will be expected to bring a hard copy of these 10 articles to class with them on the first day.

Required for both AP and Honors American Literature:

Death Comes for the Archbishop by Willa Cather (Vintage Classics Edition, 1990)
[Click here](#) to purchase the Vintage Classics 1990 edition of the book on Amazon.

Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:

Boys in the Boat by Daniel James Brown
The Crucible by Arthur Miller
The Teenage Brain by Frances E Jensen and Amy Ellis Nutt
A Good Man is Hard to Find and Other Stories by Flannery O'Connor
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Killer Angels by Michael Shaara
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller
Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe
What if? by Randall Munroe

World Language

For students entering French III: [French III Summer Work](#)

For students entering French IV/AP: [Français IV/AP Summer Work](#)

For students entering Spanish III: Create a short slideshow in Spanish about your favorite summer vacation experience from summer 2025. Be ready to present it during the first few weeks of school.

For students entering Spanish IV: Read and read about this famous poem by Jorge Manrique, [“Coplas de la muerte de su padre”](#)

Advanced Art

Students must email Mrs. Morris at morris@willowsacademy.org to discuss summer requirements (college-level summer class + packet).

12th Grade Summer Enrichment

Summer Reading

Assignment: Read the texts marked “REQUIRED.” The books listed under “suggested books” are not required, rather they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Required Reading for AP and Honors British Literature:

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (Purchase it [here](#))

Honors British Literature Assignment:

- ☐ [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access an example of a short story that is annotated using the RECAP method.

AP British Literature Assignment (Must Complete BOTH):

- ☐ While reading *Pride and Prejudice*, students are expected to **annotate the book** using the RECAP annotation method. [Click here](#) to access the key for the RECAP annotation method. Write the three-word summary at the end of each chapter and for every five chapters, annotate one example of each of the other types of annotations. It is encouraged that students purchase their own copy of the text so that they can write annotations in the book. If students borrow a copy of the book (from the library, etc.), they must use Post-it notes to annotate in the book and bring the book the first month of class. **Books will be collected, and annotations will be checked on the first day of school. While reading *Pride and Prejudice*, students will also need to create a data chart.**
- ☐ While reading *Pride and Prejudice*, students are expected to complete sections of **the data chart** on background information about the author and literary era, and other sections of the chart will require them to reflect on characterization, plot, language, setting, and the author’s purpose. This chart will help them to analyze various angles of Jane Austen’s message and the strategies she uses to convey the meaning of the book as a whole. [Click here to download the required template](#) (make a copy to edit) and [click here to view an example modeling the process and expectations](#). **Students should bring their completed data chart to English class on the first day of school.**

Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:

Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

Emma by Jane Austen

Gulliver’s Travels by Jonathan Swift

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

Science at the Doorstep to God by Fr. Spitzer

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

A Winter’s Tale by William Shakespeare

College Counseling

Standardized Tests

Summer presents a prime opportunity to gear up for those crucial standardized tests. While some colleges have adopted test-optional policies, a significant number are returning to requiring standardized tests for admissions review. It's a wise move to consider signing up for a prep class through The Think Tank, iAchieve Learning, Kaplan, or a local test prep company. Don't forget, there are also free resources available online: College Board, ACT, Khan Academy, or Magoosh. Remember, these tests can significantly impact your college admissions, so it's essential to be well-prepared.

Essays

As rising seniors, you should be in the process of editing and refining your draft personal statements. Crafting an exceptional essay takes time and effort, and summer provides a more relaxed environment for this crucial task. Please note, seniors must submit their final essays to me by October 1, 2024. Once your personal statement is complete, you'll be ready to tackle the supplemental statements, which are typically released after August 1.

College Visits

College visits, a crucial step in finding the right fit, are highly recommended, and summer is a great time to visit campus. From this point forward, the ultimate goal is to identify the best “fit” college. Visiting gives a taste of the campus culture. Each campus is unique. Just as academics, size, and location are considerations when selecting a school, the culture of the campus should be included in the decision too. If you visit a college, call ahead and make an appointment. All schools have regular tours, and they are very helpful. Keep in mind formal visits are limited during the summer months.

World Language Review

For students entering French IV/AP: [French IV Summer Work](#)

For students entering Spanish IV: Read and read about this famous poem by Jorge Manrique [“Coplas de la muerte de su padre”](#)

AP Spanish: Open and follow directions in this document [AP Spanish Language and Culture](#). When complete, students should share their work by emailing it to james@willowsacademy.org. This will be due on the week of classes.

For all Rising Seniors: With the goal of letting the girls have a break from the rigors of school, the Spanish language teachers have decided to create an opportunity for honors level 4 to maintain and ideally sharpen their skills through the use of the online program Duolingo. Participation will be voluntary but highly encouraged, and teachers have explained the benefits of maintaining all of the skills that the girls have worked so hard to acquire during the year.

The lessons are “gamified”, meaning they are entertaining, and competition with oneself is rewarded with “expert points” and gold circles. There is a placement test offered at sign-up so that girls can place out of the very elementary lessons and begin at a higher level if they choose to do so. A daily 15 to 20 minutes Duolingo work is recommended as well as practice listening skills with <https://podcast.duolingo.com/> (for Spanish and French), <https://www.notesinspanish.com/> for Spanish only and watching movies in the target language with subtitles in English or in the target language.

Again, participation is not mandatory but highly encouraged, and the benefits of using Duolingo, and the listening activities should be felt by the levels below AP. The programs in French and Spanish are available on both the computer and smartphone.

AP Chemistry

Please download [the summer packet](#).

The problem set and textbook reading assignment will be **due during the first week of classes**. We may also have a **Quiz on the material within the first week of class**. Please email questions to Mrs. Suzanne James, HS Academic Dean, at james@willowsacademy.org

This summer packet is to help you review important concepts that will allow you to hit the ground running in the fall. All the answers to the questions in this packet are in [the accompanying answer packet](#). You should read the included summary information for the topics and work the problems as needed to master the skills. It is best to not look at the answers until after you work through a few problems of each type. Please also read through the first three chapters of our textbook (Brown and LeMay).

Advanced Art

Students must individually email Mrs. Morris at morris@willowsacademy.org to discuss summer requirements (college level summer class + packet).

Theology Capstone

Students must complete the documents [Capstone without Stress](#) and [Planning Chart for CP topics](#) over the summer to be prepared for the Senior Capstone project, upon arrival to class in the Fall.