

SUMMER WRITING JOURNAL FOR ALL GRADE LEVELS!



Summertime is a great time to keep a journal. This year we are asking **ALL** of our students to keep a journal and bring it in the first day of school in September. Here are some suggestions for creating a journal:

READING JOURNAL

1. The first step is to find a notebook that your child will enjoy using.
2. Decide how often an entry will be made—daily or weekly. (We suggest that entries should at least be weekly if not more)
3. Decide on the questions for each entry. Some examples: author? Title, Main characters and why? What was your overall impression of the story? What did you like? What did you dislike? Why? (Keep it age appropriate).
4. Depending on the child, illustrations can be added to the entries. For older students, connections between the events of the books and current events or historical events can be added.
5. **TIP:** Consistency is a must with a reading journal. Decide ahead of time how the entries will be approached and stick with it.

NATURE JOURNAL

This is another type of journal. It is not only a fun journal but educational too!

1. Go on a nature hike with your child. Go for a walk around the block, go to a park or to a nature preserve. Point out different trees, animals and plants.
2. Have your child collect specimens in plastic bags. They can collect anything they want including leaves, flowers, petals and feathers. Heavier, bulkier items like rocks and insects should be avoided unless you want to put these things into a separate box.
3. Put the flowers, petals and leaves between two sheets of tissue or parchment paper when you get home.
4. Place the tissue between two heavy books and leave them alone for a few days.
5. Take your pressed leaves, etc. and gently glue them onto the pages of a journal.

6. Help your child research the items they collected and label them with the names of the plants or animals. Also, label them with the name of the person who collected them and the place where they were found.

7. Use the journal for more than just a remembrance of leaves and petals. Have your child write their thoughts, draw pictures, glue in pictures from a camera or write poems in it.

PRAYER JOURNAL

This is another type of journal that your child may enjoy keeping.

1. Decide on a name for the journal. An example could be "My Talk with God".
2. Write an entry each day telling God about your day, what you did, what you enjoyed and what you are looking forward to for the next day.
3. Include in the prayer journal something that you are thankful for, make it something different each day. This would also be a good time to add an illustration.

Have fun and keep writing! You be the author!

