



**NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
PIONEERING STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

# ELEMENTARY SUMMER LEARNING GUIDE 2024



*This guide shares district-provided and freely available resources for parents and guardians to help their student experience enriching and fun educational opportunities during the summer months.*

# INTRODUCTION

## WHY SUMMER LEARNING IS IMPORTANT

Research shows that students experience learning losses, especially in reading, spelling, and mathematics when they are not engaged in these activities over the summer months.

## WAYS TO SUPPORT SUMMER LEARNING

### *Have a summer plan with regular daily routines.*

Kids thrive in a structured environment, so create a summer learning plan with goals and daily activities that students can perform for a set amount of time per day.

*Your plan should include a list to check off completed tasks so that your child can see that they are making progress toward their goals!*

### *Reward good behavior.*

Set motivational incentives to keep your child excited about the process. Give lots of praise as kids ultimately want to make their parents happy!

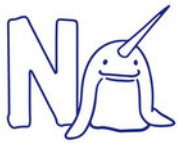
### *Keep it simple.*

More simple plans are easier to manage. You don't have to be a teacher to help your kids over the summer!



B	I	N	G	O
Read 30 minutes a day	Count the coins in your piggy bank	Play a board game with your family	Visit the Natick Community Organic Farm or Lookout Farm	Use BrainPOP
Attend an arts event in Natick with your family	Write a song	Find the letters of the alphabet on signs you see	Count the number of doors on your house	Listen to an audio book
Count the number of dogs you see on a family walk	Visit the Morse Institute or Bacon Free Libraries	<b>FREE</b>	Play outside with friends	Color a page from the NPS Summer Fun Coloring Pack
Practice typing skills	Visit the Natick History Museum	Get a library card	Play an addition or multiplication game with a pair dice	Help measure ingredients for dinner
Go on a nature walk and draw a picture of any wildlife you see	Learn a new word	Measure the area of your bedroom	Read a book with your parents or caregiver	Take a family walk on the Cochituate Rail Trail

# SUMMER READING



## TIPS FROM ELEMENTARY LITERACY LEADERS

We hope you continue to listen to your child read and read to them over the summer. Below are a few tips to keep your kids reading skills in excellent condition for their return to school in the fall.

- Get 30 minutes of reading a day.
- Include reading aloud in your 30 minutes of reading; perhaps they will read one page of text to you, the most interesting part, or something they were thinking about.
- Try audio books! They don't replace all your reading, but are wonderful in the car on short or long trips and also at bedtime.
- Allow for book choice. It's acceptable if students want to read a series of graphic novels or all the same type of books. We are often that way as readers, too. Go with your reader's current favorites. All reading counts including texts like cookbooks, magazines, cereal boxes, Lego instructions, and more. Our local librarians at Morse are a great help in steering students to similar books to ones the students love.
- Try some apps and online resources shared below



Download the Natick Summer Fun Coloring Pack  
[bit.ly/NPSColorPack](http://bit.ly/NPSColorPack)



## SUGGESTED APPS & ONLINE RESOURCES

- Raz-Kids (K-2), Lalilo (K-2), PebbleGo (K-4), and Sora (K-4) are available during the summer. The log-in remains the same.
- StoryLine has wonderful stories read aloud at [www.storylineonline.net](http://www.storylineonline.net).
- Unite for Literacy also contains online reading and audio books at [www.uniteforliteracy.com](http://www.uniteforliteracy.com).
- Decodable books are available at <https://portal.flyleafpublishing.com/learners-resources/> or <https://halfpintkids.com/online-materials/>
- <https://www.starfall.com/h/> has a free version to practice reading and spelling

### Suggested podcasts:

- [Reading Bug](#)
- [Circle Round](#)
- [Animal of the Day](#)
- [Tumble](#)

### For older readers:

- [Worderopolis](#) - an intriguing question is posed each day and then explored in a variety of ways
- [The Kids Should See This](#) - "Smart videos for curious minds of all ages"
- [Brains On](#) (American Public Radio)

## THE KEY TO STRENGTHENING READING SKILLS

**Accuracy in reading is the key to growth. There are several ways to strengthen this skill**

- Have your reader start with easier books. Books do not have to be difficult to be effective.
- When a reader reaches a word they are unfamiliar with, encourage them to use letter-sound relationships, syllables and then context clues to figure out the unknown word. (Read more about morphology [here](#).)
- Talk to them about difficult words, such as technical words or unfamiliar ones. Make corrections after waiting and stating, "Let me know if I can help you with any tricky words" or "Lets work on figuring out this word together."
- As you share the word sound and spelling, point out the structure of the word and share its meaning(s).

**Above all, enjoy the experience of reading with your child.** Read books together, read aloud to your child, have them read from all different types of texts.

# SUMMER MATH

Summer is a great time to engage in fun math activities! Students should be interacting with numbers regularly at every age! Students need to be fluent in their addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts. Being fluent with these facts allows students to focus on new concepts and be confident mathematicians. Below you will find the fluency expectations for each grade and resources for you and your student to use. Research shows that it only takes 7-10 minutes a day for students to show progress with their math facts and overall number sense.

## FLUENCY EXPECTATIONS BY GRADE

### Kindergarten:

Fluently add and subtract within 5, including zero

### First Grade:

Fluently add and subtract within 10

### Second Grade:

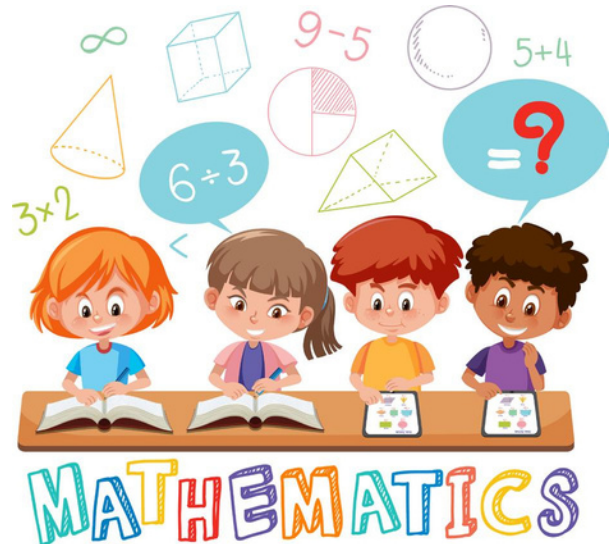
Fluently add and subtract within 20. By the end of grade 2, know from memory all sums (addition) of two single-digit whole numbers and related differences (subtraction).

### Third Grade:

Fluently multiply and divide within 100

### Fourth Grade:

Know multiplication facts and related division facts through  $12 \times 12$



## ONLINE RESOURCES

### Reflex Math

[launchpad.classlink.com/natickps](http://launchpad.classlink.com/natickps)

Elementary students K-4 will continue to have access to log into their Reflex accounts over the summer through Classlink. This is an option for practicing math fact fluency.

### ZEARN

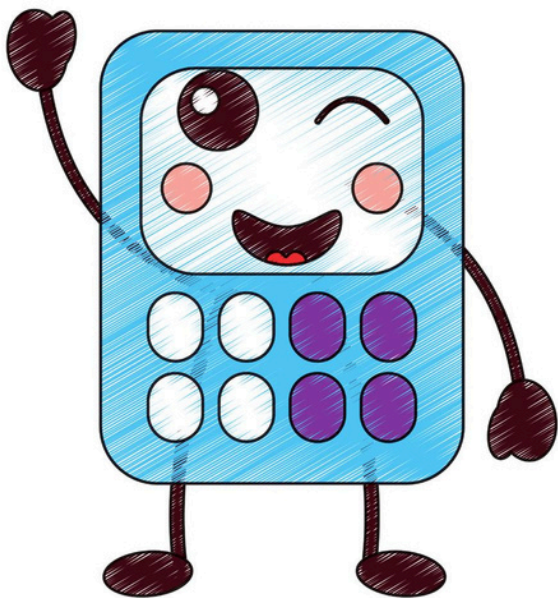
[launchpad.classlink.com/natickps](http://launchpad.classlink.com/natickps)

Elementary students K-4 will continue to have access to log into their Zearn accounts over the summer through Classlink. We encourage families to do Zearn activities to stay sharp with math fluency and skills.

### Greg Tang Summer Math Challenge

[tangmath.com/summer](http://tangmath.com/summer)

Here is an optional Math Challenge by Greg Tang. Feel free to try this challenge if you want to practice some fun math games over the summer.



### Bedtime Math

[bedtimemath.org](http://bedtimemath.org)

A website that sends caregivers a fun, new math problem every day, on everything from electric eels and chocolate chips to roller coasters and flamingoes. Targeted for kids ages 3-9, it begins with a short, fun set-up story, followed by three math problems at three levels of challenge.

## FUN MATH AT HOME

### Counting Around the House: Count things around the house.

**Kindergarten:** How many doors? Windows? Chairs?

**1 & 2:** Make up number stories (word problems) with those numbers.

**Addition:** I have 21 books on the top shelf and 15 books on the second shelf. How many books do I have in all?

**Subtraction:** I have 45 baseball cards and I give 24 away. How many are left?

### Money Matters: Empty those pockets or piggy banks and look at coins.

**Kindergarten & 1:** How many pennies? How many nickels? How many dimes? How many quarters?

**1 & 2:** Grab 3 or 4 coins and count the value of those coins.

**3 & 4:** Do easy addition and subtraction problems where they can use mental math to solve. (Ex., I have \$10 and I spent \$4.60, how much money do I have left?)



### What time is it?

**Kindergarten:** Find clocks and identify the numbers they see.

**1:** Have kids tell time to the hour & the half hour.

**1-4:** Have kids read clocks around the house. Many people have digital clocks but using an analog clock is even better.

**2:** Tell time to the nearest 5 minutes.

**1 & 2:** Use a timer to time things. How long does it take to brush your teeth, eat dinner or get dressed?

**3 & 4:** Do elapsed time problems. (Ex., We need to leave at 8:40 for a 35-minute trip, what time will we arrive?)

### Go Shopping!: Try some of these activities the next time you go to the store.

**Kindergarten-2:** Identify shapes (solid shapes like cylinders and rectangular prisms).

**Kindergarten-2:** Read \$ and cents on price tags and displays.

**Kindergarten-2:** Try out the scale; weigh different fruits and veggies.

**3 & 4:** Shopping is a great way to make math connections. You can create a budget, make change, find serving sizes and calculate costs.



### Math in Literature

**All grades:** Find a math themed book or find the math inside a book when you are reading with your child.

### Get Cooking

**All grades:** Cooking is a great way to incorporate math in the real world. Cooking uses fractions, measurement, and time.

### Measure This

Have children tell you the best tool to use to measure/weigh different items. Have them estimate lengths. Measure to tell how much longer one item is than another item.

**3-4:** Have kids help you measure things around the house. Use a ruler, yardstick, or tape measure.

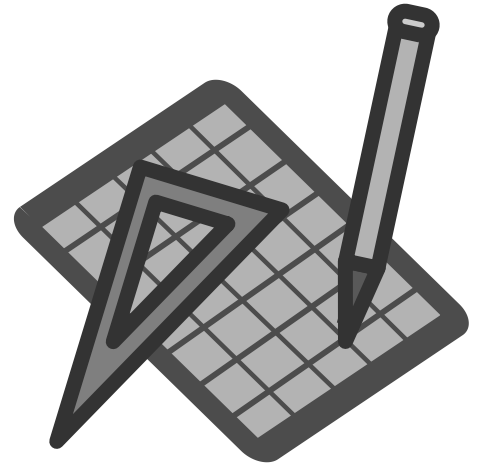
Challenge kids by having them find the area or perimeter of a room or convert measurements from inches to feet or feet to yards.

### Game Night

Lots of family board games incorporate math skills like money, counting, patterns, strategy, and problem solving.

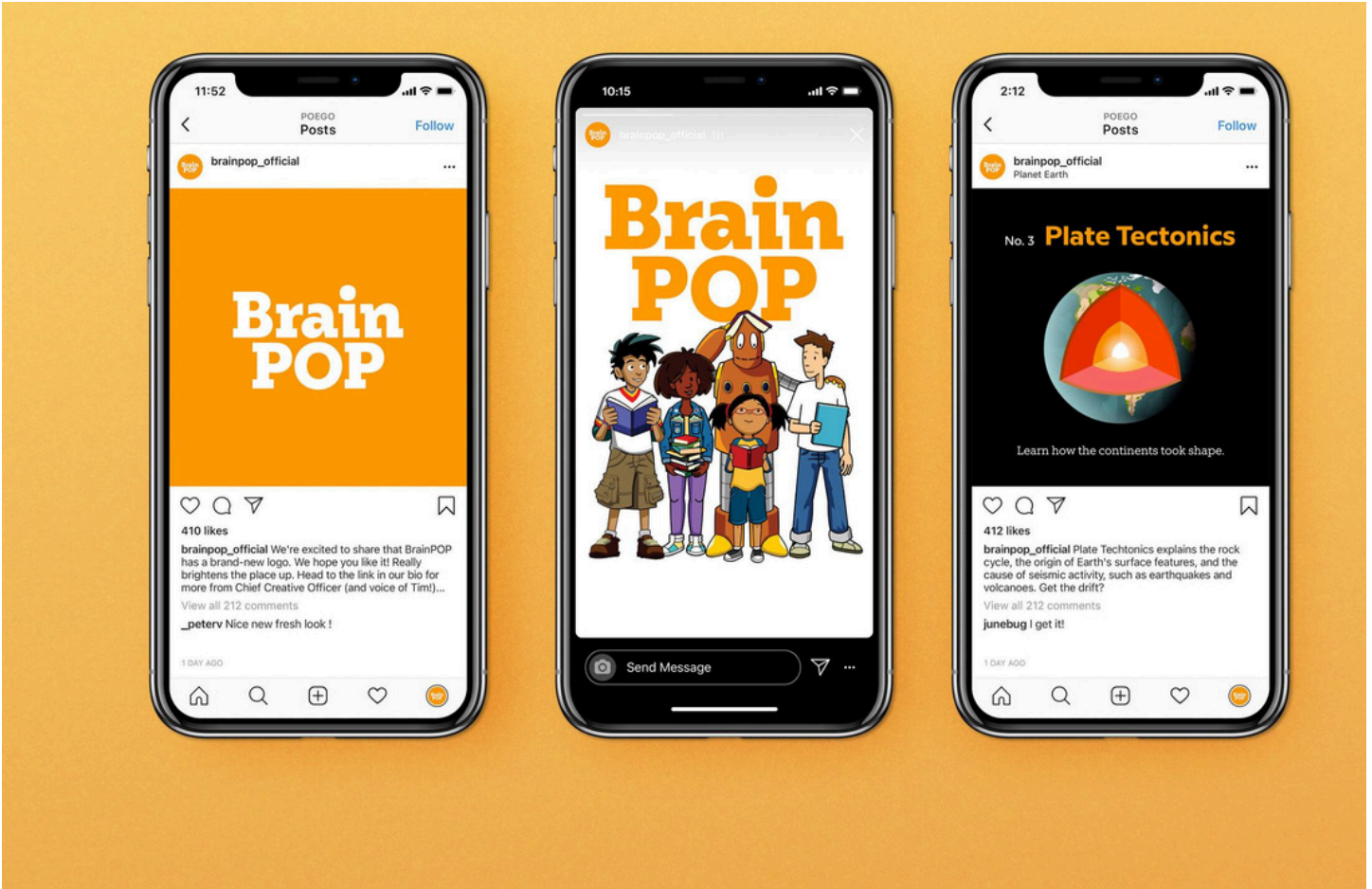
## MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH

Join the [Middle School Mathematics Google Classroom](https://classroom.google.com/c/Njg0NTQ2Mzk2MjU2?cjc=fr7rgre) to access calendars of daily summer math activities for NPS middle schoolers. The classroom link is:  
<https://classroom.google.com/c/Njg0NTQ2Mzk2MjU2?cjc=fr7rgre>.



## Google Meet Tutoring Sessions

Students who need tutoring to complete Algebra material can attend sessions with Ms. DeRosa, the Middle School Department Head. These half hour extra help sessions will be held on July 18, July 29, and August 15. from 1-1:30 p.m. Watch your email for details or reach out to your principal.

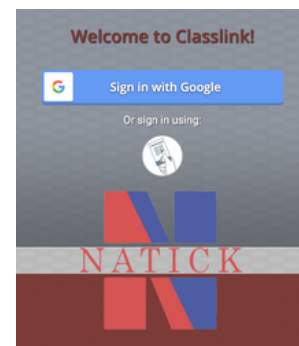


Activities in science, social studies, english, math, engineering & tech, health, arts, music, and more! BrainPOP creates animated, curricular content that engages students in grades K-8, and bolsters achievement. This award-winning online educational resource includes:

BrainPOP characters introduce new topics and illustrate complex concepts supporting individual students with gameplay and activities. BrainPOP is a fun place for students to explore online!

Check out BrainPOP's game called CodeMonkey. Students use coding skills to program a monkey to grab bananas and ride the turtle without falling into the river!

**To access BrainPop please use ClassLink and log in with your school username and password.**



# SUMMER LEARNING TIPS

noredink

vocabulary.com

newsela

duolingo

poets.org

The New York Times

## 8 Summer Learning Tips

It is important for children to keep learning during the summer. Here are some tips to support summer learning in your family:



- 1. Sign-up for free summer learning tips by visiting [familiesinschools.org](https://familiesinschools.org) and clicking on Passport to Success.**

Throughout the summer, free tips are provided to parents on fun ways to support their child's learning at home.

- 2. Read with your child every day.**  
If your child is in middle school or high school, set up a family reading time when everyone is reading at the same time daily.

- 3. Participate in a free summer reading program at your local library.**

Many libraries have prizes for children who participate.

- 4. Visit museums as a family and discover art, history, and science.**

Many museums are free or have free days once a month.

- 5. Participate in cultural festivals and explore different worlds.**

Discuss with your child how cultures are different and the same.

- 6. Attend a musical event and experience the wonder of rhythm.**

Examine timing, beats, and math through music.

- 7. Visit the beach and discover sea life.**

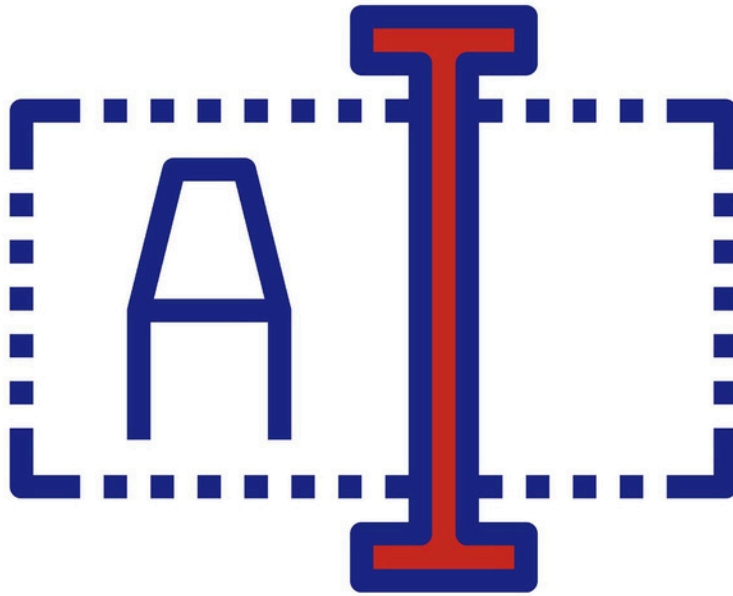
Have a conversation with your child about sea life including plants, fish, and tides.

- 8. Go to the zoo and explore the world of animals.**

Talk with your child about animal colors, sizes, similarities, and differences.



# TYPING SKILL-BUILDING



## WHY IS TYPING IMPORTANT?

- The Common Core State Standards require proficiency in keyboarding skills.
- The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) online assessments from grade 3 on require students to read and write online, including entering math equations.
- Electronic devices are ever more present in our daily lives and require keyboarding skills.
- Accurate and speedy typing is important for student confidence in working online.

## WHEN INTRODUCING TYPING SKILLS, MOTIVATION IS KEY

Students progress in this complex skill set when they are motivated, monitored, and rewarded. They must spend quality time practicing, and learn to tolerate frustration.

## 10-15 minutes per day of practicing keyboarding can improve skills.

Young students are motivated by the ability to communicate using the keyboard. They think typing is grown up! They love typing their names, the entire alphabet, names of pets, or their favorite anything! Starting at about age 9 students are motivated by the ability to find letters quickly to type online.

Further your child's keyboarding skills with free web-based keyboarding programs recommended by Natick teachers.

**DANCE MAT TYPING**  
[bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr#z34thyc](http://bbc.co.uk/guides/z3c6tfr#z34thyc)

**TYPING CLUB**  
[typingclub.com](http://typingclub.com)

ABCDEF GHIJKLMNOPKRSTUVWXYZ

# DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP RESOURCES

This page contains resources to support parents in teaching K-3 and grade 4-8 students about digital citizenship and internet safety.

**BrainPOP Jr.** and **BrainPOP** have age-appropriate and engaging resources that parents can use with their children to explain how to keep safe online and be responsible digital citizens. See the previous page for BrainPOP login information.

BrainPOP Jr. is for students in grades K-3 with topics on internet safety with short movies and interactive activities.

**For students in grades 4-8, BrainPOP has digital citizenship movies and activities on the following topics:**

Blogs  
Conflict Resolution  
Cyberbullying  
Distance Learning  
Information Privacy

Internet Search  
Online Safety  
Plagiarism  
Computer Programming  
Copyright

Digital Etiquette  
Email  
Instant Messaging  
Malware  
Online Sources

Social Media  
Hackers  
Internet  
Media Literacy  
Peer Pressure



**ALL DIGITAL CITIZENS**

- PROTECT PRIVATE INFORMATION**  
For themselves and others.
- RESPECT THEMSELVES AND OTHERS**  
in online communities.
- STAY SAFE ONLINE**  
by listening to their gut feelings.
- STAND UP TO CYBERBULLYING**  
when they see it happening.
- BALANCE THE TIME**  
they spend using media and doing other activities.

For information and resources about digital citizenship, visit [www.commonsense.org/educators](http://www.commonsense.org/educators).



## COMMON SENSE MEDIA

Common Sense is the nation's leading independent nonprofit organization dedicated to empowering kids to thrive in a world of media and technology. Learn more at [www.commonsensemedia.com](http://www.commonsensemedia.com).

## LOOKING FOR MORE SUMMER READING FUN?

check out additional reading by Morse ↓

MORSE INSTITUTE LIBRARY  
SUMMER READING

# Town of Natick Summer Checklist

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art in the Park               | <input type="checkbox"/> Natick Community Organic Farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bacon Free Library            | <input type="checkbox"/> Natick Farmers Market         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broadmoor Wildlife Sanctuary  | <input type="checkbox"/> Natick History Museum         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Center for Arts in Natick     | <input type="checkbox"/> Natick Town Forest            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cochituate Rail Trail         | <input type="checkbox"/> South Natick Dam Park         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cochituate State Park         | <input type="checkbox"/> Town of Natick Trails         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Concerts on the Common        | <input type="checkbox"/> -----                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Performing Arts Series | <input type="checkbox"/> -----                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lookout Farm                  | <input type="checkbox"/> -----                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial Beach                | <input type="checkbox"/> -----                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morse Institute Library       | <input type="checkbox"/> -----                         |

## NPS Health Services

Hours: 8AM -3PM  
Phone: 508-647-6604  
Fax: 508-651-7167

[SUMMER HEALTH SERVICES GUIDE](#)

[click to view](#)

## STAY CONNECTED

**DISTRICT WEBSITE** → [www.NatickPS.org](http://www.NatickPS.org)

**SCHOOL MESSENGER** → Update your profile in PowerSchool to receive all important messages