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Kumon Makes Juggling Act Easier; Cosmic Club Points Are a Bonus

Like most 7th graders, George Andrews' life is a bit of a juggling act. He works hard at school, plays baseball, basketball and fits in some golf when he can. Plus, he plays the piano and takes Greek dance and language classes every week. What's the key to successfully fitting it all in? "Kumon" says George.

He didn't always feel this way. George remembers he really didn't like Kumon when he started way back in Kindergarten. "Before, when I was younger, I used to not like [Kumon] because [I felt] it was hard, but now I know that the work in Kumon makes school easier so that I can do extracurricular activities."

The work that George does at Kumon helps him save time at school. "I don't really have to study for math tests because of Kumon."

He adds, "I use books from [Kumon's]



Recommended Reading List when I need to do book reports at school." This saves a lot of time for George to focus on fun things like extracurricular activities while never missing a beat in preparing for his future.

An added benefit of Kumon, according to George, is that he has learned to manage his life better. "[Kumon] helps me do a little every day and that helps me with time management so I can work in baseball and all that stuff."

Currently, George is studying in Level I in both Math and Reading at the Manhattan Beach Kumon Center run by Instructor Surekha Jain in California. Asked what his favorite parts of the Kumon program were, he said, "the graphs in [Math] Level H and the word problems were fun." He also likes the "fill in the blanks" exercises throughout the Reading Program. He noted that division (Level D) is a little difficult, but worth getting through to get to interesting problems in other levels.

As a lifetime Kumon student George has also racked up a lot of Cosmic Club Points, which he plans to spend on college by cashing in on the \$500 check offered in exchange for 300 Cosmic Club Points – he has, presently, over 300 Cosmic Club points! As George moves towards the completion of both the Math and

Reading programs he plans to acquire more Cosmic Club points so that he can get a fun Cosmic Club prize for himself, too, "like a "camera", a "boom box" or "something like that."

With George's many interests and busy schedule it should come as no surprise that he is a student who likes action. This might help explain how this bright child manages to get straight A's in school while juggling Kumon and a full slate of sports, language, music, and dance. It isn't surprising that he says his favorite position in baseball is shortstop. "[I like playing it best] because there is a lot of action and you get to touch the ball a lot and you get to dive for balls and all of that."

George's mom, Nikki, says that Kumon is a family affair. George's brother, Christos, is also enrolled in the program as are a slew of nieces and nephews and cousins. Mrs. Andrews points out that on a recent family vacation the boys boarded a cruise ship with Kumon boxes in hand!

Kumon has helped this 7th grader succeed at school, develop confidence in himself, hone time management skills and acquire enough Cosmic Club points to get a little help with college. Not a bad deal for a little work every day!

THOUGHTS BY TORU KUMON

Each individual has unlimited potential. In fact, human history can be said to be a history of the pursuit of potential.



Kumon and Higher Education

Research studies show that a four year college or university degree can provide many opportunities in life, including greater knowledge, more career and occupation options, and a higher income.

For college-bound students, a strong academic background, including completing challenging courses with good grades, is necessary. Students who take higher level math courses are more likely to go on to, and complete, college than students who do not. Students should also be aware of the specific coursework and testing requirements that must be completed prior to the college application process.

The Kumon Math Program can help students become well prepared to study advanced high school math courses and take entrance exams that are necessary for application to four-year colleges and universities. The true essence of Kumon is exemplified when students complete the Calculus levels through self-learning. The benefit of studying the Kumon Calculus levels is not limited to improved math skills but extends to other subjects and areas as well.

Consequently, various study skills such as focus, discipline and concentration are strengthened through mastering higher level material (Level J and above). These are intrinsic rewards of the Kumon Program.

Mr. Kumon's intention was to help students to develop skills that would enable them to excel in any area of study, and believed it possible for any student to reach Calculus.

But, you may still be wondering "Why study higher level Math?"

On a practical level, there are 3 reasons for this:

- 1) Acquiring strong mathematical ability during the school years leaves more options open in selecting a major in college and pursuing a career.
- 2) Building strong problem solving and critical thinking skills can apply to any field and any life situation.
- 3) Having strong Math skills is very important in today's technology driven society.

Various professional fields use Calculus and its extensions to mathematical analysis: Accounting, Astronomy, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Computer Programming, Economics, Engineering, Medical Research, Meteorology, Oceanography, Physics, Physiology, Statistics, and others.

Each profession uses mathematical modeling in many different aspects including payroll, profitability, software development and research. In some occupations, although mathematical knowledge may not be a requirement for employment, having mathematical ability allows for a deeper and more complete understanding of the operations involved. The strong critical thinking skills gained from having a solid math background are essential in forming practical solutions to problems and in developing new methods and strategies towards the improvement of operations in any field.

Recognizing the importance of attending college, and understanding the requirements of college applications, can provide students the most suitable educational path for them. Kumon can prepare students to study for the courses and exams necessary for high school studies, for college admittance, and for continued academic success.

Dear Dr. Andi,

I am having a hard time getting my 7th grader to do his math worksheets now that it's summer. He doesn't think it's fair to have to do Kumon while he's on vacation. Any suggestions?

- Frustrated Parent

Dear Frustrated Parent,

Summer is a time for fun and relaxation, but that doesn't mean it's a time to take a vacation from learning. Beware of the summer brain drain! Here are a few suggestions to help motivate your son to continue his Kumon during the summer months.

- **Explain:** Many students refuse to do assignments when they fail to understand **why** they should do them. Doing Kumon Math during vacation will prevent significant math learning loss over the summer and will make it much easier for him to do math when he returns to school in the fall.
- **Make Involvement Realistic:** A major key to motivation during summertime is to have students participate in their own learning process. Have your son meet with his Instructor in order to set **reachable goals** which will automatically result in success. For example, if your family takes a trip, review work is a better choice for your son to manage, rather than tackling a new concept.
- **Reward:** Learning is motivated by incentives. These can include privileges and receiving praise as well as tangible objects. With all the summer activities and opportunities for fun, summer is a prime time for students to earn rewards for doing their worksheets. Be sure to balance learning with fun.

Above all, participate enthusiastically with your son in this endeavor. Find appropriate times to do Kumon that do Not conflict with regular summer activities. Good luck to you both!

- Dr. Andi

WE HAVE MAIL

Use It or Lose It!

Summer Learning Loss...Too High a Price for Fun in the Sun

Doctor
on
Call

DR. ANDI
Addresses
Today's Parenting
Issues



When not engaged in educational activities for prolonged periods of time, all students experience learning loss—and summer vacation is the greatest culprit for wreaking havoc on learning! While periodic breaks from daily routines are reasonable, sustained absences are not. Imagine what would happen to the skills of a professional cellist who was scheduled to play in the Philharmonic in September, but never touched the cello during June, July, and August. All skills, whether they are musical, athletic, or educational, **must** be practiced on a regular basis. In fact, experts agree that if a professional hockey player doesn't play for even 40 days, he won't be able to perform at the same level as his teammates (or opponents) when he returns to the ice. The old adage of *Use it or Lose it* is not only good advice for senior citizens; it's also pertinent for students!

Math Learning Loss

Studies in the Journal of Educational Research reported that, on average, **students lose the equivalency of 2.6 months of grade level math over the summer break**. On standardized tests, math scores were significantly lower when the tests were taken at the end of summer vacation than when the tests were taken at the end of the school year. Math learning loss, which was attributed to the lack of practice of math skills over a sustained period of time, was greatest in the areas of factual or procedural knowledge. Depending on grade level, students forget not only math facts, but also other skills such as how to subtract with regrouping, how to divide fractions, and how to solve quadratic equations. **Summer setback in math affects all students regardless of their socioeconomic status** because most students simply don't do math activities outside of a formal classroom setting.

Math loss during summer vacation also has a major impact on instruction. It is conservatively estimated that two months of instruction time are lost every year—one month re-teaching “forgotten” math, thus one month not spent on instruction of the current year's math. That's 22% of one school year! The accumulation of loss over a student's school life career is significant. It's no wonder that North American students score lower on international math tests than students in other industrialized countries such as Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, and the Czech Republic.

Reading Learning Loss

The impact of summer vacation on learning loss in reading, though somewhat less significant than on math, still has a major impact on children, especially those whose parents do not make reading a priority in their home. The areas most affected by a long summer break are Word Recognition and Reading Comprehension. Research shows that students who take a vacation from reading during the summer months risk losing an average loss of over two months in reading achievement. The cumulative summer learning loss in reading over a student's elementary education contributes significantly to the expanding in-school achievement gap between students from low

and middle socioeconomic groups. The discrepancy in loss between these groups reveals the extent of the problem of taking time out from reading during vacation months.

How to Fight the Summer Brain Drain

For many schoolchildren, the price paid for fun in the sun is significant learning loss. In order to counteract this, parents need to provide opportunities for their children to continue to read and do math during the summer months. The best way to prevent summer vacation from wreaking havoc on learning is to **keep your child enrolled in Kumon Math and Reading over the summer**. While Kumon students need to have fun during the summer, using their academic skills for even a short period of time each day to do worksheets will prevent them from the summer learning loss that plagues so many of their classmates.

In addition to doing Kumon worksheets, the following are suggestions to help create a learning environment that is part of your child's summer routine:

- Read for pleasure during the summer – favorite authors, easy to read books, page turners, plays...
- Read books for the upcoming school year (ask your child's teacher/Instructor for suggestions)
- Write plays and stories and share them with friends and family
- Visit the library weekly and make the acquaintance of the librarian, who has a wealth of information to share about books; most libraries have summer reading programs
- Get activity books and do brain teasers, crossword puzzles, Sudoku
- Be creative with math, writing problems on big surfaces using shaving cream or finger paints
- Be a role model for learning: let your child “catch” you reading; note how you use math throughout the day—in cooking, balancing the checkbook, figuring out gas mileage—and encourage your children to calculate along with you
- Create projects: have your child help plan your vacation time, whether it be a day trip or a two week holiday; research and read books about the destination; use resources, such as the library, MapQuest, Internet; figure out how much the trips would cost, including gas, entertainment, hotels, food, etc.



DOB: 9/93
School Grade: 5th
Starting Level:
 Math 3A
 Reading 3A
Present Level:
 Math H & Reading I
 (G by 5 Math & Reading
 and ASHR Math &
 Reading)

Christian



DOB: 9/98
School Grade: 2nd
Starting Level:
 Math 5A
 Reading 5A
Present Level:
 Math C & Reading CI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

Julia



DOB: 5/95
School Grade: 4th
Starting Level:
 Math 7A
 Reading 4A
Present Level:
 Math H & Reading EI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

Ting-Wai



DOB: 8/97
School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level:
 Math 4A
 Reading AI
Present Level:
 Math D & Reading FI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

Sarah

THE FACES OF KUMON



DOB: 7/00
School Grade: K
Starting Level:
 Math 7A
 Reading 7A
Present Level:
 Math A & Reading 2A
 (ASHR Math)

Carlo



DOB: 12/96
School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level:
 Math 3A
 Reading 2A
Present Level:
 Math E & Reading EI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

May



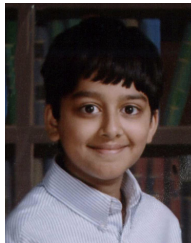
DOB: 12/99
School Grade: K
Starting Level:
 Math 7A
 Reading 7A
Present Level:
 Math C & Reading CI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

Neha



DOB: 12/97
School Grade: 3
Starting Level:
 C Math
 Reading BI
Present Level:
 Math E & Reading CI
 (ASHR Math & Reading)

Brianna



DOB: 6/94
School Grade: 6th
Starting Level:
 Math 2A
Present Level:
 Math J (ASHR Math)

Abhishek



DOB: 5/93
School Grade: 5th
Starting Level:
 Math 4A
Present Level:
 Math F (ASHR Math)

Christopher



DOB: 11/93
School Grade: 6th
Starting Level:
 Math 7A
Present Level:
 Math H
 (G by 5 & ASHR Math)

Agatha



DOB: 7/96
School Grade: 4th
Starting Level:
 Math B
 Reading All
Present Level:
 Math E & Reading DI
 (ASHR Math)

Flavio



DOB: 10/97
School Grade: 3rd
Starting Level:
 Math 4A
Present Level:
 Math F (ASHR Math)

Kayvon



DOB: 1/00
School Grade: K
Starting Level:
 Reading 6A
Present Level:
 Reading 2A
 (ASHR Reading)

Samara



DOB: 7/98
School Grade: 1st
Starting Level:
 Math 6A
Present Level:
 Math E (ASHR Math)

Jayden



DOB: 04/02
School Grade: PK1
Starting Level:
 Math 7A
Present Level:
 Math 3A (ASHR Math)

Sage

Interested in having your child featured?

Please talk to your Kumon Instructor.



submissions to The Faces of Kumon must include a completed **Straighttalk Submission Form and a digital format image**. We are no longer able to accept photographs. The photo should be emailed to Straighttalk@kumon.com.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Request a form directly from your Instructor.

STRAIGHT talk

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