



Kensington Summer Parent Guide

Promoting a Safe Summer for Students and Families

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The end of each school year is a milestone for both parents and students. It is a wonderful time to celebrate learning and growth! It is also a good time to prepare for both successes and challenges that may come in future school years. Below are a few topics and links to articles that parents may find helpful:

Apps, Games and Internet Safety:

Children have access to technology via smartphones, tablets, iWatches and other devices from a very young age. Some apps look child friendly, but may still necessitate adult supervision and awareness of the “ins and outs” of the programs and technology. For instance, an app called “Pop Jam” has been compared to Instagram because it enables children to have “followers” who view and make comments about their posts.

Awareness about the apps and general technology that your child is using as well as open communication with your child about their activity online is critical. When parents allow children to talk freely about what they see and experience online, they often find that discussions of limits and rules make more sense. Scary, sexual and simply developmentally inappropriate content is accessible to many children. Parents can increase their awareness, directly supervise and openly talk about online activity, providing improved online safety for their children. Please see the link below from Common Sense Media for apps that are age and content appropriate.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/app-lists>

Safety

Summer is a time of outdoor fun and warm weather activities. While families are enjoying summer fun, preparation for activities and keeping safety top of mind is critical. Water safety and supervision is an important part of summer, particularly when students have access to pools

and the lake. Heat related illness and injury is another concern. Prevention of injuries and protection against ticks and mosquitos are important as well. Please see the link to the CDC article below for some great tips and reminders.

<https://www.cdc.gov/family/kids/summer/index.htm>

Preventing Summer Learning Loss

Summer is important for kids. Reduced demands on family schedules can give parents and children the rest and relaxation they need to prepare for a new year as fall approaches. However, balance is important. Setting aside a small amount of time each day to prevent learning loss can really benefit students.. Please see the link below for great ideas on how to prevent summer learning loss.

<https://www.edutopia.org/blog/7-ways-prevent-summer-learning-loss-barbara-dianis>