



# Bridging the Gap During the Summer

HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR STUDENT'S SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL, AND ACADEMIC NEEDS THIS SUMMER

# Overview

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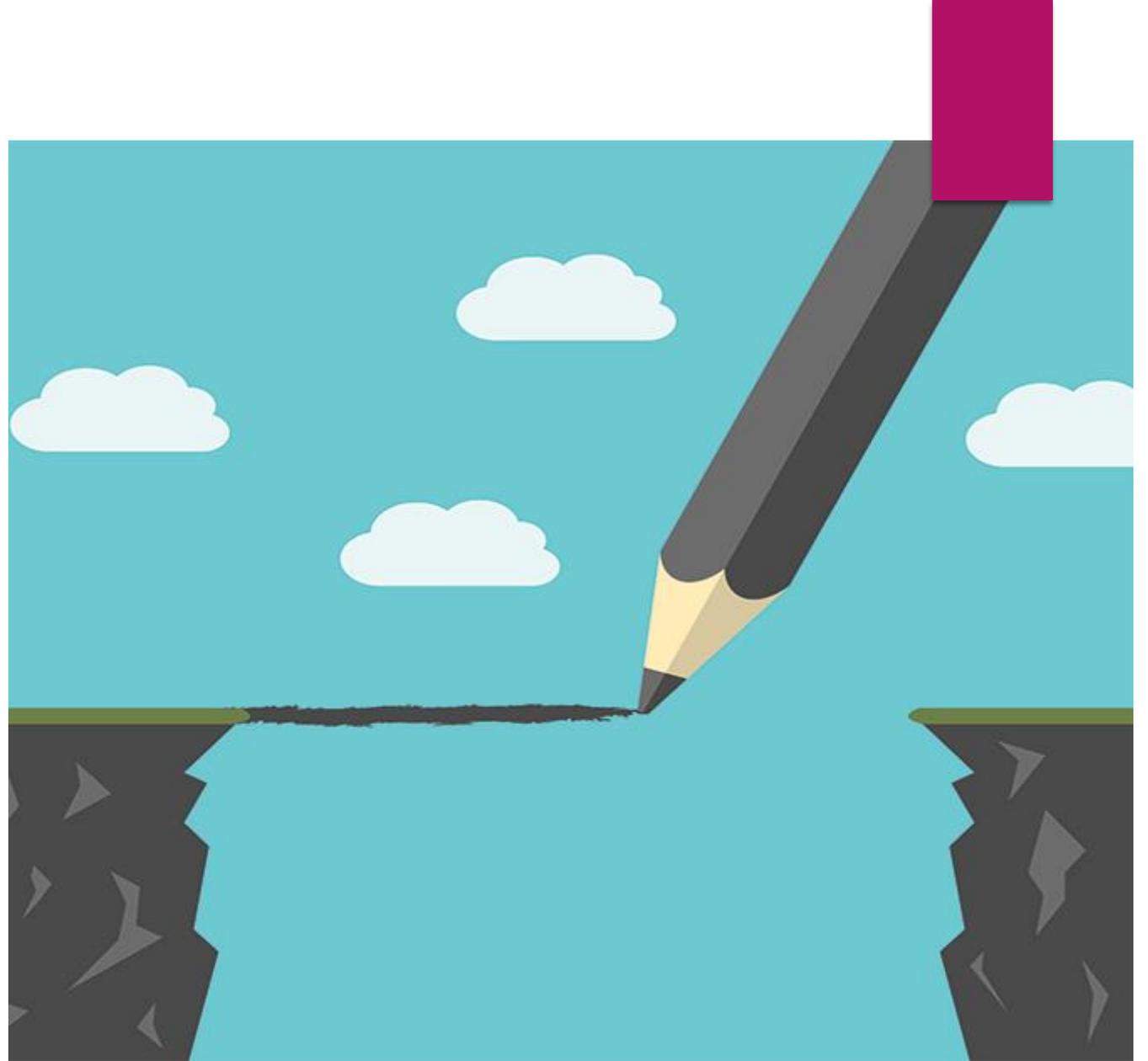
Social – Whitney  
Matthews

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Emotional – Russ  
LeDonne

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Academic – Janice  
Bernier and Missy  
Matusiak



# Social Needs

## The Gap:

- Potentially no summer camps
- Community Pools not open
- Summer sports leagues potentially not happening
- Summer vacations with close family friends or extended family potentially cancelled



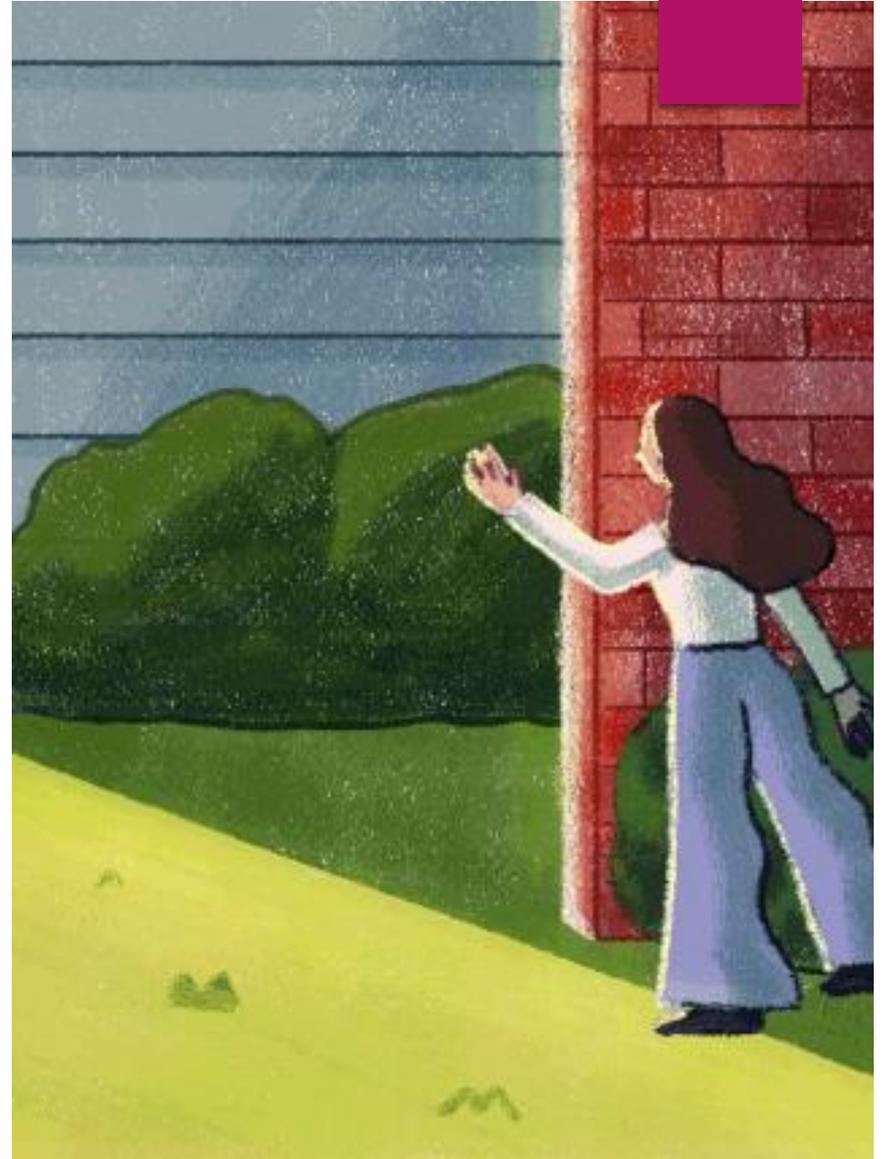
# The bridge:

- Virtual Social Clubs
  - ▶ Cooking club – everyone makes the same dish at the same time
  - ▶ Book Club – get them all reading
  - ▶ Work Out club – get them all moving and outside
- Pods of Friends:
  - Is there a group of neighborhood friends or school friends that you feel comfortable with?
  - Ideas to stay outside only, or limit contact (bike ride)
  - Engourage your kid to reach out to friends!



# The bridge:

- Changing friendships – support systems
- Virtual Summer Camps
  - ▶ CPCC
    - ▶ Make your first 3D video game
    - ▶ ROBLOX, Coders – Entrepreneurs
    - ▶ Craft Creations
  - ▶ Virtual Y Classes – Live streaming
  - ▶ Arts+ Classes
  - ▶ On our website!



# Emotional Needs

## The Gap:

### Emotions during a Crisis

- ▶ There is no "normal response"
- ▶ Fear, Anxiety, Stress, Loss and Grief

### Your Role Parenting Emotions

- ▶ Listen, observe and acknowledge
- ▶ Reassure



# Emotional Needs

The Bridge:

- ▶ Create a Safe Environment
- ▶ Build Relationships & Connectedness
  - ▶ Extend your family
- ▶ Supporting and Teaching Emotion Regulation



# Emotional Needs

## The Bridge:

- ▶ Coping Tools
  - ▶ Exercise, breathing techniques, journaling (written, audio, video), coloring
- ▶ Resources
- ▶ Seeking help



# Academic Needs—Reading and Writing

## The Gap:

- ▶ COVID-19 learning losses may cause students to return in the fall with approximately 70% of learning gains in reading compared to a typical school year ([The COVID-19 Slide, NWEA](#)).
- ▶ Writing will also suffer, but there is no research available at this point. What we do know, is that middle grade students can ALWAYS improve their writing skills



# Academic Needs—Reading

The Bridge:

- ▶ [CommonLit Summer Reading Challenge](#)
- ▶ ReadTheory.org (free, adjusts to their level)
- ▶ Summer Reading (available on the SCMS Website or by emailing their current ELA teacher)
- ▶ Create a book club with friends
- ▶ Watch a movie and talk about how the writer made the ending work (or not work). What was the trait that helped (or hurt) the character the most.
- ▶ Read a book and then watch the movie—compare the two.
- ▶ Read a classic WITH your child—they improve from hearing and discussing not just reading. Share your favorite book from middle school years.
- ▶ Make it fun as much as possible—it should not feel like school. It should be a fun activity. The more involved you are the better!



# Academic Needs—Writing

## The Bridge:

- ▶ Incorporate what your kid/family enjoys:
  - ▶ Cooking? Have them try a recipe and write a review online.
  - ▶ Traveling? Write a travel blog of the best "staycations" in Charlotte
  - ▶ Sports? Write a bio of the player who deserves MVP based on skills AND lifestyle
- ▶ Give them story starters—"I was on my way to the park to jog around the track when all of a sudden"...turn it into a family event—everyone writes one and shares at dinner.
- ▶ Have them keep a diary or a journal, set goals and write how they are doing on meeting those goals.
- ▶ Write short stories or poems about random topics.
- ▶ Create a quarantine parody of their favorite song.



# Academic Needs--Math

## The Gap:

According to the same NWEA study referenced in our reading conversation, in Mathematics, students are likely to show much smaller learning gains, returning with less than 50% of the learning gains and in some grades, nearly a full year behind what we would observe in normal conditions. ([The COVID-19 Slide, NWEA](#)).



# Academic Needs--Math

## The Bridge:

- ▶ IXL – website used all school year in math class. Work for 20-30 minutes a day on recommended topics.
- ▶ Khan Academy – website has grade specific missions for student to work through at their own pace.
- ▶ CMS Curated Summer Work suggestions - the district has created some topics and activities to work through this summer. Available mid-June on the CMS Website.
- ▶ Your child's teacher – Reach out to your child's current math teacher and ask for specific topics that your child could use more practice with or more enrichment. 7th grade Math Summer Playlist.



“ And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had a familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer. ”

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD, *THE GREAT GATSBY*

Questions?