



# Mary of Nazareth Catholic School

A Blue Ribbon School of Excellence



June 2026

Dear Rising Seventh Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to Seventh Grade! We are excited to have you back in Middle School in the fall, and we understand how different Seventh Grade will be for you. The summer work that is outlined in this letter is to help you prepare for a busy school year and to hit the ground running.

**Literature:** *Touching Spirit Bear* by Ben Mikaelson. A young man with anger issues is sent to live alone in the Alaskan wilderness as an alternate means of atoning for his crime as he comes to terms with what he has done and with himself. Students should write a brief (~1 paragraph) summary of each chapter; these will be due in the first week of class. There will also be an assessment on the plot of the novel when they return to school in the fall.

**Language Arts:** This year's Language Arts Summer assignment will consist of a personalized study plan designed for each individual designed by IXL. MAP scores for each student have been imputed into personal accounts so study plans align with student growth.

How to access your personalized IXL Personal Study Plan:

1. Access IXL with your unique password and Id
2. Click on Learning (2 d caption) in the green heading section
3. Under skills plans click on IXL Plans
4. Near top of page see MAP Personal NWEA MAP growth study plan (click for your personalized study skills plan)

Each student's overall MAP score has been updated in IXL. For Language Arts, students are to complete 8 skills over the summer. **A target Smart score proficiency of 85% or more for each skill set is required.**

The IXL system will be wiped clean of any work done during the current school year by June 12th. Therefore, the assignment will be open to work beginning June 13th. Any work done prior to this date will be removed from the system. This is due by 3 PM on September 1, 2026. The Summer assignment grade will account for one quiz grade for the first quarter marking period. Remember to try to learn a new word every day, pray often, go to Mass, relax with your family and friends, and have a wonderful summer!

Have a blessed and peaceful summer!  
The Middle School Teachers