



## Preparing for Grade 7 and 8 What Students Need to Know and Do

Calgary Classical Academy

As students prepare for Grade Seven at Calgary Classical Academy, parents and teachers should work with them to master the following skills. We do not expect students to have mastered all of these skills and will continue to work on them in school during their Grade Seven year. The intention of this document is to provide an approximate developmental level to guide parents and teachers as they prepare for their children to begin in our classes.

### Personal and Study Skills

Students should be able to:

- Use eye contact and words like “please” and “thank you” when speaking with adults and peers;
- Line up and move silently through a hallway for short periods;
- Follow multi-step instructions with minimal prompting or assistance;
- Raise their hand to speak during whole-class discussions and lessons;
- Use self-calming strategies to help themselves self sooth and regulate when upset;
- Be able to care for and organize their belongings independently;
- Sit at a desk peacefully for extended periods of time; and,
- Keep an agenda, track academic obligations, and be responsible for homework.

Students entering grade 7 and 8 need the following literacy and numeracy skills:

### Penmanship

- Neat and controlled printing
- Neat and controlled cursive writing
- Independent note-taking skills

### Spelling & Grammar

- Know and employ the eight parts of speech effectively
- [Ayres Spelling Scale](#) (students entering grade 7 or 8 should be able to spell most words correctly).



- Identify complete sentences vs. sentence fragments
- Identify proper use of capitalization rules for proper nouns, beginning of sentences, the pronoun *I*
- Identify proper use of commas and end marks, i.e. periods, question marks
- Sentence diagramming (complete subject, complete predicate, direct and indirect object)

### Composition

- Write in complete sentences, avoiding run-ons and sentence fragments.
- Proper use of punctuation and capitalization.
- Varied and expansive social and academic vocabulary
- Can write a comprehensive 5 paragraph essay or produce narrative writing, or descriptive paragraphs up to two pages in length in 45-60 minutes, with a topic sentence, supporting details, and a concluding sentence.
- Practice summer writing using No Red Ink - <https://www.noredink.com/>

### Literature & Reading

- To help parents build reading comprehension over the summer create a student account at <https://readtheory.org/> Complete 15 minutes daily. Your child should consistently be at or above grade level.
- Students should be fluent readers, both silently and orally. They should be reading classic novels independently and with understanding. To achieve this students should be reading at least one hour per day of serious literature (not graphic novels) over the summer.
- Here are some of the novels read and poetry, and recitations completed in grade 6:

Books	Poetry & Recitations
Serrailier, Beowulf Tolkien, The Hobbit Dickens, A Christmas Carol Green, King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night's Dream, Hamlet, King Lear, Twelfth Night, Romeo and Juliet, The Tempest, Othello, Macbeth (all adapted by David Timson - Naxos)	Mr. Toad Jabberwocky In Flanders Fields I Have a Dream; If A Visit From St. Nicholas Seven Ages of Man



Beowulf (adapted by Serrailier) Chaucer, Canterbury Tales (adapted by Tappan or McCaughrean) Cervantes, Don Quixote of the Mancha (adapted by Parry) Lang, Arabian Nights	
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### Mathematics - Singapore Dimensions

- Math fluency: students should be able to complete at least 50 math facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division up to the number 12 in one minute). Find exercises at [webmathminute.com](http://webmathminute.com).
- Know problems solving language and be able to decode and solve word problems
- **Singapore Dimensions program.** We recommend students have a strong grasp of and review concepts covered in the previous 2 grades.

Singapore Math - [Grade 6 to 8 Dimensions](#)

Textbooks and workbooks may be purchased at <https://www.singaporemath.com/> or [canadianhomeeducation.com](http://canadianhomeeducation.com).

- Singapore online lectures can be accessed for those who would like extra help for their children. You can access them by following the instructions below (please keep this information within the CCA community):

Preparing for Grade 7 Dimensions:

<https://vimeo.com/>

Login: [Colleen.parks@classicalacademy.ca](mailto:Colleen.parks@classicalacademy.ca)

Password: CCA2022!

Once in - enter one of the following link: <https://vimeo.com/ondemand/purchases> and review the grade 6 program to prepare for Grade 7

Grade 7A/B and Grade 8A/B Online Videos

- The website <https://singaporemathlive.com/getting-started/> has a online lessons for Singapore Dimensions 7A and 7B or 8A and 8B, which it is highly recommended parents purchase. The textbooks are required. This is an on demand course, so parents must create an unique account and purchase the program. The license lasts one year.



- For students entering grade 8 it is recommended that grade 7 is reviewed. necessary for your daughter to have the background in Dimensions Math 7. Dimensions Math 6 is not sufficient.
- However, there is an overlap in topics. It is recommended students review the exercise at the end of each chapter of Dimensions 7A and 7B. ) Students can use the video series (purchased from the link above) and skim the lesson and do some of the problems in the exercise that follows it. Purchasing the textbook and not the workbooks is sufficient. It will take some work but some chapters can be skipped. Focusing on the algebra chapters (3, 4, and 5 in 7A, and 10 and 11 in 7B) and the geometry chapters (12, 13, and 14 in 7B) is a good starting point.
- Tutoring or support in Math?  
<https://www.seriouslyaddictivemaths.ca/eng/pages/home>  
<https://www.flyingminds.ca/mathtutor>  
<https://calgarybrightminds.com/programs/>
- Scope and sequence for Singapore Math K - 5 and 6 - 8, please review the following:  
[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope\\_1.pdf?v=1635780325](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope_1.pdf?v=1635780325)
- To review the scope and sequence for Singapore Math Dimensions for grades 6 - 8 please review the following:  
[https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope\\_2.pdf?v=1635780325](https://cdn.shopify.com/s/files/1/0603/7487/6349/files/Scope_2.pdf?v=1635780325)

### History & Geography

- We encourage students to have a basic familiarity of the four major eras of history -ancient civilizations, medieval times, the renaissance, and the modern era. This may be accomplished by reading or listening to the audio version of Susan Wise-Bauer's *The Story of the World: Ancient Times*, vol. 1.

Students should be able to:

- Identify their country, province, and city on a map;
- Identify the continents and major oceans on a map;
- locate countries on the world map;
- Be able to construct timelines and maps; and,
- Be able to use and interpret primary sources and texts.

### Science

- Students should possess a natural curiosity and wonder about the natural world



- Students should be well versed in the scientific method, be able to conduct an experiment, be well versed in lab safety and conduct, and be able to write a full scientific report detailing their findings

## **Digital Detox**

CCA is a smart phone free environment, and the use of technology is limited, and purposeful at every grade level. There is substantial evidence that technology is causing great harm to our children. Please consider a digital detox for your family over the summer months to help prepare them for school. Here are some readings and resources that will help you:

[How a Digital Detox Could Improve Your Child's Behavior Problems](#)

[Digital Detox: How to Limit Screen Time for Kids](#)

[Digital Detox: The Two-Week Tech Reset for Kids by Molly DeFrank](#)

We hope you find the above information useful. We look forward to the upcoming school year!

Best Regards,

The Grade Seven and Eight Teachers  
Colleen Parks, Principal Educator