

Dear Parents,

As part of the middle school math program, all rising 5th-8th graders review, practice, and are introduced to new math skills using the IXL online math platform during the summer. Students already have IXL accounts, and their current math teacher has provided them with the logon credentials and assigned skills to be completed. When a student logs onto IXL, the skills are listed under the button labeled “skills suggested by your teacher” which can be found under the *Learning-Recommendations* section of the site.

When students click on each recommended skill, they have the choice of clicking on two tutorials:

- Learn with an example
- Watch a tutorial

Students should use one or both options before attempting the questions. Every time a student submits an incorrect answer, IXL explains why the answer was incorrect and demonstrates how to find the correct solution. Students finish a topic more quickly and with fewer mistakes if they carefully read over these explanations.

Students may work on these required skills in any order. At any time, a student can move on to another skill or go back to a previous skill. By the end of the summer, the goal is a SmartScore of 80 or higher on all “suggested by your teacher” skills. Some links below are attached to this email if you have questions about using IXL or understanding SmartScores.

Students may also choose to work on other skills that appear in the *Recommendations* area of the IXL site, but the “suggested by your teacher” skills have priority. Since it is important that students maintain and improve arithmetic skills during the summer, **students should NOT use calculators** as they work on IXL. Mental math is encouraged but paper and pencil will also be necessary.

Summer practice is not meant to be a meaningless chore. Studies show that students lose a portion of the math from the previous year over the summer if they do not practice the concepts. The best strategy is to work on IXL two or three times a week for 15 minutes or more. This keeps the students practicing math all summer without creating too much of a burden. Still, some students decide to complete all the required work the first week of summer break and others will procrastinate and do the required work a few days before school starts. Neither scenario will help your student practice and retain their math knowledge as much as spacing it out.

Throughout the summer, the teachers will have the ability to monitor progress and see time spent, skills practiced, and levels of achievement. When school resumes in the fall, students will be graded for the summer work they complete. Please try to help your child to plan on how they will best fit the online work into their summer schedule, but they should complete the work on their own.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Sloyer (psloyer@trinityschoolmd.org).

Sincerely,

Ms. K. Marguerite Conley
Head of School

Mr. Paul Sloyer
Middle School Director

Mr. Richard Quinn
Math Teacher

Ms. Monica Lightfoot
Math Teacher

IXL Links:

<https://www.ixl.com/resources/IXL-parent-handout>

[https://www.ixl.com/help-center/article/1272663/how does the smartscore work](https://www.ixl.com/help-center/article/1272663/how_does_the_smartscore_work)