St. Michael's Academy 2026-2027

STUDENTS ENTERING 8th GRADE

FRECKLE

At St. Michael's Academy, we encourage students to keep their minds active through both reading and math practice. Reading opens the door to new ideas, strengthens communication skills, and fosters imagination, while mathematics develops critical thinking, logical reasoning, problem-solving abilities, and strategic thinking skills that are essential for future success.

This summer, all SMA students are encouraged to read for at least **15 minutes each day** and use the attached reading log to track their progress. Students may also access **Freckle Reading** throughout the summer to reinforce important literacy skills. While these reading activities are optional, regular reading helps students maintain the academic growth achieved during the school year and prepares them for a strong start in the fall.

In addition, all students are required to participate in **Ms. Dougal's Summer Math Challenge** by completing their grade-level assigned number of math minutes through **Freckle Math**. Progress will be tracked from **Wednesday, June 17, through Friday, August 14**. Consistent practice in both reading and math helps students retain important skills, build confidence, and return to school ready for success. We wish all of our SMA families a safe, enjoyable, and enriching summer!

***Please remember to complete the provided activity log and return it to school on the first day.

FRECKLE REQUIREMENTS FOR EIGHTH GRADE

Eighth grade teachers require students to spend a total of 300 minutes of Freckle Math activities over the summer. This averages out to about 60 minutes per week. Progress will be monitored throughout the summer and students should be working to reach a minimum 70% proficiency on all skills attempted. Additionally, time spent on Freckle English activities may earn students bonus tickets to be used throughout the school year. As with the math, students should be working toward a minimum proficiency level of 70%.

SUPPLY LIST

The following supplies are items that the student should have personally available on a daily basis. The classroom teacher WILL NOT provide any of the following items. Items will need to be replenished throughout the year.

- ❑ One 1.5-inch binder
- ❑ 2 packages of binder dividers
- ❑ Blue or black pens (at least 2 packs)
- ❑ Red, green or purple correcting pens
- ❑ Pencils (for math class)
- ❑ 1 pack block erasers
- ❑ One 4-pack dry erase pens (low odor) and eraser (for math class)
- ❑ 1 box of crayons
- ❑ 1 box of colored pencils
- ❑ 1 package of thick markers
- ❑ 2 glue sticks
- ❑ 1 pair of adult scissors
- ❑ 4 Highlighters (at least one other color besides) yellow
- ❑ 4 packages of college ruled paper (1 in your binder, 3 stay at home) to start the year
- ❑ 4 composition books **(NO spirals)**
- ❑ **1 composition grid/graph book (NO spirals) for math**
- ❑ 1 sketchpad for Art (optional)
- ❑ 1 metric/U.S. Customary ruler (cm on one side and in. on the other)
- ❑ Pencil Case

The following items are classroom supplies for community use.

- ❑ 6 reams of white copy paper
- ❑ 6 rolls of paper towels
- ❑ 4 containers of Clorox Wipes
- ❑ 6 boxes of tissues
- ❑ 2 packs 3x5 index cards

***Please bring all supplies to school on Parent Orientation night, Tuesday, September 1 (6pm) or during the first week of school.**

***Optional Purchase ($12.99)** – *Vocabulary Power Plus* – this textbook is provided to students at no charge, however a purchase of this book for individual **consumable** use will allow the student to be able to highlight and/or make notations in the text.

Mandatory Novels to be read throughout the year:

- *Nothing But the Truth* by Avi **(August-September)** Please bring this book on 1st day of school
- *The Sixty-Eight Rooms (Book 1)* by Marianne Malone **(October)** – Please bring by October 1st
- *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens **(November-December)** – Please bring by November 1st
- *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence & Robert E. Lee **(January)** – Please bring by January 1st
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee **(April)** – Please bring by April 1st

*Great websites to acquire books at a very low cost is betterworldbooks.com, amazon.com, or the public library (which also has e-books available).

REQUIRED BOOK REPORTS

Choose two books from the list and complete the Middle School Book Report Form:

*	Beals, Melba,	Warriors Don't Cry
	Boyne, John	The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
*	Burgan, Michael	Breaker Boys: How a Photograph Helped End
*	Child Labor *Coelho, Paulo	The Alchemist
	Craft, Jerry	New Kid
*	Curtis, Christopher Paul	Bud, Not Buddy
*	Engle, Margarita	Enchanted Air
*	Freedman, Russell	Becoming Ben Franklin: How a Candle-Maker's Son Helped Light the Flame of Liberty
	Gemeinhart, Dan	The Remarkable Journey of Coyote Sunrise
	George, Jean Craighead	On the Far Side of the Mountain
	Gray, Nicholas	Mona Lisa Vanishes
	Heidicker, Christian McKay	Scary Stories for Young Foxes
	Higuera, Donna	The Last Cuentista
	Holt, K.A.	House Arrest
*	Kelly, Lynne	Song for a Whale
*	Korman, Gordon	The Unteachables
	Park, Linda Sue	A Single Shard
	Patterson, James	Middle School, The Worst Years of My Life
	Price, Catherine & Haidt, Jonathan	The Amazing Generation
	Rorby, Ginny	Lost in the River of Grass
	Sloan, Holly	Counting by 7s
	Smith, Roland	Elephant Run
	Snyder, Zilpha Keatley	The Egypt Game
*	Soto, Gary	Baseball in April and Other Stories
*	Sperry, Armstrong	Call It Courage
	Swanson, James L.	Chasing Lincoln's Killer
	Tolan, Stephanie S.	Surviving the Applewhites
	Van Draanen, Wendelin	The Running Dream
*	Wilson, Diane Lee	I Rode a Horse of Milk White Jade
*	Woodson, Jacqueline	Feathers
	Woodson, Jacqueline	Harbor Me

***Indicates tentative Battle of the Books list for the 2026-2027 school year**

BONUS ACTIVITY CHOICES

Select one or more additional titles from the provided book list to complete bonus activities for additional points to be used throughout the school year.

1. GOOGLE SLIDES BOOK REVIEW - 20 points.

Create a book review of a novel of your choice.

Must include:

- Book Title and Author
- A minimum of 10 slides (not including the title slide)
- A variety of images and text (give life to your review)
- Respond to book with your review (opinion) of the quality of the book, story, characters, etc.
- Is there a lesson/moral worth taking away from your selected story?

2. CHARACTER SCRAPBOOK – 30 points.

Pick a character from one of the books and create a scrapbook diary for them. The diary should include a cover with your character's name and should fit the character. Write at least eight entries for your character based on the events of your story (approx. ½ page typed each). Include a large variety of pictures and other scrapbook details to bring this to life. The entire scrapbook must be a minimum of 15 pages (including the cover and eight entries). Be creative – you may use a regular scrapbook or picture able to complete this project.

3. CREATE A BOARDGAME – 40 points.

Use your game playing knowledge to create a board or card game that will keep your classmates entertained. Games like Monopoly, Life, Rook, and Clue are great examples of what your final product should look like. Your game should be able to have a minimum of 3 players who will be able to identify the main characters, setting, and events that happened in your book through playing your game. Try it out before you bring it in. We will be playing these games in class during the first month of school.

4. PRODUCE YOUR OWN MOVIE – 50 points.

Using video software available to you, to star in and produce a movie about the events in the novel you have chosen.

- The movie must be a minimum of 10 minutes long. (No longer than 30 minutes.)
- Make certain to include the main events of the story – be sure to have a beginning, middle, and end.
- Think about the setting and characters from your book – bring your movie to life by incorporating these important details.
- Bring your movie to school on a DVD or flash drive that the teacher may keep until it is graded.

Middle School 6th-8th Summer Reading: Book Report Form

Summer 2026

Name:_____ Grade: _____

Book Title: _____

Book Author:_____

Why do you think the author chose this particular title for the book? Is it significant? What does it mean?

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Brief Plot Summary: What is the book about? Summarize the plot of the book in eight to ten complete sentences.

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Favorite Scene: Describe with details the setting of your favorite scene in the book. Be sure to include where and when this scene is taking place. Write in complete sentences.

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Interesting Character. Pick the character you think is the most interesting. What attributes (characteristics) does this character possess that make that character especially interesting to you? Name at least three traits and give specific examples from the story of the character displaying each trait. Write in complete sentences.

Conflict and Resolution. Describe the major problem in the story which the protagonist (central character) must overcome and describe how the problem was solved. Be specific. Write in complete sentences.

What is one thing you would change about the story? Would you recommend this book? Why or why not?

Reading Log

Date	Activity	Start-End Time	Total

Freckle Log

Date	Activity	Start-End Time	Total