

Dear Rising 5th and 6th Grade Parents,

To a kid, there are no sweeter words than summer vacation. No more pencils, no more books.... But this doesn't mean they can't have fun learning this summer.

My name is Melissa Doezema and I am looking forward to being your child's math teacher next year. Although there is no required summer math work, I recommend that all students do some math to combat the "summer slide." To help our children keep their mathematical minds active over the vacation, SFS has purchased a subscription to **Dreambox Learning** for all rising 5th and 6th grade students.

Dreambox is a web-based, adaptive learning system designed for grades K-8. It has activities in which students practice important mathematical concepts in a fun, game-like, visual environment. It concentrates on conceptual understanding of the four operations, place value, algebraic thinking, fractions, decimals, percents, and integers. Dream Box can be accessed at home, at your local library, or anywhere in between, all you need is an Internet connection.

Summer Math Challenge!

This summer I'm challenging students to complete 30 or more lessons on Dreambox between June 12th and August 22nd. (Each lesson takes about 10 minutes. One way to meet the challenge is to complete three 20 minute sessions each week for five weeks.) Students who tackle the challenge will be rewarded with a pizza lunch in early September. I'll be sending out letters to families this week with instructions for accessing and logging into Dreambox. If you don't get a letter by Saturday, June 17, send me an email and I will help you get started.

Dreambox Login Information:

Your child can access DreamBox Learning from any computer, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week using this link: <https://play.dreambox.com/login/2b2a/zecy>

username: username: 2020FirstnameLastInitial@student.sfschool.org

password: 2020SFS10

To access DreamBox on iPad, go to <http://www.dreambox.com/ipad>, or search for "DreamBox Math" in the App Store. Download DreamBox Math Green and DreamBox Math Blue to ensure your student has access to the full catalog of DreamBox Learning Math lessons. When prompted in the app, use this

School Code:

2b2a/zecy

You may review your student's academic progress with a DreamBox Parent Account.

Please follow these steps to create your free Parent Account: 1. Go to

<https://play.dreambox.com/login/2b2a/zecy> 2. Have your student login to their profile using their username and password.

3. Click *Setup Parent Access* at the bottom of the page. 4. Follow instructions to create a new login and password. 5. Read *Terms of Use* and *Privacy Policy*. 6. Click "Submit".

Log into your home account after set up:

1. Go to <http://play.dreambox.com>

2. Enter your email address and password.

3. To see student progress, click the "Family Dashboard" button.

If you have any questions, please contact DreamBox Client Care by calling them at 877-451-7845 (weekdays 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time), or If you have any questions, please contact DreamBox Client Care by calling them at 877-451-7845 (weekdays 5 a.m. to 5 p.m., Pacific Time), or emailsupport@dreambox.com.

Tips for Using Dreambox

- Allow several 20-30 minute sessions on Dreambox throughout the week.
- To ensure accurate assessment, encourage your child to complete lessons, even if they find them too difficult or too easy, rather than abandoning them mid-lesson. Students are assessed by using the data collected from their completed lessons.
- I know it's difficult, but please resist the urge to help with answers so that your child doesn't move ahead before he or she is truly ready. · When students are stuck, have them click the help/hint button. The help/hint button can be clicked more than once. The hint is more explicit the second time it is clicked. · Remind your child that mistakes are OK and encourage them to make their best guess if they are stuck. Your child should not shy away from incorrect answers, as they help find the 'right next lesson' to build learning progress. If they get several answers wrong in a row, the program will recognize that the level is too hard and will often exit them out early. Then the next lesson they see will be at a more appropriate learning level. If

your child finds the math too easy, the program will also adapt to increase the level of difficulty.

Additional Summer Math Resources:

• Here is a link to a website with recommendations for math games and apps that teach and reinforce skills in a visual and conceptual way:

<https://www.youcubed.org/category/teaching-ideas/math-apps/>

• If you prefer to have your child use a workbook this summer, I recommend **Summer Math Skills Sharpener** workbooks. The books costs \$20 and can be ordered online at

<http://summerskills.com/store/index.html>.

• I would like students to enter the year fluent with their times tables up to 12×12 . There are lots of fun practice websites, such as www.aplusmath.com, and www.funbrain.com (which also has reading and spelling games). If you use an iPad, the app Rocket Math is a great way to practice. Xtramath.com and mathfactspro.com are both free and trackable practice sites as well. If you are going for a screen-free summer, good old flashcards are also an excellent choice!

Have a great summer! Melissa
