



SECONDARY DIVISION

Secondary Division Summer Learning 2020 and Book Orders for August 2020

Summer Learning is Important!

TASIS Dorado is committed to the premise that learning is a lifelong process; the school encourages all learners to be active and curious throughout the school year and beyond. We also recognize that changes in summer schedules, including travel, vacations, camps, academic programs, family time, and – for older students – work and volunteer activities, mean that structuring time for learning can be challenging. We support our students’ and families’ needs and encourage them to take a break, recharge, and enjoy new activities during the summer months. However, research has shown that without exposure to reading, writing, and math during the extended summer break, students suffer from “[summer amnesia](#)” when they return to school in August. For that reason, we strongly encourage all our families to support their students’ learning through our **summer vacation learning guidelines**, while still enjoying the summer. We want all students to return to school energized, confident, and motivated as they begin the new year!

New this Year: Online Ordering System and Delivery!

New this year is an online ordering system through [Librería Contemporánea](#). It is a simple and easy way for parents and students to access and receive their books and digital platform license information directly to their homes. This company is a local supplier that works with many schools to provide fast, efficient, and cost-effective ordering of supplementary readings, workbooks, and digital platform licenses. **Summer reading and the assigned readings/platforms are organized by grade. You can have everything delivered directly to your home or pick them up in person at one of their bookstores located in Bayamon or Guaynabo.** We are confident that this new system will provide excellent service for our community. We welcome your feedback on this new procedure. We highly recommend ordering all needed books/licenses/workbooks for summer and August now, to ensure your student(s) have everything they need to confidently begin the new school year.

Important Note: *Librería Contemporánea’s Online Order Page for the summer and next school year will launch during the week of June 8. To order before, you must call one of their stores or order via email. The book lists by grade for summer and during the year are available on our website under the tab “Quicklinks” and the bookstore will also have them. Here is the contact information for ordering before June 8:*

Bayamón: (787) 288-3448 / (787) 780-8385; bayamon@libreriapr.com

Guaynabo: (787) 782-7331; guaynabo@libreriapr.com

Orders can be shipped or picked up at the store.

Pre-Order School Agendas

Since more and more students are relying on electronic agendas and Veracross, for the academic year 2020-2021 we will order agendas only for those students who pre-order, believing it is useful as an organizational tool. There is no cost for the agenda, but you will only receive one if you specifically request it. The last day to order is Monday, June 8. ([Pre-Order Form](#))

Technology

All students in grades 6-12 must have a personal laptop to bring to school as a learning tool every day. Most of our school programs are web-based (ex: Google Classroom, Veracross, Membean, etc.). **Rising 6th-grade students are required to purchase a Chromebook**, which is the type of device they used in 4th and 5th grade. They come in various brands, sizes, and prices, but the operating system is the same. These devices are affordable, have a long battery life, connect to all of our online tools, boot/update in seconds, and do not get viruses or malware. Due to our 6th-grade students’ experience with this type of device, this will be one less major adjustment as they move into middle school. Our teachers are also using **Chromebooks**, which supports seamless integration. If you have any specific questions, contact Dr. James McCartney (mccartney.j@tasisdorado.com). All devices must have Wi-Fi capability, at least 4GB of RAM, and at least 32 MB of memory.

Secondary Division – Guidelines for Summer Learning

Summer is a wonderful time to explore new interests in learning and appreciate new experiences. Use this opportunity to select readings for relaxation, humor, learning, and as a challenge to understand new ideas and perspectives. Students should strive to read daily and practice math for a total of 90 minutes per week, though no page or time records will be required.

Sixth – Eighth Grades

Reading: Required reading in the Middle School grades includes one book for English and one for Spanish. Students may read them at their convenience with the understanding that the school year will start with work on those titles one week after classes begin. While Membean practice is not required in summer, students may wish to continue practicing their vocabulary skills using this website. Students are encouraged to read and discuss additional selections for their own enjoyment and may choose to read novels, online or print magazines, graphic novels, and audiobooks. A list of suggested titles will be available to them.

Math: Students are encouraged to do occasional math practice to refresh their skills while staying agile and not forgetting important strategies. Websites such as [Khan Academy](#) offer excellent practice opportunities and ongoing preparation for standardized tests.

Writing: Students are encouraged to continue to express themselves through writing in the summer as during the school year. Study guides for their summer reading may require written responses to the novel.

Study Guides

ELA Guides

- a. [6th Grade](#)
- b. [7th Grade](#)
- c. [8th Grade](#)

Spanish Guides

- a. [6th Grade](#)
- b. [7th Grade](#)
- c. [8th Grade](#)

SSL Guides

- a. [SSL 1 \(MS\)](#)
- b. [SSL 2 \(MS\)](#)
- c. [SSL 3 \(MS\)](#)
- d. [Introduction to Spanish Literature \(MS\)](#)

Returning to School: Find time to enjoy learning and keeping your skills fresh at your own pace during the summer months. Upon returning in August, students should be prepared to work with their summer assignments in class one week after the beginning of school.

Ninth – Twelfth Grades

Reading: As in Middle School, English and Spanish classes will assign one reading that may have a study guide. Students may read them at their convenience but should be prepared to discuss the work one week after arriving at school. While Membean practice is not required during the summer, students may wish to use this or other websites such as [Khan Academy](#) to continue vocabulary development and reading comprehension. SSL students will receive a summer assignment according to their level. Students are encouraged to read and discuss additional selections chosen for their own enjoyment. A list of suggested titles will be available to them.

Math: Students are encouraged to do occasional math practice to refresh their skills while staying agile and not forgetting important strategies. Websites such as Khan Academy offer excellent practice opportunities and ongoing preparation for standardized tests.

Writing: Students are encouraged to write for enjoyment and to express themselves through writing during summer vacation. Study guides that accompany summer readings may require written responses to the novels.

Study Guides

ELA Guides

- a. [9th Grade](#)
- b. [10th Grade](#)
- c. [11th Grade-American Literature](#)
- d. [12th Grade-British Literature](#)

Spanish Guides

- a. [9th Grade](#)
- b. [10th Grade](#)
- c. [11th Grade](#)
- d. [12th Grade](#)

SSL Guides

- a. [SSL 1 \(HS\)](#)
- b. [SSL 2 \(HS\)](#)
- c. [SSL 3 \(HS\)](#)
- d. [Introduction to Spanish Literature \(HS\)](#)

AP Summer Work

AP Courses: Some, but not all AP Courses, require a summer assignment. Work in class on these assignments will begin immediately when the course commences in August.

- [Pre-AP/AP Studio Art](#)
- [Nivel Avanzado](#)
- [AP Psychology](#)
- [AP Physics I](#)

- [AP Chemistry](#)
- [AP English Language](#)
- [AP English Literature](#)
- [AP World History](#)
- [AP United States History](#)
- [AP Government](#)
- [AP European History](#)
- [AP Seminar \(Capstone Year 1\)](#)
- [AP Research \(Capstone Year 2\)](#)

Returning to School: Students should be prepared to work with their summer assignments one week after the beginning of classes in August for regular classes. AP class assignments will be discussed when the course begins.

Among the many challenges the COVID Pandemic has brought, the increase in screen time has certainly been high on the list. Andrew McPeak, the author of *Generation Z Unfiltered: Facing Nine Hidden Challenges of the Most Anxious Population*, has found that many students are missing opportunities to utilize their time at home well. Thus, he suggests four simple strategies that guarantee students to make most of their home-stay. The following newsletter summarizes McPeak's recommendations: [Summer 2020 - Parent Newsletter](#).

In closing, one of our main focus points for our educators and students at TASIS Dorado has been developing a "growth mindset." A **growth mindset** unlocks our ability to learn and adapt, especially during challenging times. Little did we know how vital this growth mindset would be for all of us this year! Because of this experience and our growth mindset, I believe we will all be stronger when we come out on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic! History is being written! We hold the pen! Together, we will write the BEST story along with our children!

We are looking forward to a terrific year in 2020-2021! Have a wonderfully safe, relaxing, and blessed summer!

Please contact us if you have any questions or need any support.

Best Regards,

Susan Fiallo, Director of Curriculum - (fiallo.s@tasisdorado.com)

Sara Hernández, Upper School Principal - (hernandez.s@tasisdorado.com)

*Note: We will be providing more information about the next academic year at the end of the month of June. Also, the **SUMMER LEARNING** information for the Elementary Division is being finalized and coming out next week!*