

ELA Summer work 2025  
Entering grade 8

Please complete the following assignments to keep your mind sharp over the summer.

**Reading:** You are to read two books; one book, The Outsiders, by S. E. Hinton, is required of all students. The second book may be any **non-fiction** book of your choosing with a topic that is age and school appropriate.

For the **non-fiction** book, you will be presenting one of the following:

- A 3 to 5 minute podcast: You are the host of a podcast and will present an overview of the book you read. (Use the podcast worksheets to organize your work.)
- A class lesson: Teach us how to do something! (Use the lesson template to plan your lesson. The lesson must have a hand-on or active part and an “assessment” of your “students” learning.)
- A 3 to 5 minute TED talk: Be the expert. Explain what you learned from the book to the class and present the video. (Use the organizer to plan your talk.)

We will be presenting these beginning on September 3, 2025!

For The Outsiders:

I suggest that you read this in August just before school starts. Keep a list of the characters and a brief description of each one and their relationships to each other. After every couple of chapters, write a brief summary of what has occurred. Pay attention to detail. We will have a test on the book within the first week of school. Bring your character list and summaries to school with the book on the first day of school. There will be a test on the book that week. We will watch the movie after the test!

**Grammar/spelling:** Learn the No Excuses List. There will be no excuses for not knowing these words.

**Supply list:** The supply list for the fall is attached. The supply list is also available online. When purchasing supplies, buy extra loose leaf, note cards and pens now. Prices get astronomical once the school buying season is over, and these are the items that your child will need a lot of throughout the year.

\*Important note—Book Sox are convenient for covering textbooks, BUT they must be the large ones. Those purchased at the Dollar Store and Wal-Mart are often too small for middle school books. Your child will NOT be permitted to use covers that are too small. Book covers for hard cover books are REQUIRED for the whole year.

If you have any questions or problems with the summer assignment, please contact me via email at [mfinnegan@stisidoreschool.com](mailto:mfinnegan@stisidoreschool.com). If it is urgent, please call the school office, and the message will be forwarded.

Have a wonderful, fun, safe, and faith-filled summer,  
Mrs. Finnegan

## 8<sup>th</sup> grade supply list 2025-2026

Math: Optional: Texas Instruments TI-84Plus graphing calculator

Loose leaf—buy several packs. This is the one item most students run out of before the end of the year.

note cards—hundreds of them! You will need 300 for vocabulary alone. Purchase at least 1000.  
Seriously!

pens—buy at least 24 (one for every two weeks) Blue or black ink only. Erasable pens are allowed.

red pens/pencils for correcting and editing

pencils for math and extra erasers

highlighter(s)

colored pencils

12-inch ruler

scissors

notebooks:

- for math, at least 2 spiral notebooks
- Science: a marble copybook
- ELA, social studies, religion, and Spanish can be marble or spiral

pocket folders—at least 7; add one if you will be using a “take home” folder. Try to purchase plastic or coated folders. Plain paper will not last.

binder—if desired to keep folders neat and organized

Optional—markers

SPANISH—English/Spanish dictionary

ART—crayons, watercolors, smock; please label all items and put into a Ziploc bag

TECHNOLOGY—each student needs to bring his or her own headphones or earbuds in a name-labeled Ziploc bag

Cleaning supplies—2 boxes of tissues, one roll of paper towels, a canister of Lysol or similar cleaning wipes, donations of hand sanitizer gratefully accepted

\*All hardcover books must be covered. Purchase Jumbo Book Sox as the regular size is too small for our texts. Paper is an option as well.

\*It is highly recommended that softcover texts and the homework book be covered in clear contact paper.

\*White-out is not allowed.



# Podcast Planner

Show Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

## Introduction:

Greeting

Tell the name of your show

Introduce yourselves

Tell what you will be talking about

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# Podcast Rubric

	3	2	1	0
Content	Your podcast contains 5+ facts	Your podcast contains 3-4 facts	Your podcast contains 1-2 facts	Your podcast contains 0 facts
Organization	Your podcast is organized logically and flows well	Your podcast is somewhat organized	Your podcast has little organization	Your podcast is not organized
Introduction	Your podcast has a clear introduction with music	Your podcast has an introduction that is hard to understand with music	Your podcast has an introduction that is hard to understand without music	Your podcast does not have an introduction
Technology Production	Your podcast contains sound effects and your voice is clear and can be understood.	Your podcast does not contain sound effects, but your voice is clear.	Your podcast contains sound effects, but your voice is not clear.	Your podcast does not contain sound effects and your voice is not clear.
Fluency	Your voice is very fluent.	Your voice is somewhat fluent.	Your voice has little fluency.	Your voice is not fluent.



## My TED Talk Organizer

<b>Catchy Introduction:</b>		
<b>Message #1:</b>	<b>Message # 2:</b>	<b>Message #3:</b>
Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦	Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦	Facts, opinions, life examples to support this message: ◦ ◦ ◦ ◦
<b>Conclusion: (End with a short, simple, key message for kids to remember)</b>		

## Effective Speech Introductions

The purpose of the introduction is:

- to wake up your audience
- to hold their attention
- to make the audience want to listen
- to lead smoothly into what you want to say

Techniques for getting your audience's attention include:

1. Use a startling statement. (e.g. "1 in 7 kids suffer from homelessness.")
2. Use suspense. (e.g. "It is the most talked about subject in town.")
3. Ask a question. (e.g. "Do you know that a parrot may live to be 200 years old?")
4. Open with a strong quotation. (e.g. "Man cannot live by bread alone.")
5. Use a strong example. (e.g. tell what would happen if you did or didn't do something).
6. Make a personal reference. (e.g. "Last summer, my family and I....")
7. Tell a short story or a joke. Be sure that the humour is appropriate!
8. Plunge right in. If your speech has a strong opinion or a controversial position, state it.
9. State the purpose of your speech. (e.g. "It might be difficult to convince you that wolves are friendly, but in the next 4 minutes, I'll do just that.")
  - NOT: "The topic I have chosen to speak on...."
10. Use an exhibit or a visualization. (e.g. "I want you, all of you, to look at this for a moment." or "Picture, if you will, a quiet country road...")
11. Appeal to the self-interest of the audience. (e.g. "Everyone of us here could use an extra dollar.")
12. Issue a challenge. (e.g. "Can you balance a basketball on your fingertip?")

## "NO EXCUSES" Spelling Words

The following is a list of words that you are expected to know through grades 6-8, your personal list and they are displayed throughout the building. Refer to this list often as you complete your daily assignments, quizzes, tests and projects. There are "no excuses" for using or spelling these words incorrectly. **This is**

- to, too, two  
I went to the store.  
I went to the store, too.  
The two of us went to the store, too.
- there, their, they're  
The rabbit jumped over there.  
Their rabbit jumped over there.  
They're going to be upset that their rabbit jumped over there.
- because, cause  
She wanted to go to the mall because she needed shoes.  
Prom was the cause of the shoe emergency.
- hear, here  
Can you hear me?  
I am standing right here.
- where, wear  
Where are you going?  
What are you going to wear there?  
Don't wear yourself out with too much dancing.
- your, you're  
I like your binder.  
You're going to need to keep your binder organized.
- whether, weather  
Do you know whether you are going outside or not?  
Whether I go outside depends on the weather.
- are, our  
Are you going to the dance?  
Are you going to the dance at our school?
- we're, were  
At the park, we were playing football.  
We're winning the game by ten points.
- which, witch  
Do you know which costume you want?  
I want a costume for a witch.
- threw, through  
He threw the ball and broke a window.  
You could still see through the broken glass.
- whose, who's  
Whose locker is that?  
Who's going to unlock the locker?  
It's, its  
It's your turn to walk the dog.  
The dog still can't find its way home.
- one, won  
We needed one more point.  
After we scored one more point, we won the game!
- then, than  
We went to the Hancock Building and then the Sears Tower.  
I liked the Sears Tower better than the Hancock Building.
- accept, except  
I accept responsibility for my homework.  
I accept responsibility for my homework except when the dog eats it.
- affect, effect  
Studying can affect your grades positively.  
The effect of not studying can sometimes be negative.
- lose, loose  
How can you lose your assignment notebook?  
My assignment notebook got loose from my backpack, so I did lose it.