

Dear Families:

In addition to *First in Math*, class assignments, and reading there are countless free educational resources listed below. I think you will discover many interesting sites filled with information on all subjects.

Keep busy and Stay Healthy.

Debi Reiff, Family Connections Counselor

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WatchKnowLearn: This site has aggregated YouTube videos that will teach students new languages.

Video Lessons/Tutorials

iTunesU: Apple provides hundreds of free courses, lectures and academic talks, mostly suitable for older students. The easiest way to access the courses available on iTunesU is to visit our collection of 550 Free Online Courses from Top Universities

Khan Academy: The site famously features K-12 video tutorials created by Sal Khan and team. It currently gives students access to thousands of video tutorials that explain the ins-and-outs of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, finance, physics, economics and more. Videos can also be accessed via YouTube and iTunesU, or on the Khan Academy's website.

Learner.org: Run by The Annenberg Foundation, Learner.org hosts multimedia resources for teachers, students and lifelong learners. You can browse their general collection of educational videos here. Selected collections are cataloged below.

MIT-K12: Taking a page from Khan, MIT is now producing "short videos teaching basic concepts in science and engineering" for K-12 students. The videos are generally created by MIT students. You can sort the videos by topic and grade level. Find versions of these videos on iTunes.

NeoK12: Designated a "Great Site for Kids" by the American Library Association, this site provides educational videos, lessons, quizzes and educational games for K-12 students in various subject areas, such as science, math, health, social studies and English.

Schoolhouse Rock: Animated musical educational short films that aired during the Saturday morning children's programming on the U.S. television network ABC. The topics covered included grammar, science, economics, history, mathematics, and civics

WatchKnowLearn: This site has indexed over 33,000 educational videos from YouTube and placed them into a directory of over 3,000 categories. The videos are available without registration or fees to teachers in the classroom and to students at home 24/7.

YouTube EDU: A curated collection of educational videos from sources ranging from Sesame Street to Harvard. Created by YouTube itself.

YouTube for Schools: Containing a large collection of educational materials, this newish service also gives teachers and administrators the ability to filter out everything but their own selections from YouTube. In other words, you can separate the wheat from the chaff. Get more details here.

Art & Visual Culture (Web Resources)

Art Babble: Sometimes called the "YouTube of the Arts," the site offers high definition video of art that ranges from classical to contemporary. It has partnered with many major museums and arts institutions.

Geography (Web Resources)

National Geographic: Provides facts, photos, videos, and more about countries around the world -- something NatGeo knows a lot about.

World Atlas: An educational resource for world maps, atlases, and in-depth geography information. Provides teachers and students free maps of Europe, Asia, the U.S., Canada, Florida, the Caribbean Islands and much more.

World Data Atlas: Great source of world statistics on every country. Includes data on more than 2500 indicators. Topics cover Economics, Demographics, Health, Education, Energy and other socioeconomic information. Includes interactive visualizations like rankings, graphs and maps. All information can be exported and embedded onto the web. You can also access the site/app through the Google Chrome web store for free.

History & Politics (Web Resources)

50States.com: Offers information about the fifty United States of America.

A Biography of America: This video series for high school and college students presents American history as a living narrative rather than a collection of facts and dates. Produced by WGBH Boston in cooperation with the Library of Congress and the National Archives and Records Administration.

A Crash Course in World History: Best-selling author John Green gives you a playful and highly visual crash course in world history, taking you from the beginning of human civilization 15,000 years ago through to our modern age. The videos are animated and fun. We have a few more details here.

Ben's Guide to U.S. Government: A primer on American government for grades K-2.

Bridging World History: Created by Learner.org, this site offers multimedia materials designed to help learners discover world history. The material is organized into 26 thematic units, which include videos and an audio glossary.

Google Cultural Institute: Google has built a robust, umbrella Cultural Institute to house 42 new online historical exhibitions. Each exhibit features, in Google's words, "a narrative which links the archive material together to unlock the different perspectives, nuances and tales behind these events." Topics currently covered include the Life and Times of Nelson Mandela, the Fall of the Iron Curtain, the Spanish Civil War, the Life of Anne Frank, D-Day, and Apartheid in South Africa. The Cultural Institute also gives you access to super high resolution images of The Dead Sea Scrolls.

Google Historical Voyages and Events: This site is dedicated to the explorers, voyages, events, and historical backgrounds of countries throughout the world, and uses Google technology to bring this history back to life.

Liberty's Kids: An animated educational historical television series originally broadcast on PBS Kids. Teaches 7 to 14 year olds about the founding of the United States.

Teachinghistory.org: This site is designed to help K–12 history teachers access resources and materials to improve U.S. history education in the classroom. Provides lesson plans and best practices. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education and the Center for History and New Media.

Visualizing Emancipation: A map of slavery's end during the American Civil War. It finds patterns in the collapse of southern slavery, mapping the interactions between federal policies, armies in the field, and the actions of enslaved men and women on countless farms and city blocks.

Literature (Web Resources)

Download 20 Popular High School Books Available as Free eBooks & Audio Books: Gives you access to classic texts frequently taught in the classroom. Includes works by Mark Twain, George Orwell, Aldous Huxley, Jane Austen, F. Scott Fitzgerald and more.

A Crash Course in English Literature: A new video series by best-selling kids author John Green covers Shakespeare, Fitzgerald, Salinger, and Emily Dickinson and more. See our post on this series.

Google Lit Trips: This site provides free downloadable files that mark the journeys of characters from famous literature on the surface of Google Earth. We offer more details here.

International Children's Digital Library: Provides free access to high-quality digital books from around the world. Offers books for kids 3-5, 6-9, and 10-13. Start browsing the library here.

Lit2Go's Audio Books: The University of South Florida provides an extensive collection of free audio books along with materials to help K-12 teachers present literature in the classroom. Find more information on our blog here.

Poetry Archive: Search the Poetry Foundation's archive of over 10000 poems. Searchable by poet, title, first lines and more.

Mathematics (Web Resources)

AAA Math: Features a comprehensive set of interactive arithmetic lessons. Unlimited practice is available on each topic which allows thorough mastery of the concepts. You can sort by grade level. K-8.

Algebra: In Simplest Terms: A step-by-step look at algebra concepts. This instructional video series for high school classrooms is produced by the Consortium for Mathematics and Its Applications and Chedd-Angier.

IXL: Site features thousands of exercises designed to help young students (K-8) practice math. Features practice questions, step-by-step explanations, engaging awards and certificates, easy-to-read progress reports, and more

Khan Academy Math: You can dive into the Khan Academy's math tutorials using the following links: Arithmetic and Pre-Algebra, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, Probability, Statistics, Precalculus, Calculus, Differential Equations, Linear Algebra, Applied Math, Brain Teasers, and Vi Hart Animations.

Math Shack: Created by Shmoop, Math Shack allows students to practice an infinite number of auto-generated math problems in Pre-Algebra, Algebra, and Geometry. It's Common Core-aligned, and students can see how they're performing—by topic and subject—through an easy color-coded system.

NRICH: The Nrich Math Project (based at Cambridge University) offers mathematics resources for children, parents and teachers to enrich learning. It provides resources for students of all ages.

TutPup Math: Helps young children gain confidence and mastery of basic educational skills. Its math section comes recommended by our readers.

Wolfram MathWorld: Bills itself as the web's most extensive mathematical resource. Designed for more advanced students, this collection is provided as a free service by Wolfram Research, makers of Mathematica. Topics covered include: Algebra, Applied Mathematics, Calculus and Analysis, Discrete Mathematics, Foundations of Mathematics, Geometry, History and Terminology, Number Theory, Probability and Statistics, Recreational Mathematics, and Topology.

Science (Web Resources)

100,000 Stars: An interactive visualization of—you guessed it—more than 100,000 stars. 100,000 Stars was created by Google using data from NASA and the European Space Agency. Before you experience the map, you will need to download the Chrome browser. We have more on it here.

Ask an Astronomer: In video format, scientists answer questions about the universe. For example, where is the center of the universe? What happens when galaxies collide?

Atlas of the Universe: Contains maps of the universe zooming out from the nearest stars to the entire visible universe.

BioED Online: An online educational resource for educators, students, and parents. Dedicated to biology, the site offers access to streaming video presentations and a slide library that features, among other things, exciting lesson plans and activities.

Bug-scope: Lets K–12 students view bugs under a scanning electron microscope over the web. From the University of Illinois.

BuiltByKids: Encourages next generation of makers to tackle the do-it-yourself projects of their dreams. Engineering very 101.

CELLS Alive!: Brings together 30 years of computer-enhanced images of living cells and organisms for education and medical research.

Chemistry Activities for Kids: Features chemistry demonstrations, crafts, and projects that are suitable for kids. Some activities require adult supervision. Assembled by Anne Marie Helmenstine, About.com Guide to Chemistry.

Digital Universe Atlas: Developed by the American Museum of Natural History's Hayden Planetarium, with support from NASA, this digital atlas makes available the most complete and accurate 3D atlas of the Universe from the local solar neighborhood out to the edge of the observable Universe. Download it for free!

Impact Earth!: An interactive tool that lets anyone calculate the damage a comet or asteroid would cause if it happened to collide with our planet. You can customize the size and speed of the incoming object, among other items.

Khan Academy Science: You can explore the Khan Academy's science and technology lessons using the following hotlinks: Biology, Chemistry, Cosmology and Astronomy, Healthcare and Medicine, Organic Chemistry, Physics, LeBron Asks, MIT+K12, Projects.

NASA for Students: America's space agency provides educational media for different age groups. See Grades K-4, Grades 5-8, and Grades 9-12.

Eyes on the Solar System: A 3-D environment lets you explore the cosmos from your computer, hop on an asteroid, fly with NASA's Voyager spacecraft, see the entire solar system moving in real time. Created by NASA.

NASA Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth: Brings together all images and videos of the Earth taken by NASA astronauts from space.

NASA Photo Archive: NASA curated a big archive of historical images into Flickr Commons, giving users access to more than a half century of NASA's photographic history. The images are divided into three neat sets – “Launch and Takeoff,” “Building NASA” and “Center Namesakes” – and they're all copyright-free, meaning that you can share and use these images however you like.

NIH Science: The National Institutes of Health provides a collection of educational resources for science teachers. The material is divided by topic and grade level: High School, Middle School and Elementary School.

Paleontology Portal: This site is a resource for anyone interested in paleontology, from the student in the classroom, to the interested amateur scouting for fossils, to the professional in the lab. Funded by the National Science Foundation, the site was produced by the University of California Museum of Paleontology, the Paleontological Society, the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology, and the United States Geological Survey.

Science Kids: Provides educational resources for teachers and parents to help make science fun and engaging for kids. Features fun activities, facts, projects and experiments that promote a desire amongst kids to learn more about science and technology.

Science News for Kids: Helps kids (middle school and above) stay up-to-date on scientific trends. Provides crisp, concise coverage of all fields of science daily.

The Known Universe: This video takes viewers from the Himalayas through our atmosphere and the inky black of space to the afterglow of the Big Bang. The film is made with the Digital Universe Atlas (download it here) that is maintained and updated by astrophysicists at the American Museum of Natural History.

USGS Science Resources: Assembled by the U.S. Geological Survey, this site brings together lots of resources that will teach students about Biology, Geography, Geology, Water, and more. The site is divided into a K-6 section and a grades 7-12 section.

Technology (Web Resources)

Codecademy: This venture gives students the ability to take free computer science lessons online. Teaches everything from HTML basics to Python in a “user active” style. We have more details here.

Google Code University: This Google site provides course content and tutorials for Computer Science (CS) students and educators on current computing technologies and paradigms. It covers HTML, CSS, and Javascript from the Ground Up, Python and more.

Khan Academy Technology: Find lessons in Drawing & Animation and Programming Basics.

Educational Apps (Mostly for iPhone/iPad)

Aesop’s Fables Interactive Book: The Library of Congress has released a free app for use on iPhones, iPads and Android platforms. This innovative reading experience has been adapted from the 1919 book The Aesop for Children, and includes outstanding drawings by Milo Winter, a noted illustrator.

American Museum of Natural History: Cosmic Discoveries: Take a ride with the Museum’s astrophysicists through our Solar System, the Milky Way Galaxy, and beyond. Cosmic Discoveries is the first app to collect nearly 1,000 stunning astronomic images.

Babbel: Supported by the European Regional Development Fund, the Babbel apps are available for 11 languages, and contain 2,000-3,000 vocabulary words per language. All words are accompanied by images and pronounced for you by native speakers.

BrainPop Featured Movie: This well-respected app presents a different animated movie every day covering subjects related to historical and current events, and then lets youngsters test their new knowledge with an interactive quiz.

3D Brain: Discover how each brain region functions, what happens when the brain is injured, and how it is involved in mental illness. Each detailed structure comes with information on functions, disorders, brain damage, case studies, and links to modern research. Use your touch screen to rotate and zoom around 29 interactive structures.

Dictionary.com: Pretty simple, but handy. A good dictionary in your pocket.

Earth-lapse: Turn your iPad or iPhone into a window aboard the International Space Station. Experience stunning views of planet Earth captured by NASA astronauts. Touch the views and control the planet with your finger.

Google Sky Map: Sky Map enables users to identify stars and planets by pointing their devices towards these objects in the sky. Users can zoom in and out, and switch various layers such as constellations, planets, grids, and deep sky objects. Users can also determine the locations of planets and stars relative to their own current locations.

Khan Academy: This new app for the iPhone and iPad gives users access to nearly 3,500 videos covering K-12 math, science topics such as biology, chemistry, physics, and the humanities.

Moon: The perfect resource to help students learn about the moon.

Moon Globe: This free app puts the moon in your pocket with 3D graphics and touch screen navigation.

Name It: "Name It" is a biology learning app for the iPhone. It will teach you to recognize species by pictures. Provides access to 1,117,900 species pages and 1,914,317 pictures. Based on the Encyclopedia of Life, the open source project to document all living organisms on earth.

NASA: Discover a wealth of great space travel information on this free app. The NASA App collects, customizes and delivers an extensive selection of dynamically updated information, images and videos from various online NASA sources in a convenient mobile package. Available for Android, iPhone and iPad.

Planets: A 3D guide to the solar system for aspiring astronomers. Downloaded over 8 million times, the app lets kids locate planets with a flat view of sky in 2D, or a planetarium style view of the sky in 3D.

Science 360: The Science360 for iPad app, created by The National Science Foundation, provides easy access to engaging science and engineering images and video from around the globe and a news feed featuring breaking news from NSF-funded institutions.

Sight Words List: Sight Words, also known as the Dolch List, are an integral part of learning how to read. The Dolch Word list contains 315 words that are broken down into appropriate age groups. Ideal for kids 5/7years old.

Spacecraft 3D: NASA's Spacecraft 3D is an augmented reality application that lets you learn about and interact with a variety of spacecraft that are used to explore our solar system, study Earth, and observe the universe.

Today in History: Lists notable events in history and when important people were born/died. Includes over 100,000 events.

USA Presidents: A flash card app that teaches you cool facts about the historical line of American presidents.

YouTube Channels

American Museum of Natural History: This channel features the excellent "Known Universe" video, which gives you a six-minute journey from Mt. Everest to the farthest reaches of the observable universe.

HooplaKidz: This channel is dedicated to animated nursery rhymes and stories designed to entertain and educate children between the ages of 2 and 8.

Edutopia: Offers inspiration and information for what works in education. Edutopia is run by The George Lucas Educational Foundation.

Khan Academy: This channel features thousands of videos that will teach students the ins and outs of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, calculus, statistics, finance, physics, economics and more.

World Atlas: An educational resource for world maps, atlases, and in-depth geography information. Provides teachers and students free maps of Europe, the U.S., Canada, Florida, the Caribbean Islands and much more.

Curriki: The site hosts an online community for creating and sharing curricula and teaching best practices. Currently the site offers over 46,000 free K-12 lessons, units, assessments, and multimedia learning resources across all subject areas, and the platform enables educators to build their own curriculum by assembling Curriki resources, as well as their own, into collections.

Edutopia: Run by The George Lucas Educational Foundation, Edutopia empowers teachers, administrators, and parents with innovative solutions and resources to better education. You can access materials by grade level: K-2, 3-5, 6-8 and 9-12. Edutopia also offers a series of helpful guides, including Mobile Devices for Learning: What You Need to Know and A Parent's Guide to 21st-Century Learning.

