

Dear Parents,

Happy 1st day of summer vacation! Your **8th grader** is teed up beautifully for social studies in August. In fact, your student worked so diligently throughout the school year that the curriculum was covered in its entirety ... no missing sections, no gaps. Pat yourselves, and more importantly, your student(s) on the back for a job well done! I normally suggest a few activities to help bridge the summer learning gap, and this year remains no different. Please see the following list:

1. **READ!** Try reading a historical novel! Some suggestions are highlighted below or check with your local library for additional selections ... Bud, Not Buddy (an easy read, but applicable to 8th grade studies), The Watsons Go To Birmingham, The Wednesday Wars, Bomb: The Race to Build and Steal the World's Most Dangerous Weapon, Profiles in Courage, War Horse, Elephant in the Garden, etc ... The strongest readers are also consistently the strongest writers/students ... **just read!** :)

2. Practice/explore **geography** on the following sites:

<https://online.seterra.com/>

<https://nationalgeographic.com/>

On the National Geographic site, under “menu” in the top right corner, explore the following topics/sections:

History & Culture

Podcasts – Check out the fascinating podcasts on – The Life of Amelia Earhart, How Anne Frank’s Diary Survived, The Hole Where King Tut’s Heart used to be, etc.

3. Practice **social studies** skills on IXL! I will have some content areas highlighted for practice.

4. Check out <https://www.icivics.org/>... an online interactive site created by retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to keep students engaged in **civic education**. The site is pure fun and highly interactive!

5. Check out the History Channel for any new releases this summer.

If you have any specific questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. It was a pleasure to teach and learn from your student this past year... Enjoy a happy and healthy summer! God Bless!

Sincerely,

Patti Ahern