



Dear Families,

As the summer “vacation” comes to a close, it is often bittersweet. Families often contemplate the next school year along with the challenges and celebrations accompanying the journey. Here are some suggestions that may prove beneficial for our families at Tates Creek Intermediate.

- ✓ **Prayer**-In prayer time with your children, begin praying for the teachers that our Lord has appointed over them for the year. As a Christ-follower, children need to hear the confidence that exists for believers. Your faithfulness will touch not only the heart of God but your child’s heart as well. Pray that the teacher will be anointed with insight and wisdom as God has placed your child under their authority on purpose. Begin a list of things you have prayed over your teachers and surprise them at Open House by placing these “prayer notes” on their desks for them to read later.
- ✓ **Encouragement and Blessing**-Hebrew parents would consistently pray a Sabbath Blessing over their children before the Sabbath meal. These prayers asked for their children to have character like Ruth, Esther, Ephraim, and Manasseh. As you talk with your child and in prayer, focus your talk on what they are becoming-people of integrity, faithfulness, or loyalty. Pray audibly for these characteristics but also encourage your child when you see them displaying what you have been praying.
- ✓ **Schedules**-Seven to ten days before school begins, start easing into a schedule which will mirror what school days will resemble. Most likely, bedtimes and waking schedules have been altered for the summer. You may try gradually shaving off 5-10 minutes from a summer bedtime hour so students will not feel as if they are being punished. The average child between the ages of 5-12 needs about 10-11 hours of sleep per night. The novelty of setting their own alarm clock and waking might also alleviate some of the morning struggles that can spell frustration for families in the fall.
- ✓ **Math Skills Review**-Frequently, the first few days of school are an assessment of skills to determine mastery and how much to review. Right now is a great time to check up on flashcard facts so that the learning curve may not be quite so sharp at the beginning. Besides traditional flashcards, a great site for practicing is [http://www.mathplayground.com/flashcards\\_timed.html](http://www.mathplayground.com/flashcards_timed.html). This free site provides opportunities to review timed facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.
- ✓ **Back to School Traditions**-Many families have already discovered a back to school tradition they have established. Sometimes these include a special first day of school breakfast, a summer picnic, star gazing in the backyard, etc. Children often view family traditions with defining importance regarding their place in the world at large. These “special” times don’t have to cost money but have lasting impact. A great place to get some other great ideas is [www.familyfun.go.com](http://www.familyfun.go.com).
- ✓ **Black Belt in Bible Head start**-This year’s Bible curriculum will require students to memorize the Book of Philippians. Get a jumpstart on the year by reading the book to your child in short installments as part of your family devotion times or in the evenings before bed. As a family you may even begin committing the first few verses to memory and pray about taking this challenge on as a family.

In closing, let me assure you that as you are praying for us, we are praying for you! Our prayers include the peace and shalom that only our Lord can provide in praying that we are at the center of His will. Hopefully, you will find one idea that may be a blessing as we look forward to another year. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help!

**Linda A. Edin**

**Elementary Guidance**

**[ledin@lexingtonchristian.org](mailto:ledin@lexingtonchristian.org)**

**859-269-5811, ext. 3**

**“Planting seeds for the future harvest.”**