Dear Parents of Rising 6th graders:

It is so hard to believe that the 2016-2017 school year has come to a close! We sincerely hope you have fantastic summer with your family and friends. In addition to taking time to relax and have fun, please be aware of the importance of maintaining reading and mathematics skills. Below you will find important information which will contribute to your child’s academic success at Reid Park Academy.

What do researchers have to say about the importance of summer reading?
“... the best predictor of summer loss or summer gain is whether or not a child reads during the summer. And the best predictor of whether a child reads is whether or not he or she has access to books.” - Allington, Richard L. and McGill-Franzen, Anne. “Bridging the Summer Reading Gap,” Scholastic Instructor (2003, May/June).

“Regardless of ethnicity, socioeconomic level, or previous achievement, children who read four or more books over the summer fare better on reading-comprehension tests in the fall than their peers who read one or no books over the summer.” - Kim, Jimmy. “Summer Reading and the Ethnic Achievement Gap,” The Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk (2004).

The expectation for reading for a middle school student is a W.

To ensure your child’s success in reading over the summer, the following are characteristics of a level W:
- Process a full range of genres and texts
- Remember information and connect ideas over many days of reading
- Read mature themes that expand his or her knowledge of social issues
- Read silent
- Fluency and phrasing in oral reading is well established
- Read aloud with expressiveness after practice
- Challenged by heavy load of content-specific and technical words

Reid Park Student Summer Work:
To ensure that our students continue to be engaged in learning during the summer months, CMS is providing digital tools that are available anywhere, anytime. The Student Portal will remain up and running for learning during the summer months on the CMS Homepage under Quicklinks. Please encourage your child to continue learning using digital tools that are available anywhere, anytime from the CMS Student Portal. Applications such as Schoolnet, DreamBox, Achieve3000, Castle Learning, Atomic Learning, Edgenuity, NCWiseOwl, Google for Education, Learning A to Z, Discovery Education and ONEAccess help students avoid summer loss with engaging online reading and math activities, games and videos.

To access the Summer Learning website
1. Visit the CMS website: www.cms.k12.nc.us
2. Scroll down to Quick Links
3. Select Student Portal
Log in for Dreambox and Compass Learning

**username:** cmssites\student ID  
example: cmssites\12345678

**password:** birthdate as it is in powerschool (yyyymmdd or yymmdd)  
example: 20100704 (PreK-3rd grade and any new student after Feb 10, 2016)  
example: 100604 (4th-12th grade)

**MATH:** To be successful in middle school math, it is imperative that your child has mastered and continues to maintain fluency with multiplication and division facts. Please note the following for each grade level specific math skills:

**6th grade**
- Connect ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems.
- Complete understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system or rational numbers, including negative numbers.
- Writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations
- Develop understanding of statistical thinking

Enjoy your summer! We look forward to seeing you in August!

Sincerely,

Mr. Garvin,  
Principal