



Welcome to the Middle School at O.L.V.C.S.!

I am really looking forward to having you in my class as sixth graders. Along with sleeping, sunning, and swimming, I hope you take the time to read and write over this summer to prepare for middle school. I believe that summertime, especially during your youthful years, should be carefree. Of course, I also think you should read and write often because, as with your body, your mind needs exercise to stay healthy as well.

I would like every incoming 6th grader to read Sing Down the Moon by Scott O'Dell at some point this summer and **write a short summary of the book**, no more than a page. This novel is a Newberry Award Winner with an important theme about the importance of never giving up. The novel will be used in the first weeks of school to review certain reading strategies such as making connections and drawing inferences.

Choose a second book besides Sing Down the Moon and **write a recommendation for it**. To do this, just fold a piece of paper in half so that it opens like a book. On the outside draw a cover with the name of the book, author, and your own name along with an illustration. Then on the inside write, type, or print your recommendation convincing your classmates to read your summer favorite. We will hang these up on the first days of school to advertise great books for our friends to choose from.

Finally, when you return in August, please **bring a log of all the books you read** over the summer.

To be successful at anything, you need to practice. Whether you are into running, rowing, or writing, practice makes perfect. Just as I want you to read what you will enjoy this summer, I would like you to write about what you enjoy as well. Again, it doesn't matter how you write or what you write about, as long as you write something. Along with your book jacket recommendations, please feel free to bring in any other pieces of writing that you do over the summer. I am really looking forward to seeing your logs, recommendations, and most of all your smiling face in August. In the meantime, Happy Summer!!!

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O.L.V.C.S.

