



**HAPPY HOLLOW SCHOOL**  
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Dear Families,

I know you are concerned about your child's education and want to keep him/her up to date while you are away from school. Your request for work shows your sincere interest.

However, when children are out for unscheduled vacations, it is not possible for staff to create the exact assignments that your child will miss. Most lessons require instruction and participation in the whole activity to be truly valuable.

To that end, it is always helpful for children to do the following types of tasks while away to enrich their skills in various areas. Your choice depends on grade level and type of trip you are taking:

- Continue reading nightly from whatever book he/she is reading. This could be augmented with reading about the place you are visiting, particular sights of interest, historical significance etc.
- Keep a daily journal about the trip, including some places visited and people seen. Be sure to include personal reactions to what has been seen and experienced. Pay particular attention to how lifestyles, traditions and cultures differ from what is familiar.
- Collect postcards, travel brochures etc.; take pictures (or draw some) to include in a scrapbook or travelogue of the trip, include narratives to explain what has been collected. Share the finished product with the class on return.
- Use maps to track the routes of places visited; notice the towns, states, and countries and use math skills to calculate the miles between destinations or between places on the map; compare populations of towns and cities in the area.
- Make a map of the places visited.
- Practice mental math problems while traveling between places.
- Read the local newspapers and cut out some articles to share with classmates back in Wayland.
- Make a "newspaper" filled with headlines and article of things done on the trip. Writing one article a day is a manageable routine. Include photos, crossword puzzles, cartoons and advertisements
- Use math skills to add the restaurant bills, figure out gratuities, and to determine correct change amounts.

Thank you again for your inquiry. I hope these suggestions are helpful and you are able to incorporate some sort of them into your time away from school. Happy and safe travels!

All best,

Tricia O'Reilly  
Principal