

School is closed...now what?

Boredom Busters: Ideas for Parents to keep Children Focused on Learning

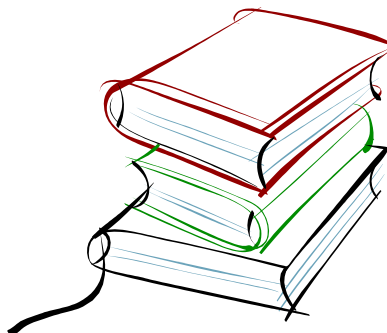
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School District of Collier County

5775 Osceola Trail

Naples, FL 34109

Dr. Kamela Patton, Superintendent





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Superintendent of Schools

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INTRODUCTION:

It is very important for students to continue to practice their academic skills even though school has closed. This booklet provides parents with a variety of ideas to keep children practicing reading, writing, and math while not in school. There are numerous websites linked from the School District's home website that provide academic support to students. The students are familiar with these links.

<http://www.collierschools.com/students>

Also, if parents have access to cable television, channel 99 is the Education Channel and will feature *Story Time* for the younger students and *Class Act* for all students. Please encourage them to watch. If possible, parents should watch with the children and discuss the lesson or activity.

It is best to mix up the time with physical activity. Children need at least an hour a day of physical activity. Think about taking a bike ride, playing catch, jumping rope, swimming, or taking a walk. Encourage them to be active and limit screen time (tv or computer) to 1 – 2 hours daily.

READING

The School District website has numerous reading activities for students as mentioned in the Introduction. It is important for you to read to your child daily and to also have your child read to and with you. This is true regardless of the age of the child. While the school is close, look for things you have around the house for the child to read. It could be the newspaper, pamphlets, magazines, books, or the websites linked to the Collier County Public Schools website. While reading to or with your child, stop every now and then to ask questions such as *how*, *why* something happened. Ask your child to explain, analyze, summarize the information. Read a variety of text including fiction and non-fiction. Reading and discussing the newspaper articles is a great way to reinforce reading skills. Talk about the author's purpose, the main idea of the article, the cause and effect of events, make comparisons to own experiences, etc. Children can write their responses or reactions to the articles.

WRITING:

Handwriting:

Students can practice handwriting skills or writing to a prompt. Students in K-2 should practice their manuscript (printing). Students in grades 3 and up should practice their cursive.

Children should be asked to write about their experiences during the closure of school. What has caused the closure, what they are doing and why, and their thoughts. Students can keep a journal or diary during their absence. Younger children can write short sentences and illustrate. All children should be encouraged to write about something of interest to them, but sometimes it is hard to come up with ideas to write about. They can write letters to family members, friends, teachers, newspaper, and/or important people. Additionally, what follows are ideas parents can provide for students to write about.

Writing Prompts: 6+1 Traits, <http://educationnorthwest.org>

Primary Grades: K-2

1. Write about what you would bring for show and tell and explain why you chose this item. (Primary only)

Intermediate Grades: 3 – 8

1. Rewrite a fairy tale from a different point of view. For instance,
 - The Three Pigs as the wolf would tell it
 - Hansel & Gretel as the witch would tell it
 - OR, use any example you like. (Grades 5–8)
2. Think of your best or worst day in school. Tell the story of what happened. (Grades 4 & up)
3. Write a story based on one of the following:
 - Where is it?
 - Breaking loose
 - If I had my way ...
 - Suddenly, in the headlights ...
 - That noise!
 - Don't even remind me
 - The biggest nuisance
 - Annoying!
 - At last! (Grades 5–12)
4. Write a story based on ONE of the following:
 - Little brothers (or sisters)
 - Older sisters (or brothers)
 - A narrow escape
 - My first memory
 - I'd like to go back
 - You won't believe it, but ... (Grades 4 & up)
5. Many parents worry about helping their students be successful in school. Create a piece of writing that could become a how-to brochure for parents: How to Help Your Child Succeed in School. (Grades 4–8)
6. Inventions are all around us. Think of an invention that has been especially helpful or harmful to people, and write a paper that explains why. (Grades 5 & up)
7. People worry too much about _____. Fill in the blank with any topic you like. Then, write a paper that supports your statement. Convince others to agree with you. (Grades 5 & up)
8. Write a paper in which you AGREE OR DISAGREE with this statement:
"It's more fun to be a child than to be an adult." (Grades 4 & up)

Upper Grades: 6- 12

1. It is 20 years from now. Your name has just been called and you are about to receive an award. Tell the story of how you came to be so successful and win this award. (Grades 6–12)
2. Think of an event you will want to remember when you are older. Tell about what happened in a way that's so clear that if you read this story again when you are 80, every detail will come flooding back as if it happened yesterday. (Grades 6–12)
3. Write a letter that your grandchildren will open in 50 years telling them what the world is like today. (Grades 8–12)
4. Think of something you have done that brought you satisfaction, pleasure, or a sense of accomplishment. Write about that activity or event and tell why it sticks in your mind. (Grades 6–12)
5. Think of something you made with your own hands. How did you do it? What might you do differently next time? Write an explanation so clear and complete that someone with little or no experience could follow your directions and make the same thing. (Grades 6–12)
6. Write a clear explanation of ONE of the following:
 - How to change a tire

- How to train an athlete for any sport
 - How to prepare for a vacation
 - How to drive on a busy freeway
 - How to write an essay someone will enjoy reading (Grades 7–12)
7. Not all drivers pass their driver's test the first time. Many require two, or even three tries. Create a piece of writing that could become a how-to brochure for new drivers: How to Pass Your Driver's Test. (Grades 9–12)
 8. Choose one film or book review that you have recently seen or read. (It's all right to have a copy of the review in front of you as you write, if you wish) Briefly, summarize the review, giving the name of the book or film. Then, state whether you agree or disagree with the review and why. Give enough information and detail to convince a reader to agree with you. (Hint: Do NOT summarize the book or film; instead, tell whether you think it is worth reading/seeing and why.) (Grades 6–12)
 9. Write an essay in which you strongly and clearly AGREE OR DISAGREE (but NOT both) with ONE of the following:
 - Fads never really go out of style
 - Life in the 21st century will be better than ever
 - People are happier than they used to be
 - Americans are too concerned with material goods
 - You can tell a lot about people by what they eat
 - You can tell a lot about people by what they read
 - You can tell a lot about people by what they wear
 - The Internet is the best thing to ever happen to education (Grades 7–12)
 10. "The most important quality any person can have is a sense of humor." Do you agree or disagree? Write a paper in which you take a clear stand, agreeing or disagreeing with this statement, and explain your position so the reader can understand fully why you feel the way you do. (Grades 6 & up)
 11. Would you rather be an only child or have many brothers and sisters? Why? (Grades 6 & up)
 12. Write a convincing paper in which you agree or disagree with this statement: "Life was easier for teenagers 50 years ago than it is for teenagers today." (Grades 8–12)
 13. Write an essay proposing a new national holiday. You anticipate that there might be people who don't agree with your idea, so defend your reasoning by explaining the meaning and background of the event/person and why a national holiday is justified. You could also describe how the holiday should be observed or celebrated. (Grades 6–12)
 14. Many famous people, both real and fictional, have been honored by having their faces on postage stamps. Choose a real or fictional person who you feel deserves this honor. Write a paper that would persuade others your choice is good. (Grades 6–12)

Generic to any age:

1. Think of a friend you have, in or out of school. Tell one story that comes to mind when you think of this friend. (All grades)
2. You won't believe it, but here's what happened ... (All grades)
3. Think of a place that's so special to you that you just love thinking about it.
 - It might be as big as a city, or as small as one corner of a room. Tell one story that comes to mind when you think of this place. (All grades)
 - Describe this place so clearly that your reader will know just what it's like to be there. (All grades)
4. Think of a teacher or friend you have had that you will remember for a long, long time. Describe this person so clearly that your reader will know just what made you remember him or her. (All grades)

5. Think of a person you have known who has been important to you. Describe why he or she made such an impression on you or made a difference in your life. (All grades)
6. Pretend your class is putting together a time capsule. It might not be opened by anyone for 100 years or more. This time capsule will tell people in the future what life on earth was like in the 2000s. You can choose one thing to go inside. Explain what you will choose and why. (All grades)
7. Think of the most valuable thing you own that was not bought in a store. Explain why it is important to you. (All grades)
8. Write about your name. (All grades)
9. Pick something you're wearing or something in your desk or pocket. Write an advertisement for this thing that would convince someone to buy it. (All grades)
10. Think of ONE thing about television advertising you would like to see changed. Then, write a letter to the Advertising Council explaining the change you want and the reasons you think this change is important. (All grades)
11. Keep a journal or a diary of events.

MATHEMATICS

There are many activities parents can involve their children in that are math related. Children of all ages can always practice their math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) in a variety of ways. Try to make it fun. Using the newspaper advertisements, provide shopping scenarios for your child. For example, "give" them \$100 to spend using the grocery ads. Let them see how far that goes! You can use the classified ads to work with upper grade level students with larger purchases such as boats and cars and figure monthly payments, or look for rental units and figure the cost for moving in with the first and last month's rent and the deposit. You are limited only by your imagination!

What follows are ideas from www.mrsgoldsclass.com.

Concentration (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division): You will need index cards or squares of paper. The object of the game is to find pairs of matching cards among an array of face down cards. Help your child write addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division facts on one set of index cards, and the answers on another set. Shuffle the cards and lay them out face down. The first player turns over two cards. If they match, the player keeps the two cards and takes another turn. The next player continues by trying to find two matching cards. When all cards have been collected, the player with the most pairs wins.

Dice Games (addition): You will need 2, 3, or 4 dice and one score sheet. Tally to so many rolls or to a preset score such as 0 or 100 points. Vary it by adding the sums of the dice together, and the greatest or least score wins! Vary it again by rolling 3 colored dice and 1 white die. Subtract the number on the white die from the sum of the colored dice, and the greatest sum wins.

Go Fish (addition): Prepare flash cards from 0 – 13 (3 sets of each number). Play "Go Fish" to add numbers up to 10. (Ex: Sally has the number 4, so she asks her mother for the number 6 because $4+6=10$.)

War: Divide a deck of cards evenly. Each player will put out two cards and add them together. Whoever has the highest total will take all cards. The object is to take the whole deck. This could be expanded to multiplication.

Pig: (addition): Players take turns rolling two dice. A player may roll the dice as many times as he/she wants, mentally keeping a total of the sums that come up. When the player stops rolling, he/she records the total, and adds it to the scores from previous rounds. BUT if a one is rolled, the player scores a 0 for that round, and it's the next player's turn.

Race for \$1.00 (money addition): You need 30 pennies, 10 nickels, 20 dimes, 1 quarter, a dollar, 2 dice, and a partner. Take turns. On your turn, roll the dice. The sum tells how many pennies to take. When you have pennies, trade for a nickel. When you have 2 nickels, trade for a dime. When you have 2 dimes and one nickel, trade for a quarter. The first player to reach \$1.00 is the winner.

Guess My Number (number logic): You need: paper, pencil, partner. Player one picks a number from 0 – 99 and writes it down. Player two makes a guess and writes it down. Player one gives a clue: “Your guess is greater than my number” or “Your guess is less than my number.” Continue playing until player two guesses player one's number. Switch jobs and play again.

The 1 to 10 Game (addition): You need: 2 dice, 1 deck of cards, and a partner. Use only the ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 cards. One of you takes the red cards, one of you takes the black cards. Take turns. On your turn, roll the dice and figure out the sum. Remove enough cards from your hand to add up to that sum. For example, if you roll a 5 and a 3, you can make 8 in many ways (5+3, 4+4, 4+2+2, etc.) If you can't make the sum with the cards in your hand, roll again. If you can't make a sum after three rolls, you lose the game. You win if your partner can't make a number in three rolls or if you use up all of your cards.

Number Family Rummy (fact families): Use a deck of 40 cards: Four suits of ace through ten. The goal is to make families of three cards that are related by addition or subtraction. For example: 5, 5, and 10 are a family because $5+5=10$, and $10-5=5$. 6, 3, and 9 are a family because $6+3=9$, $3+6=9$, $9-6=3$, and $9-3=6$. Shuffle the deck and deal cards to each player. Place the remaining cards face down in a pile. If you have any families of cards, place them aside. If you don't have any families, you may draw one from the pile and discard one of your own. You may also discard the one that you picked up, if you don't want it. The first player to get rid of all 6 cards (2 fact families) is the winner. Remember that the ace equals one.

Grab Bag Subtraction (subtraction): Choose a number of things to work with, and put that many objects into a bag. You can use crayons, coins, beans, buttons, etc.) Grab a handful of the items and count them. Use subtraction to figure out how many items are now left in the bag. So if you put 100 items in the bag and pulled out 20, then you would write $100 - 20 = 80$. Let your partner have a turn, and whoever leaves the least amount in the bag is the winner.

Lineup (number order, multiples): Prepare number cards from 0 – 50. If more than two players are going to play, you might want to prepare two decks. Shuffle the cards and deal 8 to each player. Players place their cards face up in a horizontal line in front of them in the same order in which they are received. Players may not move their cards around. The object of the game is to be first to have your cards in the right sequential order from smallest to largest. A player does this by taking a card on each turn from the top of the undelt deck, and using it to replace any of the cards in his lineup. He discards the card that is replaced. Whenever a player's lineup of numbers is in the correct order from smallest to largest, he calls out LINEUP and wins the game.

You can vary this game by using multiples of numbers You still have 8 cards, but are trying to get multiples in order from smallest to largest. You can do multiples of 2 (2,4,6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16) or multiples of 3 (3, 6, 9, 12,

15, 18, 21, 24). You can even have numbers such as 12, 16, 20, 24, 28, 32, 36, 40. Those are multiples of 4, but they do not necessarily have to start with the number 4. They are, however, still in order from smallest to largest.

Card Capture (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division): Use a set of fact flashcards. Divide the cards equally between the two players. One player attacks, while the other player defends. The defending player shows his cards (problem side up) one at a time to the attacking player. If the attacking player says the right answer, he captures the card and adds it to his own. He can continue capturing cards until he answers incorrectly. When this happens, the defending player becomes the attacker, and gets his chance at capturing the cards. This continues with cards being captured back and forth until one player winds up with all of the cards, or has the most cards when time is called. You can even set the rules to the first player to capture 20 cards, or any number you'd like.

Addition and Subtraction Turnover (addition and subtraction): Each player is given 11 cards numbered 0-10. These are placed face up in a row. Players roll two dice on a turn and may choose to add or subtract the two numbers shown on the dice. If the resulting sum or difference equals one of the number cards still face up, the player can turn that card face down. Next player then takes a turn. This continues until one of the players wins by turning all 11 of this cards face down.

Subtraction Pig (subtraction): Two or more players start out with 100 points each. Players in turn roll two dice and subtract that number from their points. A player on a turn continues rolling the dice and subtracting the resulting number from his remaining points until a 1 appears on any dice rolled. That player's turn ends, and the next player takes a turn. When a player has lost all of his points, he is out of the game. The last player in the game, is the winner.

What's Your Favorite Number? (challenging multiplication): Ask someone his/her favorite number between 1 and 9. The multiply the favorite number by 9. Multiply that by 12345679 and you know what? Your friend will be surprised when he sees you writing his favorite digit over and over again in the answer. That is, if you multiply correctly!

Slot Card Races (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division): Cut an open slot in a card or blank piece of paper. The slot needs to be large enough to see only one math problem or fact at a time written in a column on another piece of paper. The problems should be such that the player can work the answers out in his/her head. Each player in turn tries to work the problems as fast as he can while being timed. The card is slid down from one problem to the next as he correctly answers each one. If a problem is answered incorrectly, the leader moves the card back one problem. Each player's time is written down. Players may re-challenge each other. A variation would be to move the card at a certain speed for all players to see how many problems they can do accurately at that speed before making a mistake.

Multiplication Trick (multiplication): Here is a quick way to multiply a two digit number by 11. Write the number to be multiplied, but leave a space in between. Add the two digits, and write the sum in that place. You have your answer. Example: If you wanted to multiply 11×36 , write the 3 and the 6 with a space in the middle. $3+6=9$, so write 9 in that middle space. Your answer is 396.

Graphing at Home: Using a grid, have the child count and complete a graph according to how many windows, doors, chairs, etc. you have in their home. Then ask the child questions about the graph they have created, such as how many more doors than windows, how many more chairs than tables, etc. www.mathcats.com

Domino Math: This game is great because children of multiple ages or abilities can play it at the same time. Create an addition, subtraction or multiplication sheet for each child (sheet shows a rectangle divided into 2 squares like a domino with a math function symbol in the middle (+, -, x). Turn a set of dominoes upside down on the table. Have a child pick a domino up. Count the dots on each side of the line on the domino and write those numbers on the sheet in the appropriate spot. Then have the child add, subtract or multiply the number and record the result in the box. When doing subtraction remind the children that the largest number goes in the first box. www.mathcats.com

MIDDLE and HIGH SCHOOL RESOURCES

AP Test Preparation: Florida Virtual School offers free AP Test Preparation at the following link: <http://www.flvs.net/areas/flvscourses/Pages/TestReviewAP.aspx>

Algebra EOC Test Preparation: Florida Virtual School offers free Algebra 1 EOC test preparation at the following link: http://www.flvs.net/areas/studentervices/eoc/algebra-review/module10/10_18a_a.htm

ANGEL: CCPS Students can access many web-based instructional resources through ANGEL, including Manga High (Math), Skills Tutor (Middle Grades Math and Language Arts), The Island (all subjects for high school students), Discovery Education, and others.