

SUMMER VIRTUAL LEARNING

Fight summer slide!

Why accept summer learning loss when you can fight it with Study Island? Use Study Island to run a completely virtual summer learning program consisting of skills practice in all core content areas, summer writing practice, and summer reading.

Skills Practice

Run a summer skills practice program by having students work to earn Blue Ribbons by demonstrating mastery in Study Island topics.

Automated Program

- Create a calendar to assign specific topics each week-day; students can access the topics from the Topics Page. Two topics per weekday will engage students in about one hour of practice.
- Add checkboxes and a space for a parent signature to the calendar in order to allow students to track their own completion and to involve parents.
- To incentivize students, have them return the completed calendar at the beginning of the school year (verified by program data) as an entrance ticket to a summer learning celebration.

Skills Practice Program Tips

- Leverage Edmentum Sensei and Study Island Reports at the beginning of the school year to identify trends and learning gaps from data accumulated over the summer.
- Instruct students to complete the lesson that accompanies the Study Island topic before completing the topic.

Instructor-managed Program

- Create assignments for the students in Class Manager with specific due dates and activate them one or two weeks at a time.
- Encourage students to ask questions using the Study Island Message Center when they need assistance.
- Host weekly office hours using the Study Island Message Center.

- Use the Reset Start Date feature to provide students with a clean slate without deleting data.
- Set up Study Island Parent Notifications so that the program will automatically email parents when students have a low score, earn a blue ribbon, or miss a due date.

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Summer Writing

Summer is a great time for students to hone their writing skills. Use Study Island Writing Assignments to assign our pre-built writing prompts or to create your own. Give students the opportunity to practice different types of writing including skills-based writing, creative writing, and reflective writing in which students respond to a current event, linked news story, or piece of literature.

As an added benefit, students' writing portfolios will give their new instructors valuable insights into students' writing styles, interests, strengths, and weaknesses.

Automated Program

- Create assignments ahead of time and provide clear due dates. Activate all assignments at the end of the school year.
- Have students print out and turn in the writing portfolio at the end of the summer to earn a reward or entrance into a summer learning celebration.

Instructor-managed Program

- Create assignments ahead of time with clear due dates. Activate assignments one or two weeks at a time.
- Give feedback on students' writing submissions.
- Score skills-based writing prompts based on the scale used on the state summative assessment.

Summer Reading

Reading over the summer is one of the simplest ways for students to combat boredom; increase vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension skills; and explore books that they don't have time to read during the school year.

Create a summer reading program in which students read self-selected books throughout the summer or create a book study in which groups of students will all read the same book.

Self-selected Reading Program

- Give students a specific amount of time that they need to read each day. This can be added to the calendar used for the Skills Practice program.
- Use Study Island Writing Assignments to create weekly open-ended prompts that require students to reflect on their reading. Prompts should be general enough to apply to any book.
- Ensure that all students have access to a variety of books at their reading levels. To do this you may need to provide addresses to local libraries, help students obtain library cards, and teach students strategies for selecting books at an appropriate level for them.

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Summer Book Study

- Select books for students to read over the summer. For enhanced student engagement, select several books for students to choose from, and allow them to pick which book study to participate in so that students are more likely to be reading a book that they will enjoy.
- Use Study Island Writing Assignments to assign specific open-ended questions about the book for students to respond to each week.
- Use Study Island Custom Material to create custom quizzes containing multiple choice, short answer, and true-false questions. These quizzes can be assigned to students with specific due dates to align with the pace at which students should be reading.

Instructor-managed Book Study

- Give feedback on students' responses to the open-ended questions to encourage deeper thinking.
- Host weekly or biweekly meetings using conferencing software so that students can engage in group discussions about the book. This gives students additional accountability and promotes critical thinking.
- Use Study Island Custom Material to create custom quizzes containing multiple choice, short answer, and true-false questions. These quizzes can be assigned to students with specific due dates to align with the pace at which students should be reading.

Summer Virtual Learning Program Tips For Success

Here are some tips for enhancing the success of your summer learning program.

- **Set clear expectations for students.** Be sure that students know what to do and how to access the program.
- **Ensure that all students have access to a computer or mobile device and the internet.** Provide a list of places in the community such as public libraries or recreation centers where students can use a public computer and access free internet.
- **Involve parents in the program.** Because this program will be taking place away from school, parent support is critical to the program's success. Host a parent night before school ends to fully explain expectations and gain buy-in. Be sure to provide student logins and collect email addresses from parents to use to set up Study Island Parent Notifications.

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Summer Questions Contest

Want to keep students working over the summer without running a full program? Run a simple Study Island questions contest. Just give students their Study Island logins and allow them to earn prizes based on how many questions they answer correctly. No setup required!

Resources

- Watch the [Study Island Summer Virtual Learning](#) onDemand video that explains how to implement your own summer program and elaborates on the ideas in this document.
- If you are a current Study Island user, access how-to videos to help you create classes and assignments, pull reports, setup parent notifications or complete any other tasks at help.studyisland.com.
- If you are not a current Study Island user but would like to learn more about implementing Study Island during the school year as well as the summer please contact us at 800.447.5286, or by emailing info@edmentum.com.