

June 2010

Greetings 5<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students and Parents,

Congratulations to you all for completing another successful year at the Telluride Mountain School! To those of you joining the school next year, a warm welcome to you. We look forward to getting to know you over the coming years.

Summer vacation is a time for rest and reflection. It also provides a chance to explore something new. Summer homework is a vital part of this process. The reasoning behind summer homework is two-fold: to sharpen and review core skills that students have gained through the year and to encourage children to be life-long learners by instilling the importance of learning outside of the classroom walls.

Keeping in mind that summers are busy, we have put together summer homework that we believe can be completed in a reasonable amount of time and that is fun and enriching.

Enclosed is a reading assignment. Please read and complete this assignment prior to the first day of school. These texts were specifically chosen to be age appropriate and relevant to next year's curriculum.

This summer's math review takes advantage of ALEKS online math programs. Each student has an account set up in their name that has a specific group of topics to review. Please see enclosed ALEKS assignment. Working consistently throughout the summer as opposed to waiting until the end of the summer is favorable as the ALEKS program is based around a spiral review. At the beginning of next school year, students will complete an assessment based on the skills reviewed in their summer homework. This assessment will be used to determine the scope of skills review that individual students will need to complete in the fall.

Remember that summer homework sets the tone for the beginning of the new school year, and it constitutes the first grades of the year.

Please review the enclosed list of required school supplies. While the list may seem lengthy, it is essential that each student have all the supplies. We expect students to bring all their school supplies with them when they arrive on the first day of school. Many of these supplies can be kept from year to year. Please also note that all 9<sup>th</sup>-12 grade students are expected to have their own laptops. We strongly encourage 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to have their own laptops, but they will have access to school laptops if they do not have their own.

Here's to a wonderful and well-deserved summer!

Best,

The Intermediate and Upper School Teachers

## 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Reading List 2010

Read the one required title listed below and choose two of the optional texts to read. Please feel free to read books that are not listed below. Email me at [wcalcutt@telluridemtnschool.org](mailto:wcalcutt@telluridemtnschool.org) to check whether they are appropriate.

For the required text and **one** of your choice books, prepare two journal entries. Each entry should be typed, double spaced, and one page in length. They will be collected on the first day of school.

For your journal entries...

1. Discuss the “big ideas” (themes) of the novel and how they are represented.
2. Choose one character and discuss how the author develops him or her over the course of the novel. Think about how they change throughout the beginning, middle, and end of the story.

**Required Text:** *Holes* by Louis Sachar

Optional Texts: (choose 2)

- *Hoot* by Carl Hiaasen
- *Chasing Redbird* by Sharon Creech
- *Harris and Me* by Gary Paulsen
- *Stargirl* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Crash* by Jerry Spinelli
- *Olive’s Ocean* by Kevin Henkes
- *Al Capone Does My Shirts* by Gennifer Choldenko
- *Hope Was Here* Joan Bauer
- *Bud, Not Buddy* by Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Alchemyst* by Michael Scott
- *A Wizard of the Earthsea* by Ursula K. Le Guin
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’Engle
- *The Golden Compass* Phillip Pullman
- *Dragonwings* by Yep Laurence
- *My Side of the Mountain* Jean Craighead George

## ALEKS Summer Math Review Grades 5-12

To access your summer homework, log on to [WWW.ALEKS.com](http://WWW.ALEKS.com) and enter the login name and password found on the sticker below:

PLEASE CONTACT ANDY SHOFF OR JAMIE SALEM  
FOR LOGIN AND PASSWORDS:  
[ashoff@telluridemtnschool.org](mailto:ashoff@telluridemtnschool.org)  
[jsamlem@telluridemtnschool.org](mailto:jsamlem@telluridemtnschool.org)

Upon logging in, you will be prompted to install a java plug-in for your browser. Follow the instructions as prompted. If that fails, try the manual installation and call technical support if needed.

After the plug-in is installed, please follow the tutorial that introduces you to the ALEKS program. Then you will be asked to complete an assessment to determine in which areas you need to focus your review. Please take this assessment seriously, and be sure to click “I haven’t learned this yet” if you don’t know how to do the problem.

After taking the quiz, you will be introduced to a pie chart showing areas of mastery and what still needs to be reviewed. At this point, you may continue on topics of your choice by clicking on the appropriate “slice” of the pie and choosing a topic. More topics and skills will appear in the “pie slices” as you master additional prerequisite skills throughout the program.

While this summer homework assignment is built around a spiral review, some of the questions may be new or different than what you have previously seen. The ALEKS program provides instruction in these cases; just click on “explain” and continue on with your learning.

Students entering grades 5<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> should aim to complete an hour of work each week or a minimum of 12 hours total. Students entering grades 9<sup>h</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade should aim to complete 1.5 hours a week, or 18 hours total. Students may choose the order of topics, but should work to create a balanced distribution of topics within their “pie”.

Upon return to classes in September, you will take another assessment to determine which topics still remain to review in the fall.

As the topics in each class are built around reviewing previously learned material, students entering grades 9-12 are responsible for mastering all the topics in their pie by the end of October. Topics not mastered this summer will be assigned as additional homework in the fall.

**Telluride Mountain School**  
**Grades 5-12**  
**Supply List**

**General/ Humanities:**

- Lined Paper (400 sheets- college ruled)
- Ring Binders (5) or one per core subject
- Dividers (5 packs)
- Composition Notebook (1)
- 2 subject notebook with pockets
- 3 2-pocket folders (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- Highlighters (3)
- Blue or black pens (2 packs)
- Pencils (2 packs)
- Scissors
- Note cards (3 x 5- 200)
- Box of Kleenex
- Fork, Knife, and Spoon to keep at school for lunches

**Math/Science**

- Graph paper composition notebook- hard bound 9 3/4" x7 1/2"
- 100 sheets loose graph paper
- Mechanical pencil with .5 or .7 lead
- USB Jump drive (1 gig minimum) for data storage and transfer
- Compass for drawing circles (high quality is strongly recommended)
- Protractor
- Clear plastic ruler with inch and metric divisions
- Basic calculator (grades 5-6)
- Ti-83 (or higher number) graphing calculator (7<sup>th</sup> grade and up)

**Spanish**

- Canson Universal Recycled Sketch Pad 11x 14 (This item can be purchased at: <http://www.jerrysartarama.com/discount-art-supplies/Paper/Drawing-and-Multimedia-Paper-and-Boards/Canson-Drawing-Pads/Canson-Universal-Recycled-Sketch-Pads.htm>)
- Spanish-English dictionary (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- Vinyl pocket folder (5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade only)
- Spanish dictionary (not bilingual) (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade only)

**Art Supplies**

- 9"x12" or larger sketchbook (must be new)
- Fine point black Sharpie markers (2)
- Drawing pencil set (at least 5 different hardness)
- Colored pencil set (minimum of 12 colors)
- Watercolor set