

Cambrian School District

Optional Learning Grades 6-8 Alternative Activities

These are extra, non-required (but fun) activities that can be done independently at home.

Literacy			
Independently read a newspaper or magazine for 45 minutes	Set up a still life art scene using objects around your home - sketch it and write down why you organized the objects the way you did.	Start your own novel:) Create your characters and design your plot map. . . and start writing!	Draw/write about your dream vacation. Where would you go? Who would you be with? What would you do? What would it cost? PLAN IT!!!
Write a commercial for your favorite food, sporting event, YouTube channel . . .	Go to Yelp and review your favorite and least favorite restaurants. Be specific about what you liked/did not like about food, service, and ambiance.	Analyze the words to one of your favorite songs. Is there a deeper meaning? What is it?	Write a poem about your best friend and give it to them as a gift.
Re-read a book you've already read (at least a year ago). Has the story/message changed for you? Journal about it!	Create a preliminary design for your own school. What would you want to change about the way students are educated, and how would you make it happen?	Write a letter to the editor of the Mercury News about the government's handling of the Coronavirus. Have they done enough or should they do more? Justify your opinion.	Read a picture book to a little brother or sister or neighbor. Or, read a book to a family member and talk about the book with them.

Math			
Design your dream house to scale.	Shop for a house. Go to www.mlslistings.com , type in the zip code and find your home. Then, determine a salary and budget that would allow you to purchase it!	Play a mathematics board/card game with your family.	Search YouTube for the best math teaching videos to recommend to your friends.
Find an awesome recipe to make for your family and double it.	Design a skate park- make sure to pre-determine angles and slopes!	Get the highest score on your favorite computer math game.	Go shopping with your parent/guardian. Estimate the cost of your groceries prior to checking out.
Play Soduko! http://www.kidsmathgameonline.com/sudoku.html	Plan a special meal for your family. Determine the cost of the ingredients	Plan a summer business (dog walking, pet sitting . . .) Create a brochure with your price structure.	Research the annual salaries for your favorite sports players. How much do they make an hour?

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Science/Technology/Engineering/Art			
Do your own science experiment at home. 8 awesomely simple science experiments you can do at home	Birdwatch! How many different types of birds did you see? Try to identify them by their physical characteristics.	Read the latest online news about the Coronavirus. Compare two news sources - are they saying similar things?	Draw something in nature (a tree, a scene). Use a pencil only!
Read the labels on two or three different foods in your pantry. Are these foods healthy? Research the ingredients and determine whether the food is healthy or not.	Attempt to orchestrate a low/no waste week for your family. Was your family able to reduce waste just by focusing more on conservation?	Make salt and flour playdough (2 cups flour, one cup salt, and one cup water) and have some fun making ornaments/models!	Gather some leaves from your yard and research the types of trees that produced them. Learn about the unique characteristics of those trees.

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25 Journal writing prompts for 6th to 8th grade.

Choose 1 per day to write about.

1. Attach an image (photo, magazine, etc.) to a notebook page and write about it.
2. What things will people in the future say about how we live now? (Examples: They ate that? They believed that?)
3. Pick one from each list to make a creature and animal combination. Now write a short story or scene in which this creature appears.

List 1	List 2
Vampire	porcupine
Ninja	armadillo
Zombie	pig
Pirate	goat
Mummy	lobster
Clown	possum
Banshee	shark
Wraith	moray

4. Imagine a future in which we each have a personalized robot servant. What would yours be like? What would it do? What features would it have?
5. What does your name mean? Free write about names: names you like, names you don't, how a name can affect a person's life, how you feel about your own name, why your parents chose your name, etc.
6. Create a brand new holiday with its own traditions, rituals, foods, and activities.
7. What road-trip would you take if you suddenly could? Write about it. 8. List six true sentences that begin with the words "I'll never forget..."
8. Imagine that we lost all electricity, water, and gas for a month without any time to prepare. Write about how your life would change and how you would survive.

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9. Make your bucket list for the next 5 years, the next 10 years, and for life.
10. Tell this story: "Well, I thought it was going to be a regular summer doing all our regular things..."
11. List 10 places in the world that you would most like to visit, 10 places you've been, and 10 places you would never want to go.
12. Think about hospitality in your family. What's it like to have guests in your house? Do you prefer to have friends at your house or to go to a friend's house?
13. Pick a family member or two and write about his or her reputation in your family, or tell a family legend.
14. A guitar pick, a red balloon, and a wicker basket. Write a scene or a poem that includes these three objects.
15. What animal would judge us the most? Write a scene (based on truth or fiction) where two or more people are doing something silly, and they're being observed and criticized by animals.
16. Write about your own worst family vacation memory. 18. Write about your best family vacation memory.
17. Imagine that someone says to you, "Because that's how we've always done it!" Write this out as a scene. (Think: Who said it, what were the circumstances, how did you respond, etc.)
18. What do you think about when you can't sleep? Turn it into a piece of writing.
19. What traditions does your family have? List all of them or just pick one and write about it.
20. Think about your strongest emotion right now (irritation, boredom, happiness, contentment, etc.) and find five quotes about this emotion.
21. What do you struggle with the most? Write about it.
22. Write a self-portrait.
23. What can we learn from contrast? Write a description of something very dark (like a crow) in a very light place (like a field of snow). Make the dark thing seem innocent and the light thing seems ominous.

<https://smallworldathome.blogspot.com/2014/12/100-not-boring-writing-prompts-for.html>

Read 30 minutes each day and answer 1 question about what you read.