Dear Parents,

Welcome to Memphis University School!

We are thrilled that your son will be an MUS Owl in the coming autumn. To give him the best possible start at MUS, we want to do some academic preparation, particularly in the following three major areas: COURSE PLACEMENT, SUMMER READING AND MATH, and OPTIONAL SUMMER PREP-FOR-SUCCESS WORK. Here is the website where you may find links and materials related to all the above:


FIRST: COURSE PLACEMENT

Although most of your son’s course schedule is standard for boys in his grade and thus predetermined, we must ascertain which math class (and, for some students, which language class) will make the best fit. Therefore, we offer math and language placement tests during spring and early summer. We also administer to new students a short English grammar diagnostic test. These tests will be offered on the following dates:

- **Saturday, May 4**, at 9 a.m. (math and English) and 11:30 a.m. (language)
- **Saturday, May 11**, at 9 a.m. (math and English) and 11:30 a.m. (language)
- **Saturday, May 25**, at 9 a.m. (math and English) and 11:30 a.m. (language)
- **Tuesday, May 28**, at 9 a.m. (math and English) and 11:30 a.m. (language)
- **Saturday, June 1**, at 9 a.m. (math and English) and 11:30 a.m. (language)

New to Grade 7: Everyone takes a 40-minute MATH DIAGNOSTIC test and a 30-minute ENGLISH test. Any student interested in Accelerated Math 7 will need to stay to take an additional 90-minute MATH PLACEMENT test (students who opt not to take this accelerated math test will automatically be enrolled in regular Pre-Algebra, the course taken by most new seventh graders).

New to Grade 8: Everyone takes MATH PLACEMENT and ENGLISH tests (approximately 2½ hours total).

New to Grade 9 or higher: Everyone takes MATH PLACEMENT and ENGLISH tests (approximately 2½ hours total); also, a 1-hour LANGUAGE test for anyone interested in second-year or higher Latin, French, or Spanish. (Students interested in first-year Latin, French, or Spanish may simply make known their preference and do not need a language test.)

Scores on math and English diagnostic tests may result in recommendations for SUMMER PREP-FOR-SUCCESS WORK (see below).

All testing will occur in Wunderlich Auditorium (in the Campus Center, No. 14 on the enclosed campus map).

To register for testing, go to http://musowls.libguides.com/summer. Students may also find test review materials on this same web page.

SECOND: REQUIRED SUMMER READING AND MATH PRACTICE

All MUS students undertake required summer practice to refresh crucial skills and keep their minds sharp, particularly in English and mathematics.

The **summer reading requirement** is completion of 3 books from a list assigned for each grade level, followed by testing to confirm comprehension and recall of significant details. Tests are administered during the first week of school, usually in English class. Based on test results, points will be added to or deducted from the first quarter’s English average. Students should take careful notes as they read.

**Summer math review** requires completion of a practice packet. Packets are typically graded at the
beginning of school in August, and a graded review test over the packet’s concepts follows. Each student should complete the packet for the class he will begin in the coming autumn (e.g., a student planning to take Geometry in the fall would work the “Geometry” packet, because it reviews Algebra I). Therefore, new students should await placement notification before beginning a summer math packet. (Exception: incoming seventh graders ALL complete the SAME “Rising 7th Grade Math Packet” and may begin work immediately if they choose.) During the summer weeks from June 4 through August 6 (not including July 2), a math help lab will be open each Tuesday from 9 a.m. – 12 noon for any student who needs to ask questions of a math teacher. He should visit the Upper School office to inquire where this math help lab is located.

Link to both the Summer Reading Lists and the Summer Math Packets:

THIRD: OPTIONAL SUMMER PREP-FOR-SUCCESS WORK

Since new students come to MUS from a variety of different curricular backgrounds, we offer several options that aim to make the transition into our academic program as smooth and successful as possible. Deserving special mention are transitional review courses presented for a fee through our Summer Prep-for-Success program. These include English, reading, writing, and math courses designed to solidify entry-level background skills. These are strongly recommended for students who desire or need to brush up on fundamental skills heavily emphasized during the regular academic year. Scores from math and English diagnostic testing (see above) may result in recommendations to participate in these courses. Students wishing to self-assess and solidify their mastery of fundamental skills should review the study materials on the following web page: http://musowls.libguides.com/summer.

- **English Pre-7** (June 10-21 or July 8-19): Grammar review for new seventh graders
- **Math Pre-7** (June 3-21 or July 8-26): Math review for new seventh graders
- **English Pre-8/9** (June 3-21 or July 8-26): Grammar review for entering eighth or ninth graders
- **Math Pre-8/9** (June 3-21 or July 8-26): Math review for entering eighth or ninth graders
- **Mastering Summer Reading Pre-7, 8, 9** (June 3-21 or July 8-26): Honing reading skills (for summer-reading credit)
- **Mastering Summer Reading Pre-10, 11, 12** (June 3-21 or July 8-26): Honing reading skills (for summer-reading credit)
- **Formal Essay Writing Mastery Pre-7, 8, 9** (June 10-21 or July 8-19): Essay-writing essentials

For additional Summer School information and online registration, follow the links on the following web page: http://musowls.libguides.com/summer.

I am delighted that you and your son are joining the MUS community. Please let me know whenever you have any questions. Also feel free to contact Buck Towner ’07, Director of Admissions (901-260-1384, buck.towner@musowls.org), or Emily Bailey, Assistant Director of Admissions (901-260-1302, emily.bailey@musowls.org), as needed.

Best regards,

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