Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Welcome to the Sixth Grade at Renaissance Middle School at Rand! Renaissance is a school that recognizes the importance of students being able to make connections across content areas. It is through our interdisciplinary thematic curriculum that our students blossom into critical thinkers and problem solvers that are capable of thriving in the 21st century.

One of our goals is to help students become Renaissance young men and women. They will encounter learning environments that require them to apply, integrate, and transfer their knowledge. With this summer assignment, we are providing an introduction to interdisciplinary projects.

The students will be required to display their projects to their peers on the first day of school. The project is not meant to burden your child but rather enrich him/her as a learner. Thank you and we hope that you have a safe and fun filled summer!

See you in September!

Sincerely,

The Sixth Grade Team
Description and Requirements for the 6th Grade Summer Project

The 6th grade summer project will consist of 4 parts: Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science. In order to complete the project students are first required to choose one book to read over the summer. The book can be a Non-Fiction or Historical Fiction novel. In the Language Arts section of this packet you will find a suggested reading list. Students may select a book from this list or choose a book on their own.

While Reading:

Students must record the number of pages they read each night in a table and make a line plot of the data. Reading rate is an important part of developing fluency. Please see the attached sample.

After Reading:

Language Arts

First: Students must complete the attached Breadth of Reading (Summary) sheet. Please see the Language Arts section for specific instructions. In this section you will also find the Breadth of Reading template that you will use to complete the Language Arts assignment.
Math

Second: Using the data recorded while reading, find the average number of pages that you have read each night. See the attached math section for instructions on how to find the average number of pages read. Also note the line plot assignment on page 3.

Social Studies

Third: Please answer the following questions and complete the tasks:

- Where does this book take place?
- Find or create a map of this area of the world.
- What role, if any, did the geography play?
- Create a timeline for the book. Provide years whenever possible. How many years ago, approximately, did the book take place?

Science

Fourth: Create a diorama indicating the various forms of life - the fauna and flora (i.e. the diversity of living things). Typically a model in a shoebox is an effective format for this; however, at Renaissance we do recognize the diversity and celebrate the multiple intelligences of our learners, so students that find difficulties may choose to:
• Create a presentation that can be developed for display on a computer or poster. Laptops will be available if a memory stick is brought in by the student on the first day of school.

  or

• Create a skit, song, rap or another type of presentation. Any one of these creative outlets would be acceptable in meeting the Science requirement.

Attached is a sample project along with the worksheets you will need to complete.
Language Arts

Directions: Please choose a Non-Fiction or Historical Fiction novel of your choice to read. After you have read, complete a Breadth of Reading Assignment sheet on the novel. Listed below are some suggested titles that you may choose from. You are not required to choose from the list below, for these are only suggested titles. You will also find a completed sample assignment sheet in this summer packet. Please use the sample assignment as your guide when completing your own work.

List of Suggested Novels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Genre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Escape! The Story of the Great Houdini</em></td>
<td>Sid Fleischman</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>How Angel Peterson Got His Name: And Other Outrageous Tales About Extreme Sports</em></td>
<td>Gary Paulson</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>We Are the Ship: The Story of Negro League Baseball</em></td>
<td>Kadir Nelson</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Exploring the Titanic: How the Greatest Ship Ever Lost Was Found</em></td>
<td>Robert D. Ballard</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Tomboy of the Air: Daredevil Pilot Blanche Stuart Scott</em></td>
<td>Julie Cummins</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Native American Doctor</em></td>
<td>Jeri Ferris</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Haunted Histories: Creepy Castles, Dark Dungeons, and Powerful Palaces</em></td>
<td>J. H. Everett</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Where do Presidents Come From?</em></td>
<td>Michael Townsend</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Lost Worlds</em></td>
<td>John Howe</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Genre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Freedom Crossing</td>
<td>Margaret Goff Clark</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajeemah and His Son</td>
<td>James Berry</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Cabin Faced West</td>
<td>Jean Fritz and Feodor Rojanovsky</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Tucket</td>
<td>Gary Paulsen</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweetgrass Basket</td>
<td>Marlene Carvell</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snow Treasure</td>
<td>Marie McSwigan</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Journal of Scott Pendleton Collins: A World War II Soldier, Normandy, France, 1944</td>
<td>Walter Dean Myers</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dawn of Fear</td>
<td>Susan Cooper</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Megan’s Masquerade</td>
<td>Sheri Cooper Sinykin</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Night Journeys</td>
<td>Avi</td>
<td>Historical Fiction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Renaissance Middle School

Breadth of Reading Template
(Turn this sheet in after you complete your book)

Student Name: _____________________________________________

Date: _______________________________________________________

Book Title: __________________________________________________

Author: ______________________________________________________

Genre: _______________________________________________________

Book review

Write your review!

(8 sentences or more)

Your review is a brief description of the story. This is a short summary of the book, enough information for the reader of your review to understand your commentary.

Include specific evidence (examples, quotations, excerpts) from the book to support your statements.

Some things you may want to think about when writing a review of the book:

- Why do you think that the author gave the book its title? What relationship does the title have to the story or characters?
- With what issues, ideas, or problems does this book deal?
- Does this book remind you of another book you’ve read? Compare the two books.
- What are the strengths and weakness of the book?

Would you recommend this book? Circle one: YES NO

Why or Why Not?
**Math Section:**

**Table of Pages Read Each Night**

Each night record the number of pages read in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Pages Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Line Plot of Pages Read Each Night**

Each night place an X over the number of pages you have read.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

**Average Number of pages read each night:**

You can find the average number of pages read by, adding all of the pages read over the summer and dividing by the number of days you read. You can round your answer to one decimal place.

Example:

Total Pages Read:

Number of Days You Read:

Average Number of Pages Read:
Social Studies

Extend Contracted Response Section:

Book Title:

Author:

1. Where does this book take place?

2. Find or Create a map of this area of the world.

4. What role, if any, did the geography play?

5. Create a timeline for the book. Provide years whenever possible. How many years ago, approximately, did the book take place?
Science

Please see pages 4 and 5 for directions.
Sample Completed Breadth of Reading Template

(Turn this sheet in after you complete your book)

Student Name: John Smith

Date: June 1, 2013

Book Title: *MoneyBall: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game*

Author: Michael Lewis

Genre: Nonfiction

Book review

Write your review!

(8 sentences or more)

Your review is a brief description of the story. This is a short summary of the book, enough information for the reader of your review to understand your commentary.

Include specific evidence (examples, quotations, excerpts) from the book to support your statements.

Some things you may want to think about when writing a review of the book:

- Why do you think that the author gave the book its title? What relationship does the title have to the story or characters?
- With what *issues, ideas, or problems* does this book deal?
- Does this book remind you of another book you’ve read? Compare the two books.
- What are the strengths and weakness of the book?

Would you recommend this book? Circle one: [YES] [NO]

Why or Why Not?
MoneyBall takes place in Oakland California. It is here where the main character Billy Beane, general manager of the Oakland A’s runs into a huge problem. He has to figure out how to win in the Major Leagues with a budget that’s very small. He solves his conflict through having excellent players and a staff that assists him in looking at statistical data and percentages to figure out how to build a team that is inexpensive but great! In my opinion MoneyBall is one of the best Baseball books out!

The author Michael Lewis probably entitled the book MoneyBall because the coach Billy Beane found a way to turn a baseball team that did not have much money into a team that was worth millions. The title is probably a play on words, meaning instead of using the name Baseball the author chose to show that through one person’s smart planning and wishful thinking he was able to turn baseball into moneyball for one team.

The strengths of this book are that it allows people to see that they should always believe and never give up even when things seem really bad. A negative of the book is it is 320 pages so if you are not a baseball fan, I would not recommend this book. Overall I would definitely recommend Moneyball to other kids that like baseball. The book allows readers to see the connection that Math has to real life. It also allows kids to see that with a well thought out plan, anything is possible.
**Math Sample Project:**

**Table of Pages Read Each Night**

Each night record the number of pages read in the table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Pages Read</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Line Plot of Pages Read Each Night

Each night place an X over the number of pages you have read. Below is an example.

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
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\times & \times & \times & \times & \times
\end{array}
\]

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32

Average Number of pages read each night:

You can find the average number of pages read by, adding all of the pages read over the summer and dividing by the number of days you read. You can round your answer to one decimal place.

Example:

Total Pages Read: 10+13+20+5+17+24+16+4+7+13+12+15+17+6= 179 total pages read

Number of Days You Read: 14 days of reading

\[179 \div 14 = 12.8 \text{ pages read per night}\]
Social Studies

Extend Contracted Response Sample Section:

**Book Title:** Moneyball: The Art of Winning an Unfair Game

**Author:** Michael Lewis

1. Where does this book take place?

   *The book Moneyball, takes place in Oakland California.*

2. Find or create a map of this area of the world.

   ![Map of Oakland and vicinity](image)


   *Oakland is 2,888 miles away from Montclair, NJ.*

4. What role, if any, did the geography play?

   *Oakland is a smaller city compared to New York and Boston, and thus has a smaller population. With a smaller population, there is a smaller fan base for the Oakland Athletics, the baseball team discussed in the book. Since the team has a smaller fan base, they do not generate much*
revenue to be able to pay the players like larger cities do. With a low payroll Oakland often cannot afford to offer big contracts to players and thus loses their best players to teams from cities with larger populations.

5. Create a timeline for the book. Provide years whenever possible. How many years ago, approximately, did the book take place?

Timeline:

9/13/1984 - Billy Beane’s MLB debut with the New York Mets.
10/1/1989 - Billy Beane’s last MLB game.
9/17/1990 - Billy Beane joins the Oakland Athletics as a scout.
1/1/1998 - After 8 years, Billy becomes GM of Oakland.
1/1/2002 - Oakland loses their best 3 players.
5/24/2002 - Billy begins to use Moneyball, as a method to build his baseball team.
10/6/2002 - Oakland makes the playoffs, but loses to the Twins.
10/10/2002 - Billy is offered job by the Red Sox, but turns it down to stay in Oakland.