



**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

# **2014-2015 Suggested Winter Recess**

## **K-12 Student Activities**



**THESE ACTIVITIES ARE PROVIDED AS A RESOURCE FOR INTERESTED STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS.  
THEY ARE NOT REQUIRED ASSIGNMENTS.**

## 2014-2015 Winter Recess Recommended Activities and Resources - Elementary School (Grades K-5)

English Language Arts Grades K-2	
Recommended Activities: Have your child...	Recommended Digital Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw a picture of your favorite page. Draw and explain in writing why this page is your favorite.</li> <li>• Make a picture timeline of all the events in the book, labeling or drawing each of the events.</li> <li>• Create a puppet or finger puppet about your favorite character. Write a sentence or two about what your puppet would say about the book.</li> <li>• Draw and create a poster using one or two of the following media (finger paint, water colors, crayons, chalk, and real materials) to advertise a book so someone else will want to read it.</li> <li>• Make up another beginning and ending for the book you have read. Include pictures or drawings.</li> <li>• Make a mobile using words, pictures or symbols to describe keys ideas or important information in the book. Write a sentence or brief summary of your findings.</li> <li>• Cut out magazine pictures to make a collage or poster to identify main purpose of the book. Write a brief summary to explain and describe the main purpose.</li> <li>• Draw a comic strip, including written captions, to describe events, steps, or concepts to describe the key idea(s) in a book that you have read.</li> <li>• Use a Venn diagram to identify similarities and differences between two individuals, events, ideas or information. Write a brief summary explain the similarities and differences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i-Ready: <a href="https://login.i-ready.com">https://login.i-ready.com</a> (selected schools)</li> <li>• myOnReader: <a href="http://www.myon.com/">http://www.myon.com/</a></li> </ul> <p>Students' usernames and passwords are needed to access these online resources.</p>
English Language Learners (ELL) Grades K-2	
Recommended Activities: Have your child...	Recommended Digital Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Find, name, draw and/or write about 5 objects that start with the letter H h.</li> <li>• Write a thank-you note about something you are thankful for (remember to use correct upper and lowercase letters).</li> <li>• Discuss a family tradition with a family member/friend and write a few sentences or paragraphs summarizing the tradition.</li> <li>• Draw a picture of a fun event that you participated in during Winter Break and write a few sentences or paragraphs explaining why it was special.</li> <li>• Select one of your favorite shows/movies and choose a character. Illustrate and list character traits that make that character important.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• i-Ready (more than 1 year ELLs) <a href="https://cainc.i-ready.com/">https://cainc.i-ready.com/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net">www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net</a> (less than 1 year ESOL level 1 students for indicated schools)</li> </ul> <p>Students' usernames and passwords are needed to access these online resources.</p>

**English Language Arts  
Grades 3-5**

**Recommended Activities: Have your child...**

**Recommended Digital Resources**

- Design a T-shirt that promotes your book and write a jingle to sell it.
- Cut out magazine pictures to make a collage or poster illustrating the idea of the book. Add descriptive words to convey the main idea of the book.
- Using a shoe box, create a diorama (three-dimensional scene which includes models of people, building, plants, animals etc...) of an important scene or information in the book. Write an explanation of your diorama.
- Draw a portrait of the main character and write a one-sentence summary to accompany your sketch to convey characters thoughts or feelings.
- Make up another beginning and ending for the story. Include pictures/drawings.
- Write a character diary, writing at least five journal entries as if you are the main character in the story. Write down events that happen during the story and reflect on how they affected the character and why.
- Create a timeline of the major events in your book. Use drawings or magazine cutouts to show the events along the timeline. Label each event.
- Surf the Internet prior to, while, or after reading a book to conduct research about the book, its author, or its subject. Develop a log of your findings to write a summary as to explain why you would recommend this book.
- Look through magazines for words, phrases, and pictures that provide details to describe a relationship between events, concepts or steps in the book you have read. Use these to create a collage on a bookmark.

- i-Ready: <https://login.i-ready.com>
  - myOnReader: <http://www.myon.com/>
- Students' usernames and passwords are needed to access these online resources.

**English Language Learners (ELL)  
Grades 3-5**

**Recommended Activities: Have your child...**

**Recommended Digital Resources**

- Draw a map of Florida, identify 5 major cities, and pick the city that interests you the most. List the reasons, including facts, as to why you would like to visit that city.
- Write a thank-you letter, in cursive writing, about something you are thankful for.
- Interview 3 family members or friends and write notes about his/her favorite family tradition. Compare the similarities and differences of the traditions using a graphic organizer of your choice.
- Write about a fun event that you participated in during Winter Break and explain three reasons why it was special.
- Select one of your favorite shows/movies and choose a character. Illustrate and list character traits that make that character important to the plot.

- i-Ready (more than 1 year ELLs) <https://cainc.i-ready.com/>
  - [www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net](http://www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net) (less than 1 year ESOL level 1 students for indicated schools)
- Students' usernames and passwords are needed to access these online resources.

Mathematics  
Grades K-2

Recommended Activities: Have your child...

- Use everyday objects to allow your child to count and group a collection of objects.
- Play math games with your child. For example, "I'm thinking of a number. When I add five to it, I get 11. What is the number?"
- Have your child create story problems to represent addition, subtraction, and comparisons. For example, "I have seven pennies. My brother has five pennies. How many pennies does he need to have the same number as I have? He needs two more pennies."
- Play other games using a deck of cards. For example, deal two cards and ask your child to add the two numbers.
- Use popular card games, to practice math. For example, play "Sum War." Each player turns over two cards and calls out their sum. The player with the highest sum wins the round and takes all the cards.
- At a red street light, point out the license plate of a car in front of you. Ask your child to use the numbers to make the largest or smallest two- or three-digit number

Recommended Digital Resources

- Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), GO Math! Resources: [Student Portal Resources](#)  
Login to student portal; use username and password provided by the school site, or follow instruction at student portal.  
Click on math e-book access icon (red book) on student schedule. Once at the HMH Dashboard, click on "My Library" and let the explorations begin!
- i-Ready: <https://login.i-ready.com>  
Student Login Credentials:  
Username: Student ID#  
Password: Student ID#  
-OR-  
Use username and password provided by the school site.
- ExploreLearning Reflex: (Grade 2)  
<http://www.reflexmath.com/>  
Use username and password provided by the school site.

Mathematics  
Grades 3-5

Recommended Activities: Have your child...

- Use popular card games, to practice math. For example, "I'm thinking of two numbers whose product is between 20 and 30. How many pairs can you think of that would satisfy this problem?" Have your child explain the solutions.
- Play other games using a deck of cards. Assign picture cards, such as jacks, queens, and kings, a value of 10, and aces a value of either 11 or 1. Each player turns two cards face up and finds the product of the two numbers; if your child, for example, draws a 5 and a 4, he says  $5 \times 4 = 20$ . The person with the highest product wins the four cards.
- Use everyday objects to allow your child to explore the concept of fractions. For example, use measuring cups to have students demonstrate how many  $\frac{1}{3}$ 's are in a whole, how many  $\frac{1}{4}$  cups you need to make  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups, and how many times you have to refill a  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup measure to make  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups.
- Ask your child create and describe equal fractions. Take a sheet of paper, fold the paper in half, and then unfold and shade  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Take the same sheet of paper and fold the paper in a half again. Unfold the paper and discuss the number of parts that are now shaded. Encourage your child to talk about ways to show that  $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$ . Continue this process creating other equal fractions.
- Ask your child to use his/her skills in adding and subtracting decimals to add up the items that he is considering "buying" at the supermarket, restaurant, or store within a budget you create. You can use restaurant take-out menus or grocery/store flyers in newspapers or received by mail.

Recommended Digital Resources

- **Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH), GO Math! Resources:** [Student Portal Resources](#)  
Login to student portal; use username and password provided by the school site, or follow instruction at student portal. Click on math e-book access icon (red book) on student schedule. Once at the HMH Dashboard, click on "My Library" and let the explorations begin!
- **i-Ready:**  
<https://login.i-ready.com>  
**Student Login Credentials:**  
Username: Student ID#  
Password: Student ID#  
-OR-  
Use the username and password provided by the school site.
- **ExploreLearning Reflex:**  
<http://www.reflexmath.com/>  
Use the username and password provided by the school site.

Science  
Grades K-2

**Recommended Activities: Have your child...**

**Recommended Digital Resources**

Adult supervision needed for activities below:

- Water and other liquids take the shape of whatever container they are in. Containers of certain sizes have names--cup, pint, quart, liter, or gallon, for example. Write down as many different types of containers that were used to prepare meals this holiday season.
- Take a walk in the yard, and with parental guidance, identify each type of bug that you find, such as ants, spiders, beetles, crickets, bees, flies, butterflies, mosquitoes, moths, wasps or ladybugs. Help your child to think of other ways that she might classify the bugs—for example, by color or by size or by whether they have wings or antennae.
- Write a poem about all the observations that you can make over the holidays – the sounds that you hear, how the weather feels, and all the sights that you see.
- Even a walk around the yard can provide many opportunities to introduce children to scientific concepts and processes by helping them to gain the scientific habit of observing what's around them. Take a walk outside with your child—around the yard, to the end of the block, in the park, on the beach—anywhere that's convenient. Show them how to use a magnifying glass. As you walk, stop and—depending on the weather—ask your child to use the lens to examine things and describe what they see in a science journal
- A trip to ZooMiami can be fun as well as educational. The zoo offers an opportunity to learn about the natural world and the different types of animals, their behavior, and their environment. Inquire about the petting zoo where children are allowed to touch and feed the animals. Play the following Guessing Game: “Why do you think seals have flippers?” “Why do you think turtles have hard shells?” “Why do you think the ibis has a long narrow beak?” “Why do you think apes have long dangling arms

- Learn to Code – Code.org:  
<http://studio.code.org/s/course1>
- PBS Kids: <http://pbskids.org/>
- PBS Sid the Science Kid:  
<http://pbskids.org/sid/>

Science  
Grades 3-5

**Recommended Activities: Have your child...**

**Recommended Digital Resources**

Adult supervision suggested for activities below:

- Go for a walk around your neighborhood and try to identify four types of birds. Draw a picture of each of the birds you identify. Lastly write down the characteristics of each of the birds that you chose. You can record your observations in your science journal.
- Make a list of things in nature, such as animals; plants and so forth-that are sticky (have adhesive properties). For example: spiders have sticky threads, tree sap is sticky and oozes from plants.
- Become a super scientist by researching how to have an eco-friendly holiday break. Holidays can be fun but also wasteful. Think about the amount of holiday wrappings that are thrown in the garbage and the hours of electricity that is used for the decorative lighting. Write a short story on how the holidays can be so wasteful and what you can do about it. Share tips on how you can be energy efficient over the holidays, and what you will reuse, reduce and recycle.
- Predict which brand of gum will make the biggest bubble. Chew one piece of gum at a time and blow a bubble with each piece. Once the bubble is blown to as large as possible, measure its width and record in a data chart. After chewing both brands of bubble gum and measuring the width of each bubble, repeat the procedures two more times for a fair test and record this data. Then find the average for each of the three trials. Compare the data collected to your prediction to see if it was correct.
- Research some of the ways that batteries have changed and how it has affected our lives. Prepare your findings using a timeline, diagram, display etc.

- Learn to Code – Code.org:  
<http://studio.code.org/s/course2>
- Study Jams:  
<http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>



## Social Studies Grades K-2

### Recommended Activities: Have your child...

### Recommended Digital Resources

- *Understanding Sequence of Events/History:* Timelines help students place important events in sequence. Have your child create an historical timeline comprising each day of the winter break. Your child should draw a small picture representing something he/she did each day during the winter break. These pictures should then be cut out using scissors and pasted or taped onto a timeline identifying each picture by date.
- *U.S. Symbols/History:* Create a picture book depicting national symbols of the United States including the U.S. flag, the American Bald Eagle, the Liberty Bell, the Washington Monument, the White House, the U.S. Capitol, and the Statue of Liberty.
- *Character Education/Civics:* Help students to research significant individuals from the past who have demonstrated character ideals such as honesty, kindness, and responsibility. Have students develop a character sketch of the individual with a title that represents the person.
- *Economic Understanding:* The holiday period is a great time to pay attention to advertising on television. Ask your child to watch television and list the topics for ads that he/she has seen on television. After making the list, have a discussion with your child about the differences between wants and needs and which seems to be emphasized this time of year in television advertising. Explain that needs include anything we must have to live, such as food, water, and shelter. Explain that wants are things we desire, but are not required such as toys and video games. Ask your child to draw one picture that represents a need and one picture that represents a want.
- *Geographic Understanding:* Pretend that you and your child are planning an imaginary holiday trip within the United States. Discuss TEN things you would like to do and/or TEN places you would like to visit on your trip. Select FIVE of the places and/or things you wanted to do and then locate where those things would be able to actually happen. For example, to visit the Empire State Building you would have to be in New York City, but to go snowboarding, there are many locations where this activity could take place. Identify the locations on a map. NOTE: The Internet would be useful in completing this activity.

#### Helpful Websites

- [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) (log into the student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).
- <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>
- [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- <http://www.moneycrashers.com/>
- <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-kids/>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

#### Helpful Videos

#### [School House Rocks- Constitution Video](#)

#### [Liberty Kids: "We the People"](#)

#### [Financial Literacy](#)

#### [Basic Geography Skills](#)



## Social Studies Grades 3-5

### Recommended Activities: Have your child...

### Recommended Digital Resources

- *Geographic Understanding:* Teach your children the cardinal directions of north, south, east, and west by using your home as a reference point. Show them the direction of the sun as it rises in the morning (east) and sets in the evening (west), in relation to your house. Play games that reinforce their knowledge of cardinal directions (N, S, E, and W) and intermediate directions (NE, NW, SE, SW). For example, you can hide objects around the house and yard and give them directions to their locations: "Two steps to the north, three steps west..."
- *Current Events and Geographic Understanding:* Knowing what happens around the world is important for children. They need to understand that they are part of a global community. Have your children watch the world news for a week and identify on a world map the location of the places discussed in the news. Ask them to summarize in their own words what the news stories were about. Have them track the different regions of the world identified in the news stories by drawing a circle graph to determine what region of the world received the most news coverage.
- *Civics:* Interview people who have immigrated to the United States. Have them develop and make a list of the reasons why people come to the United States to live. Older students can also research the reasons early colonists and settlers gave for coming to North America. Discuss the similarities and differences that exist between early immigrant groups and recent arrivals.
- *Economic Understanding/Civics:* Research what taxes are and what a government uses tax money for. Then, make a list of services that are provided to citizens using tax dollars. Discuss what services the community would lose without tax dollars (e.g. no police or fire services, no garbage collection, no road repair, no clean-up crews, no water treatment plants).
- *Florida History:* Many men and women, past and present, have contributed to Florida's growth and development. Research the library or Internet on the lives of some of South Florida's pioneers (e.g., Julia Tuttle, Mary Brickell, Henry Flagler, George Merrick, Glenn Curtiss) Write a three-paragraph essay on the impact they had on South Florida's growth and development. You may want to take your children to the HistoryMiami (formerly the Historical Museum) to look at how the early pioneers in South Florida lived. Other local sites for family outings include the Barnacle and the Deering Estate.

#### Helpful Websites

- [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) (log into the student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).
- <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>
- [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- <http://www.moneycrashers.com/>
- <http://www.constitutionfacts.com/us-constitution-kids/>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

#### Helpful Videos

#### School House Rocks- Constitution

#### Liberty Kids: "We the People"

#### Financial Literacy

#### Geography Skills

#### Primary and Secondary Sources

## 2014-2015 Winter Recess Recommended Activities and Resources – Middle School (Grades 6-8)

<b>English Language Arts</b>	
<b>Recommended Activities: Have your child...</b>	<b>Recommended Digital Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a digital diary and answer the following questions:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ If you could be a character in any book, TV show, or movie, who would you be and why?</li> <li>○ Who is the person from history that you would most like to meet and talk to? Why? What would you like to ask?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Read every day! Read for as long as you like- but no less than 30 minutes.</li> <li>• Apply for a Library Card so you can use the Miami-Dade Public Library System. You can apply at any branch library or on line at <a href="http://www.mdpls.org">www.mdpls.org</a></li> <li>• Write a letter of encouragement to a classmate who needs your friendship.</li> <li>• Ask for a book as a present.</li> <li>• Donate a book and help share the gift of reading.</li> <li>• Christmas is not the only holiday in December. Research one of the following then tell someone in your family what you've learned.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Las Posadas</li> <li>○ Lunar New Year</li> <li>○ Chanukah</li> <li>○ Kwanzaa</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson213.shtml">http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson213.shtml</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://holidays.mrdonn.org/index.html">http://holidays.mrdonn.org/index.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/topics.html">http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/topics.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/kwanzaa2.html">http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/kwanzaa2.html</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/kwanzaa-wreath-craft-project">http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/kwanzaa-wreath-craft-project</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.mdpls.org">www.mdpls.org</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading">http://www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dadeschools.net">www.dadeschools.net</a> (log into the student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).</li> </ul>
<b>English Language Learners (ELL)</b>	
<b>Recommended Activities: Have your child...</b>	<b>Recommended Digital Resources</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss with your family members how winter holidays are celebrated in their culture. Create a story map to illustrate the key aspects of your family traditions.</li> <li>• Watch a winter movie and tell how the setting affects the story line (plot).</li> <li>• Compare and contrast Florida's winter weather to New York's winter weather. Write a broadcast report that shows the differences and similarities of the different geographical areas.</li> <li>• Email a description of your New Year's Eve dinner to a friend in another country. Include details so that your friend could visualize the event.</li> <li>• Many cultures have stories or myths which have been passed down through the ages. Myths are tales of gods, goddesses, monsters, and adventure. Ask a family member to share with you a myth from his/her culture. Write a paragraph summarizing the story or myth including how the story helps you understand your family's culture.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net">www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net</a> (less than 1 year ESOL level 1 students for indicated schools)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.teenbiz3000.com">www.teenbiz3000.com</a> (ESOL levels 2-4)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.learn.iready.com">www.learn.iready.com</a> (more than 1 year ESOL level 2-4 students)</li> </ul>

## Mathematics

### Recommended Activities: Have your child...

- Calculate the unit rates of items purchased from the grocery store. For example, if 2 pounds of flour cost \$3.00, how much does flour cost per pound?
- Determine the amount of ingredients needed when cooking. For example, if a recipe calls for 8 cups of rice to serve 4 people, how many cups of rice do you need to serve 6 people?
- Use store advertisements to engage your child in working with numbers. For example, if a store advertises 30% off, have your child estimate the dollar amount of the discount as well as the sale price of an item.
- Do an Internet search to determine how mathematics is used in specific careers. This could lead to a good discussion and allow students to begin thinking about their future aspirations.
- Use magazines, clip art, and other pictures to find and describe examples of similar and congruent figures.
- Using different objects or containers (such as a can of soup or a shoebox), estimate surface area and volume, and check the answer together.
- Predict how much gift wrap will be needed to wrap a present using their knowledge of surface area and then check the accuracy of their prediction.
- Figure out what store has the best buy for an item you want to purchase.
- Do your mathematics thinking aloud. Let your child hear how you are figuring out conversions for a recipe. When converting measurements for a recipe, say aloud, "Now how many teaspoons are in a tablespoon?" Have your child determine the amount.

### Recommended Digital Resources

- **i-Ready:**  
<https://login.i-ready.com>  
(students will have access to this resource if it is used at the individual school)  
Student Login Credentials:  
Username: Student ID#  
Password: Student ID#
- **ExploreLearning Reflex:**  
<http://www.reflexmath.com/>  
\*Usernames and Passwords must be obtained from the school site.

#### [Miami Dade County Public Schools Student Portal Resources](#)

Usernames and passwords are needed to access these online resources:

- **Algebra Nation** (Algebra 1)
- **Khan Academy**
- **Edgenuity**

## Science

### Recommended Activities: Have your child...

Adults should review activities and provide supervision, as needed

- Recall current issues related to global warming and climate change. Hypothesize what will happen if the world's climates kept getting hotter, especially over winter break.
- Imagine that you can produce fireworks/sparklers from the mouth. There is a way and it is electric! Research how one can create fireworks/sparklers in the mouth using candy that is triboluminescent. Design a comic strip to share with family and friends that describes this fantastic effect.
- Baking soda, citric acid (in its solid form), and icing sugar are common food items used during the holiday. When combined, they can make an explosive treat for the mouth. Hint: So does Lifesaver Wintergreen mints. Use the Internet to research this phenomenon and conduct an investigation on this candy chemical reaction. Teach a family member or friend the science behind this and all fizzling candies (ex., Pop Rocks).
- During the vacation, take a walk around your home, neighborhood or the mall; look carefully at the mini-lights that decorate homes and trees. Design a poster labeling and explaining the flow of energy through a string of holiday lights that decorate a home or neighborhood. Be sure to include the many forms of energy transformations involved in the decorative displays. Present this poster to family and friends. There should be at least three forms of energy identified and discussed from the list: Nuclear energy, Radiant energy, Thermal energy, Electrical energy, Hydroelectric energy, Wind energy, Geothermal energy

### Recommended Digital Resources

- K – 8 Intro to Computer Science – Code.org: <http://studio.code.org/s/1>
- Hole-y Water – Bill Nye: [http://billnye.com/billnye\\_resource/hole-y-water/](http://billnye.com/billnye_resource/hole-y-water/)
- Current Event – Bill Nye: [http://billnye.com/billnye\\_resource/current-event/](http://billnye.com/billnye_resource/current-event/)
- Study Jams: <http://studyjams.scholastic.com/studyjams/index.htm>
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## Social Studies

### Recommended Activities: Have your child...

- *World History/Multicultural Understanding:* Christmas is one of the most important holidays/celebrations in the Christian religion. Each major world religion has several important holidays/celebrations throughout the year. Research each of the following major religions (Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism) and identify their most important religious celebrations. Make a chart listing each major religion, the celebration/holiday, a brief description of the celebration/holiday's purpose, and a brief description of how each celebration/holiday is celebrated. After you have finished your chart, pick two religions and write a five paragraph essay comparing and contrasting their major celebrations/holidays.
- *Civic Understanding:* Research the concept of "separation of church and state" derived from the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Explain what is meant by the phrase "separation of church and state." Explain how this concept affects how "winter holidays" are celebrated in schools.
- *Civic Understanding/U.S. History:* Study the Bill of Rights, the first 10 amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Develop an illustration for one or more of the 10 amendments in the Bill of Rights using original drawings or by cutting pictures from magazines, etc.
- *Geographic Understanding:* Research your favorite NBA basketball team's schedule for the 2014-2015 season. Find a map of the United States. On the map, plot the different cities (away games) where your team will be playing. Place the name of the city next to each point that you place on the map and the date that the game is played or will be played. Pick 5 of the locations and pretend that you are going to attend each of these away games. Calculate the distance you will have to travel to attend each away game. Write a fictional journal entry describing what it was like traveling to one of the away games and the things that you were able to see and experience on your trip.
- *Economic Understanding/Financial Literacy:* Draw a two-column chart and label the columns "credits" and "debits". Define and discuss both. Students should chart their family's household income and expenditures for a two-week period. List the date and identify the source of each entry. Create a circle graph indicating (1) the amount of money spent on goods as opposed to services, (2) a circle graph comparing income to expenditure, and (3) a circle graph that provides percentages of expenditures on specific goods (examples: fast food, CDs). Write a paragraph explaining the insights they gained by charting family income and expenditures.

### Recommended Digital Resources

#### Helpful Websites

- [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) (log into the M-DCPS student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).
- <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>
- [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- <http://www.moneycrashers.com/>
- <http://www.learntheconstitution.com/>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

#### Helpful Videos:

[School House Rocks- Three Branches of Government](#)

[Financial Literacy](#)

[World History- 3 Monotheistic Religions](#)

[Geography Skills](#)

[Primary and Secondary Sources](#)

[How to Analyze Political Cartoons](#)

## 2014-2015 Winter Recess Recommended Activities and Resources – High School (Grades 9-12)

English Language Arts	
Recommended Activities	Recommended Digital Resources
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read every day! Choose a book that deals with something or someone you are passionate about. Commit to 30 minutes a day of reading.</li> <li>• Interview someone who is at least 20 years older than you are. Ask the person about holiday traditions he or she celebrated as a youth. Compare the response to your holiday traditions.</li> <li>• Read <i>The Big Ideas that Changed The World</i>. Add one of your own.</li> <li>• Write a letter to a teacher to thank him/her for what that teacher has done for you. Send the letter in the US mail to the school so it will be awaiting the teacher after the Winter Recess.</li> <li>• Create a Vision Board- a collage of pictures, phrases, words or items that represent you and your goals. Vision boards are for inspiration; think of it as a vision of the future. These goals can be either short-term or long-term. By seeing these images on a daily basis, you will keep the motivation to reach those goals and desires. Find samples at: <a href="http://www.pinterest.com/scrappinmichele/vision-board-samples/">http://www.pinterest.com/scrappinmichele/vision-board-samples/</a></li> <li>• Read the newspaper-online or in print. Choose a section you don't usually read and commit to reading that section for several days.</li> <li>• Find a controversial issue in the newspaper and think about your stand on the issue. Discuss your opinion with a friend, parent or in a blog.</li> <li>• Give a book as a present to someone you care about.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.pinterest.com/scrappinmichele/vision-board-samples/">http://www.pinterest.com/scrappinmichele/vision-board-samples/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.miamiherald.com/digital">www.miamiherald.com/digital</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.google.com">www.google.com</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.npr.org/sections/book-reviews/">http://www.npr.org/sections/book-reviews/</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading">http://www.justreadfamilies.org/holidays/reading</a></li> <li>• <a href="http://www.dadeschools.net">www.dadeschools.net</a> (log into the student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).</li> </ul>
English Language Learners (ELL)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read an article about the holidays and identify the author's point of view. Do you agree or disagree with the author? Suggested columnists: Dave Barry, Leonard Pitts. Write your own editorial stating your point of view.</li> <li>• Pretend you are a journalist and interview your family members during holiday gatherings. Record your interview and write the stories for a blog or online article.</li> <li>• Watch an advertisement on television with a friend or family member; analyze and write down a description of the techniques used to persuade the audience. Compare your analysis to that of your friend or family member.</li> <li>• Listen to music from your parents' and grandparents' era and compare it to modern lyrics. Create a Venn diagram to annotate similarities and differences. Share your observations with a family member.</li> <li>• Watch a movie and describe to a friend how the character develops or changes throughout the film. Write an online review from a critic's perspective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="http://www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net">www.imaginelearning.dadeschools.net</a> (less than 1 year ESOL level 1 students for indicated schools)</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.empower3000.com">www.empower3000.com</a> (ESOL levels 2-4)</li> </ul>

## Mathematics

### Recommended Activities

- Prepare for financial independence by applying math skills along with economic principles to managing money. Calculate interest paid on checking/savings accounts or credit cards. Comparison shop for the most cost-effective college program. Having a conversation with your parents or other adult is a good start for this activity.
- Plan for the purchase of a car taking into consideration the insurance and future gas payments. It may be helpful to discuss this with your parents or other adult.
- Design a survey about what your friends typically do during the Winter Break. Once the information is collected, use the Internet to research what teens typically do during the winter. Explore how changing the sample size impacts the results.
- Go on a Geometry Scavenger Hunt. Using the phone camera, host a friendly contest between family members or friends to see who can find the most examples of geometry in the real world! Pick a theme for your pictures according to your interests. Some examples include geometry in architecture, nature, or sports.

### Recommended Digital Resources

[Miami-Dade County Public Schools Student Portal Resources](#)

- **Algebra Nation:** Algebra 1
- **Edgenuity:** Algebra 1, Geometry, and Algebra 2
- **Khan Academy**



## Science

### Recommended Activities

- Research the origin of toys, how they were used and made. Explain the engineering and scientific concepts that make the toy fun. Describe this to a younger sibling or friend in simple terms
- Holiday treats are fun to eat. Make a scientific experiment/investigation using a popular holiday candy/food/treat, observing the effects of temperature and solubility
- Observe the organisms that you find in your neighborhood and communicate with a relative/friend in a different climate and discuss the differences and similarities of what you each find. Research why the reasons for these similarities and differences.
- Research how each of the following scientists would have celebrated the holidays in their countries of origin: Mae Jamison, Demitri Mendeleev, Louis Pasteur, Franklin Chang-Diaz, George Washington Carver. Write a fictional account as if you were visiting them during this time.
- Holiday celebrations always involve delicious food. Find the recipe of one of your favorite holiday food dishes and make a list of all the ingredients it contains that come from a plant. Make a list of the common and scientific name for each of the plants, what part of the plant it comes from (root, stem, leaves, flower), if the plant is flowering plant or not, and if it's a monocot or dicot. Create a booklet for your recipe with this information and a picture of the plant it comes from.

### Recommended Digital Resources

- Make Your Own Flappy Game – Code.org:  
<http://studio.code.org/flappy/1>
- Lee Cronin: Print your own medicine  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/lee\\_cronin\\_print\\_your\\_own\\_medicine#t-5472](http://www.ted.com/talks/lee_cronin_print_your_own_medicine#t-5472)
- Kary Mullis: A next-gen cure for killer infections:  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/kary\\_mullis\\_next\\_gen\\_cure\\_for\\_killer\\_infections](http://www.ted.com/talks/kary_mullis_next_gen_cure_for_killer_infections)
- Gever Tulley: Life lessons through tinkering  
[http://www.ted.com/talks/gever\\_tulley\\_s\\_tinkering\\_school\\_in\\_action](http://www.ted.com/talks/gever_tulley_s_tinkering_school_in_action)
- Boiling water in a vacuum:  
<http://www.exo.net/~pauld/Mars/4snowflakes/martianwater.html>
- Merry Poppings – Bill Nye  
[http://billnye.com/billnye\\_resource/merry-poppings/](http://billnye.com/billnye_resource/merry-poppings/)

## Social Studies

### Recommended Activities

- *Historical Analysis:* History provides virtually unlimited opportunities to “imagine” hypothetical discussions. Write a dialog between two imaginary or real people in history that focuses on their discussion of an important historical event. For example, an imaginary discussion between British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and United States’ President Harry Truman on whether or not to drop the atomic bomb on Japan during World War II.
- *Current Events/Historical Analysis/U.S. Government:* Current events and historical events are often depicted in the media through political cartoons. Find either a current political cartoon from the newspaper and/or research and find a political cartoon from an important event in U.S. History, e.g., the Watergate Scandal. Study the cartoon and write an analysis of the cartoonist’s viewpoint. You may also create an original cartoon and write a description of your own viewpoint.
- *History/Multicultural Studies:* Oral histories provide us with the opportunity to preserve the personal histories and memories of individuals who have experienced important events in history. For example, it is important to record the oral history of WWII veterans, Holocaust survivors, and immigrants, to name a few. Select a person in your family who has a story to tell and interview them about his/her experiences. Prior to the interview, research the events you know the person experienced and develop questions to be asked. With the person’s permission, record or videotape the interview.
- *Civics:* Voter turnout in most elections in the United States is very low. Local elections typically have lower voter participation than national elections that are held every two or four years. However, even elections at the national level often have a low voter turnout. If you had the power to make change, what would you do to increase voter turnout for national elections in the United States? Describe your plan in a 1-2 page paper.
- *Economic Understanding/Financial Literacy:* Draw a two-column chart and label the columns “credits” and “debits”. Define and discuss both. Chart your household income and expenditures for a two-week period. List the date and identify the source of each entry. Create a circle graph indicating (1) the amount of money spent on goods as opposed to services, (2) a circle graph comparing income to expenditure, and (3) a circle graph that provides percentages of expenditures on specific goods (examples: fast food, CDs). Write a paragraph explaining the insights gained by charting income and expenditures.

### Recommended Digital Resources

#### Helpful Websites

- [www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net) (log into the student portal; click on Discovery Education and/or NBC Learn).
- <http://socialsciences.dadeschools.net>
- [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com)
- [www.nationalgeographic.com](http://www.nationalgeographic.com)
- <http://www.moneycrashers.com/>
- <http://www.learntheconstitution.com/>
- <http://www.miamiherald.com/>

#### Helpful Videos:

#### Geography Skills

#### Primary and Secondary Sources

#### Sample Document Based Question

#### High School Financial Literacy Course

#### How to Analyze Political Cartoons