

WILLOWS ACADEMY

Summer Enrichment Requirements
Summer 2026



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. Willows believes that this rest is achieved through a change in activity rather than an absence of activity.

To help students use their time well and keep their minds sharp while relaxing, 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 with the curriculum but also for their literary merit and student enjoyment. 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 indicated texts, but are strongly encouraged to read from the recommended titles list as well. Students are also reminded that many libraries carry unabridged audiobook versions of these texts, which, when listened to alongside 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 uses IXL Math 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, 2027**, but we advise getting a head start over the summer.

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 unlimited practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool. 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; 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 unlimited practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study

tool. 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; 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. Students are encouraged to purchase their own copy of the book to use 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.

Students are encouraged to 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 unlimited practice problems for any math skill, making it an excellent study tool. 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.

Accelerated Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice and strengthen their math skills over the summer using **Khan Academy**. This learning platform provides students with personalized practice, instructional videos, and skill-building activities that help reinforce important math concepts. The goal is to provide your daughter with an opportunity to review material, build confidence, and continue developing her math skills at her own pace throughout the summer.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to access the Khan Academy classroom and begin practicing:

KHAN ACADEMY LOGIN INFORMATION:

The website is **www.khanacademy.org**. Students should log in or create an account using their school email address if possible. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress.

Your daughter's math teacher and the Math Department Head have created a Khan Academy classroom for summer enrichment. Students will receive the classroom code and instructions needed to join the appropriate class. Once joined, the assigned material will appear in the classroom dashboard. Students should complete the assigned practice and activities throughout the summer.

Teachers and the Math Department will be able to monitor student progress and completion through Khan Academy over the summer months.

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; they are optional recommendations that students may choose from for additional summer enrichment.

Assessment: Students will take a test on *The Hiding Place* on the second day of school. The test will assess their understanding of the novel as a whole. Students should be familiar with the novel's characters, settings, major events, and themes, and they should be able to identify the speakers of significant quotations from the text.

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
Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe
Around the World in Eighty Days by Jules Verne
The Witch of Blackbird Pond by Elizabeth George Speare
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain

9th Grade Summer Enrichment

Math Review

Assignment: We invite students to practice and strengthen their math skills over the summer using **Khan Academy**. This learning platform provides students with personalized practice, instructional videos, and skill-building activities that help reinforce important math concepts. The goal is to provide your daughter with an opportunity to review material, build confidence, and continue developing her math skills at her own pace throughout the summer.

To help you get started, utilize the following information to access the Khan Academy classroom and begin practicing:

KHAN ACADEMY LOGIN INFORMATION:

The website is **www.khanacademy.org**. Students should log in or create an account using their school email address if possible. Ensure you log in correctly; otherwise, the website will not track your progress.

Your daughter's math teacher and the Math Department Head have created a Khan Academy classroom for summer enrichment. Students will receive the classroom code and instructions needed to join the appropriate class. Once joined, the assigned material will appear in the classroom dashboard. Students should complete the assigned practice and activities throughout the summer.

Teachers and the Math Department will be able to monitor student progress and completion through Khan Academy over the summer months.

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

Required for all 9th Graders:

Assignment: Read *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë (Purchase it [HERE](#)) and be prepared for the assessment below.

Assessment: Students will take a test on *Jane Eyre* on the second day of school. The test will assess their understanding of the novel as a whole. Students should be familiar with the novel's

characters, settings, major events, and themes, and they should be able to identify the speakers of significant quotations from the text.

Students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to annotate their book as they read and to create a character list that includes key details about each character. The RECAP annotation method is a helpful strategy they may use. [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:

Note: These texts are NOT required; they are optional recommendations that students may choose for additional summer enrichment.

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Mythos, Heroes, & Troy by Stephen Fry

Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton

10th Grade Summer Enrichment

Summer Reading

Required for all 10th Graders:

Assignment: Read ***The Scarlet Pimpernel*** by Baroness Emmuska Orczy (Purchase it [HERE](#)) and be prepared for the assessment below.

Assessment: Students will take a test on *The Scarlet Pimpernel* on the second day of school. The test will assess their understanding of the novel as a whole. Students should be familiar with the novel's characters, settings, major events, and themes, and they should be able to identify the speakers of significant quotations from the text.

Students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to annotate their book as they read and to create a character list that includes key details about each character. The RECAP annotation method is a helpful strategy they may use. [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:

Note: These texts are NOT required; they are optional recommendations that students may choose for additional summer enrichment.

Les Misérables by Victor Hugo

The Count of Monte Cristo by Alexandre Dumas

Cry, The Beloved Country by Alan Paton

Cyrano de Bergerac by Edmond Rostand
White Nights by Fyodor Doestovesky
Night by Elie Wiesel
The Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

11th Grade Summer Enrichment

Advanced Art

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

Summer Reading

Required for AP and Honors:

Assignment: Read *Death Comes for the Archbishop* by Willa Cather (Purchase it [HERE](#))

Assessment for BOTH AP Language & Composition and Honors American Literature: Students will take a test on *Death Comes for the Archbishop* on the second day of school. The test will assess their understanding of the novel as a whole. Students should be familiar with the novel's characters, settings, major events, and themes, and they should be able to identify the speakers of significant quotations from the text.

Students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to annotate their book as they read and to create a character list that includes key details about each character. The RECAP annotation method is a helpful strategy they may use. [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.

Additional Assignment for AP Language & Composition ONLY: Students must follow one current event throughout the summer and locate 10 articles about it. 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 on the first day, along with a 5-sentence summary of each article written on the document.

Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:

Note: These texts are NOT required; they are optional recommendations that students may choose 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

12th Grade Summer Enrichment

Advanced Art

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

Theology Capstone

Students must complete the documents [WS#1 Brainstorming Capstone Topics](#) and [Capstone without stress](#) over the summer to be prepared for the Senior Capstone project upon arrival in class in the fall.

AP Chemistry

Please read through the first three chapters of this textbook, [Chemistry, 10th edition by Zumdahl, Zumdahl & DeCoste](#). Questions for this general chemistry review will be included in the summer assignment. Please download, print, and complete [the summer assignment](#). The textbook reading and problem sets, as well as the AP Chemistry summer assignment, will be **due during the first week of classes**. We WILL also have a **Quiz on the material within the first week of class**. Please email questions to Mrs. Mary Toler, AP Chemistry instructor, at toler@willowsacademy.org

Summer Reading

Required for AP and Honors:

Assignment: Read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (Purchase it [HERE](#)) and be prepared for the assessment below.

Assessment (AP and Honors): Students will take a test on *Pride and Prejudice* on the second day of school. The test will assess their understanding of the novel as a whole. Students should be familiar with the novel's characters, settings, major events, and themes, and they should be able to identify the speakers of significant quotations from the text.

Students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to annotate their book as they read and to create a character list that includes key details about each character. The RECAP annotation method

is a helpful strategy they may use. [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.

Assessment (AP *ONLY*):

While reading *Pride and Prejudice*, students are expected to complete the AP Literature and Composition FRQ3 data chart. [Click here to download the required template](#) (make a copy to edit). **Students MUST bring their completed data chart to English class on the first day of school (25 points).**

***Highly Recommended Books for Additional Summer Enrichment:**

Note: These texts are NOT required; they are optional recommendations that students may choose for additional summer enrichment.


1984 by George Orwell

Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh

North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

A Room with a View by E.M. Forster

Middlemarch by George Elliot

*Or see this list for approved books for the AP Literature & Composition FRQ3:  [APLitBookList.pdf](#)

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, many 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, and 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 that 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 campus culture should be included in the decision, too. If you visit a college, call ahead and make an appointment. All schools offer regular tours, which are very helpful. Keep in mind that formal visits are limited during the summer months.

World Languages

Spanish students entering their respective levels should choose one of the following books. The books can be rented at your local library or bought. **Students will have a test on the first full day of school** on the book they decide to read. This will be the first assignment in the gradebook for the year. **There will be no extensions given.**

For students entering Spanish II: Pobre Ana by Blaine Ray or El Principito by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

For students entering Spanish III: Esperanza Renace by Pam Muñoz Ryan or Brandon Brown quiere un perro by Carol Gaab

For students entering Spanish IV: Cajas de cartón by Francisco Jiménez or Cuentos de la selva by Horacio Quiroga

For students entering AP Spanish: El príncipe de la niebla Carlos Ruiz Zafón or Platero y yo by Juan Ramón Jiménez

*Highly Recommended Practice for Additional Summer Enrichment:

Note: These are NOT required; they are optional recommendations that students may choose for additional summer enrichment.

Students can watch their favorite movies in Spanish with Spanish subtitles. Not English audio with Spanish subtitles or Spanish audio with English subtitles. It is recommended that they watch movies they are already familiar with, so they know the story and can focus on listening and reading Spanish.

Students can also download Duolingo and practice their Spanish during the summer. It is recommended that they practice for 20-30 minutes a day, 3-5 times a week.