



*Parent*  
**LAKE ORION COMMUNITY SCHOOLS**  
**TEACHING AND LEARNING NEWSLETTER**  
*2018/2019 ~ June*



Dear Parents/Guardians, Partners in Education,

As the school year draws to a close, I would like to sincerely thank you for choosing and partnering with Lake Orion Community Schools for your child's education. We sincerely appreciate your trust, support and collaboration as we strive to provide an exemplary education for each and every student.

Please take advantage of the many opportunities happening throughout the summer throughout our community and surrounding communities to promote summer learning.

We look forward to the start of the 2019–2020 school year and all of the great things another school year will bring.

In the meantime, have a safe and fun-filled summer!

*Heidi Mercer*

Heidi Mercer  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning



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**ATTACHMENT 1**

# Science

Students in all six Lake Orion Community Elementary Schools had a dynamic experience in science this year thanks to two new district initiatives: our K-5 curricular resource, Phenomenal Science, and Elementary STEM Coaches.

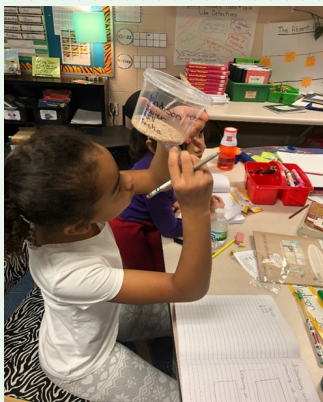
Engagement in science this school year has been at an all-time high as students worked to figure out real-world “puzzles” or “phenomena” presented in each unit of Phenomenal Science. Students collaborated, investigated, and analyzed data, fostering skills such as teamwork, critical thinking, and discourse. Jeremy Moede, a fifth-grade student at Orion Oaks Elementary says, “I like science now because it’s so interactive. We used to sit at our desks and watch teachers do experiments. Now, we decide what experiments we want to do and do them ourselves, as groups of kids. We figure out the answers.” Kari Robbins, a third grade teacher at Blanche Sims adds, “This year students have been engaging in real science by exploring ideas and questions about science topics. They have grown so much and are now able to show their thinking with models and explanations about different real-world phenomenon.”

Student learning has been further supported by the addition of district-wide Elementary STEM coaches. STEM Coaches partnered with teachers in third, fourth, and fifth grade classrooms. Just as an athletic coach works with a team before, during, and after a competition, STEM coaches collaborated with classroom teachers before, during, and after each lesson.

Says STEM Coach Andrea Brook, “I’ll meet with teachers before a lesson to set our ‘game plan’. We discuss things like, ‘Where might the students get stuck during this lesson and how will we help them?’ Then, when it’s ‘game time’, we co-teach the lesson. We divide it up into sections based on what the teacher feels is best for the class on that day.” STEM coach Amy Bohm commented, “In addition to coaching taking place before and after the activities, coaches and teachers have the unique opportunity to discuss how the lesson is going while co-teaching. If something isn’t going as planned, we can make adjustments on the spot during instruction to have the best possible learning experiences for students.” Pam Moreman, STEM coach, added, “And just as a coach celebrates all the hard work their athletes put in, teachers, students and STEM coaches are able to celebrate all of their growth throughout the year and set goals for continued growth next year.”

Lake Orion Community Schools Elementary Science has caught the attention of districts all around the state, as well as the local media. In May, our unique approach to science education was featured on the Channel 4 television show, “Live in the D”.

Teachers, students, and parents of kindergarten, first, and second grade students can look forward to the appearance of STEM coaches in their classrooms next year, as the coaches expand their services to include our youngest learners.



Third graders observing the life cycle of mealworms.



Digging for Dinosaurs. Third grade students act as archeologists.



Fourth grade students discovering how information is stored and transferred using micro-bits.



# English Learner and English as a Second Language

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As you celebrate all the ways your child has grown this school year and plan for some relaxation and summer memories, you may be wondering how to support your child academically throughout the summer. Judie Haynes shares several tips in her article, "11 Tips to Help ELs Avoid the Summer Slide." Here are some highlights:

- Read often. Just read. Read in English and/or your native language. Visit your local library (<https://orionlibrary.org/>)
- Participate in summer reading challenges. The Orion Township Public Library kicks off Summer Reading on June 8 from 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M. Scholastic's Read-A-Palooza Summer Reading Challenge has already started and runs until September 6, (Find out more here: <https://www.scholastic.com/summer/home/>). Kids can also earn a free book at Barnes and Noble by participating in the Barnes and Noble Summer Reading program. (<https://www.barnesandnoble.com/blog/kids/get-ready-for-bns-summer-reading-triathlon/>)
- Take advantage of summer events and concerts around town. (Check out events in Lake Orion here: <https://downtownlakeorion.org/events/>)
- Contact your child's teacher for suggestions and fun enrichment activities for the summer.

Read the entire article here: <http://blog.tesol.org/11-tips-to-help-els-avoid-the-summer-slide/>

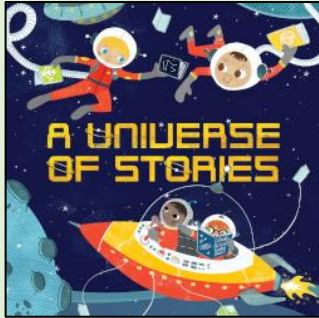
Have a great summer!





## Summer Reading Programs

Continue to foster the love of reading by participating in a summer reading program.



Lake Orion Community Schools

<https://orionlibrary.org/summer-reading-2019/>

Bring the whole family to register for the Summer Reading Club at the Orion Township Library – A universe of Stories! There is outdoor fun planned for all ages with activities, food, live music, and creative projects. If you miss the event, you can still sign up online!



Chuck E Cheese

[www.tinyurl.com/yxsdapq3](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxsdapq3)

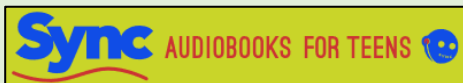
Kids earn 10 free tokens each time they read for two weeks in a row!



Barnes and Noble

[www.tinyurl.com/yxp5rvtk](http://www.tinyurl.com/yxp5rvtk)

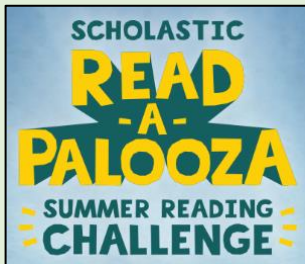
Read 8 books at your own pace and earn a free book!



Audio Books Sync

<https://www.audiobooksync.com/>

Free summer audio books for teens each week!



Scholastic

<https://www.scholastic.com/summer/home/>

Kids can enter their reading minutes to earn digital rewards and gain access to reading activities, book excerpts, videos, and more.

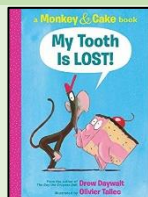
## Research on Summer Reading

According to Scholastic, children who **DO NOT READ** in the summer can lose **two to three months** of reading skills.

Kids who DO READ tend to **gain a month** of reading proficiency.

## From Our Bookshelf to Yours

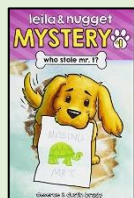
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*The Monkey & Cake (series)*  
By Drew Daywalt & Oliver Tallec  
Level H



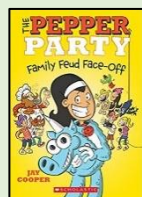
*Mia Mayhem Is a Superhero! (series)*  
By Kara West & Leeza Hernandez  
Levels KLM



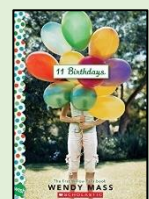
*Leila and Nugget Mysteries*  
By Deserae Brady and Dustin Brady  
Levels KLM



*Klawde (series)*  
By Johnny Marciano  
Levels KLM



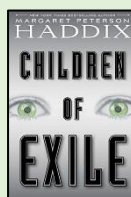
*The Pepper Party (series)*  
By Jay Cooper  
Level NOPQ



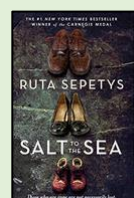
*Willow Falls (series)*  
By Wendy Mass  
Levels RST



*Elementals: Ice Wolves*  
By Amie Kaufman  
Levels UVW



*Children of Exile Series*  
By Margaret Peterson Haddix  
Levels XYZ



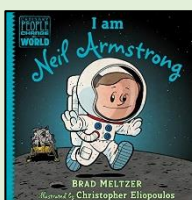
*Salt to the Sea*  
By Ruta Sepetys  
Level Z+



*We Set the Dark on Fire*  
By Tehlor Kay Mejia  
High school, some mature themes



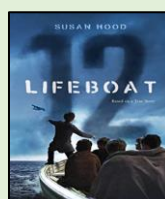
*The Sun is Also a Star*  
By Nicola Yoon  
High school, some mature themes



*I Am biographies*  
By Brad Meltzer  
Non-fiction for elementary readers



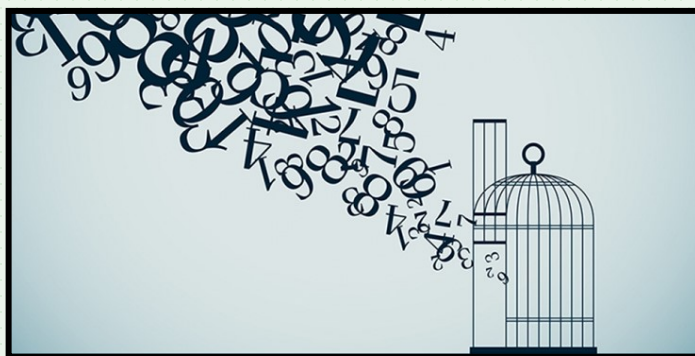
*Something Rotten: A Fresh Look at Roadkill*  
By Heather L. Montgomery  
Non-fiction for middle grades



*Lifeboat 12*  
By Susan Hood  
Non-fiction for older readers

*A Summer that Counts: How Parents Can Combat Summer Math Loss  
Why kids lose math knowledge, and how families can  
work to counteract it.*

*Leah Shafer*



It's tough to imagine filling a lazy beach day with fractions, or stretching out in the back seat on a road trip and practicing long division. For many of us, summer and mathematics just don't seem to mix. But across the socioeconomic spectrum, kids arrive back at school every fall much worse off in mathematics than they finished in the spring. On average, students lose approximately 2.6 months of learning in math over the summer — and teachers have to give up weeks of class time, or more, to make up for that loss.

### **Why Math Loss?**

The research is clear: Summer learning loss is a significant problem, playing a surprisingly large role in creating the achievement gap. Low-income kids can lose vast amounts of learning over the summer when they don't have access to the same enriching activities as their higher-income peers, such as vacations, visits to museums and libraries, or even just time spent with family discussing academic concepts or everyday events. Schools and communities have tuned in to that challenge, finding more ways to partner with low-income families to ensure their children keep reading throughout the summer.

But it's actually easier for kids — from all socioeconomic backgrounds — to forget what they learned in math over the summer than it is for them to lose reading skills.

The reason? Many parents — and their children — don't think about math as existing outside of the classroom. "Parents often think that their kids learn math in school, and that it's sort of the school's domain," says Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE) doctoral student Kathleen Lynch. Many parents "may just be less inclined to do math at home," she says.

"Reading activities are often part of the fabric of a family's daily life," says Joanna Christodoulou, an HGSE faculty member and an assistant professor at the MGH Institute of Health Professions. "But if you try to imagine a bedtime math routine, as you might for reading, the idea of winding down by completing math equations doesn't elicit the same interest. The issue isn't that engaging math activities are not available outside of school, but rather that it is easy to overlook the presence of math in everyday activities, like measurement in cooking, calculation when dealing with money, or distance while driving."

As a result, when the school year ends, kids may have very few opportunities to engage in any type of mathematical thinking. It's likely that most of the resulting loss involves procedures, not general concepts, the researchers say. An incoming fifth grader may retain the conceptual idea that division means separating things out into equal groups, but it's easy for her to forget the set of steps to solving a long division problem. But getting students to remember those procedures isn't as easy as just assigning them summer math homework.

In a recent study, Lynch and summer learning expert James S. Kim, an associate professor at HGSE, examined the effects of a summer math intervention in which students were given access to an online math program and asked to do three "playlists," or worksheets, a week. While the majority of students did use the program, their math scores showed no improvement at the end of the summer.

So just assigning worksheets without mentoring or guidance, Lynch concludes, probably won't correct summer math loss. Families will need to adopt a more integrated approach.

### Four Ways to Beat the Summer Math Slump

To understand what specific interventions and home supports would alleviate summer math loss, more research is needed. But here are four fun ways for parents to help their children practice math skills over the summer, based on work by Christodoulou, Lynch, and HGSE's master teacher in mathematics, Noah Heller.

- **Highlight the math in every day activities.** When shopping, help kids calculate change or discounts. When watching a baseball game, talk about what players' statistics mean. When cooking, try halving or doubling a recipe, and assist kids in figuring out the new proportions.
- **Read short math stories together.** Studies have shown that reading math-focused stories to children, such as Bedtime Math books or the Family Math series, can help boost math scores in school.
- **Play math games.** Games like Yahtzee, Racko, Blokus, Monopoly, and Set all rely on skills necessary for math, such as counting, categorizing, and building. Even playing with blocks and assembling jigsaw puzzles can help kids learn spatial skills and recognize patterns.





## Summer Mindfulness

As we approach sunny days and family vacations, our summer schedules tend to become more flexible, losing touch with some of our daily routines. If mindfulness or stillness is a daily practice, this may be one of the first items to fall away as we sleep later, linger longer, and allow the warm days to run together. A wonderful fact about mindfulness is that it can be practiced at any time during the day and for very short periods of time. We can actually be mindful all day in various, informal ways. Ellen Langer, a psychology professor at Harvard University describes this type of mindfulness as “actively attending [and] noticing new things ... the familiar becomes interesting again and we become more aware of the inherent uncertainty, and that promotes even more mindfulness.” Below are just a few ways we can enjoy this type of mindfulness in the upcoming summer months.

**Mindful Walking** – The next time you are walking somewhere, notice the sense of touch between your feet and the ground. Observe how your weight seamlessly transfers from one foot to the other, almost effortlessly. Be in the presence of the present moment. Mindful walking in bare feet is especially satisfying. An example of mindful walking can be seen on this YouTube video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-HCQXiFCm44>.

**Mindful Eating** – Eating mindfully and with intention not only aids in proper digestion, but when eating while paying attention to each bite, you will notice you eat less and enjoy the taste of your food more. Utilize all your senses while planning, prepping, and eating your meal. You can find more information on mindful eating at <https://www.thecenterformindfuleating.org>.

**Mindful Exercise** – The next time you are in the gym, going for a jog, swimming or playing a sport, become mindful of what is going on. Focus your mindful attention on your own body, thoughts, emotions or the environment around you. Become curious about your experience then notice if you feel any different after your workout or physical activity.

**Mindful Waiting** – Waiting in line is inevitable. Instead of becoming frustrated, practice some mindfulness of breath. When you are in traffic, notice the color of the sky or trees. When in a supermarket, feel the calming sensation of your own breath or your feet planted firmly on the ground.

**Mindful Listening to Music** – Get yourself comfortable, switch on your favorite piece of music and simply listen, moment by moment. As usual, after a while your mind will begin thinking of other things – just gently guide your mindful attention back to the sounds of the music. Be aware of both the sounds and the silence between the sounds.

**Get Unplugged** – Give your eyes, mind, and emotions a break by setting down your device each day with intention. According to [rescuetime.com](http://rescuetime.com), we spend an average of 3 hours and 15 minutes a day on our smartphones. We check our phones on average of 58 times a day! Instead, make a point each day, this summer, to set down your device in an area where you are not tempted to reach for it. Replace that time with one of the mindful activities listed here, become more present and less distracted for the people you are with, or just allow yourself to be with your breath and enjoy the present moment.

**Stargazing** – Susan Kaiser Greenland offers up this relaxed, spacious way of paying attention. Have the whole family set up chairs or lie back on a blanket. Notice the rhythm of your breath, keep your gaze soft and watch for changes in the night sky. Try not to fixate on or analyze any one particular thought, rather allow your thoughts to enter your mind and fade away while you get lost in the night sky. Susan Kaiser Greenland’s website, [www.susankaisergreenland.com](http://www.susankaisergreenland.com), offers many wonderful mindfulness activities like this, along with her many books on mindfulness for kids and mindful parenting.

**Get Back to Nature** - According to an article at [www.thealternativedaily.com](http://www.thealternativedaily.com), getting back to nature can lower blood pressure, boost creativity, improve overall health and wellbeing, and allow the cultivation of better relationships with more face-to-face communication. The **AllTrails** app is a great way to find walking/hiking trails in your area for all skill levels.

Whatever it is you choose to do this summer, approach it with intention and fill it with presence. Your heart, mind, and senses will thank you.

Have a mindful summer Lake Orion!



## ***Navigating New Experiences this Summer***

Is your family making plans to travel this summer? Are your children going to be out of their routine going to new places? Traveling can present unexpected challenges. But when you are struggling with a disability, or helping someone who is, making travel predictable is a must even before you start out. This is true for a variety of reasons. People with certain special needs often feel anxious about visiting new places, and would like ...

Read more at <http://specialedtech.net/2019/03/13/navigating-real-life-ableeyes-org/>

AbleEyes.org

## ***Technology tools to make reading easier and fun for students with disabilities this summer...***

Here are some assists to help make reading easier and fun throughout the summer, presented by Kindy Segovia, assistive technology supervisor at Kent ISD in Kent County, Michigan, at an MCEC (Michigan Conference for Exceptional Children) conference in March 2019. Reading highlighter Segovia previously suggested solutions for highlighting paper-based text in her article, Top Ten assistive technology tools to support special education students in reading. ...

Read more by Becky Palmer-Scott.

<http://specialedtech.net/2019/03/13/tech-tools->



## Yes, parents, there is a magic formula to keep your kids reading through the summer

By Karen MacPherson



(Michelle Mruk for The Washington Post)

Yes, parents, there really is a magic formula to keep your kids reading through the summer and beyond. The secret ingredient? You.

Research shows that reading during the summer helps kids minimize the “summer slide,” the drop-off in reading skills that non-summer readers experience at the start of a new school year. Troublingly, the recent [“Kids and Family Reading Report,”](#) a biennial survey done by Scholastic, a publishing and media company, showed that among kids ages 9-11, [14 percent read no books during the summer of 2018](#), compared with 7 percent in 2016. Among kids ages 15-17, 32 percent read no books last summer, compared with 22 percent in 2016.

But summer reading need not be a hard sell to kids. That same survey found that nearly 60 percent of kids ages 6-17 agreed with the statement: “I really enjoy reading books over the summer.” You can help them find that joy. In the midst of the craziness of daily life — and the distractions of screens and so much else — it’s a challenge for parents to make reading a pleasurable priority in their family’s life. But summertime actually is a perfect — and crucial — time to experiment with some of the following strategies, recommended by children’s librarians and reading experts.

### *Let kids choose their own books*

Reading experts say that kids who can choose what to read in their out-of-school time are more likely to enjoy reading and ultimately become lifelong readers. So, just say yes to whatever books interest your children — even if you’d prefer to see them reading the latest Newbery Medal-winning novel instead of “how to” nonfiction books, graphic novels or formulaic series books.

Unfortunately, more schools now than in the past require kids to read only books at their level (determined by whatever reading program is used by the school system). That can present a major roadblock to kids’ reading enjoyment because the books often don’t interest them. So it’s up to parents to give their children permission to choose books they really want to read in their own time.

### *Expand the definition of reading*

Allow kids to pick their reading format. Audiobooks and e-readers can be gateways to reading for some kids. For example, audiobooks allow kids to listen to books that might otherwise be too hard for them; they’re also perfect for fidgety kids, who can do other activities, like drawing, while listening.

E-readers, meanwhile, work well for young readers with learning disabilities who may need adjustable print size and text-to-speech features, as well as for kids who just love adding some tech to their reading.

Graphic novels are another popular format that shouldn't make parents fret. Drawings can make books more accessible, but that doesn't also mean that they dumb them down. In fact, some reading experts argue that graphic novels actually offer a real brain workout, as readers must simultaneously interpret words and pictures. Graphic novels also are winning literary kudos. Just look at Newbery Honor winners ["El Deafo"](#) by Cece Bell and Victoria Jamieson's ["Roller Girl,"](#) National Book Award finalist ["Hey, Kiddo,"](#) by Jarrett J. Krosoczka, or ["New Kid,"](#) a critically acclaimed 2019 graphic novel by Jerry Craft.

[\[These books can help build strong girls — and boys — for today's world\]](#)

### *Make reading a family priority — for everyone*

Here's where adult involvement plays an especially important role. Most parents already know about the value of setting screen-time limits. Yes, pushing back against digital distractions can be tough, so that's why it's important for kids to see the grown-ups in their lives reading for pleasure. Finding even 10 minutes to just sit and read something other than email or social media can feel impossible to busy parents, but modeling reading for pleasure is a critical way to convince a child that reading is fun.

Why not make it an activity for the whole family just to hang out and read? Add "reading time" to that busy list of weekend activities — 30 minutes or so when everyone relaxes and quietly reads. It's just as important, and easy to schedule, as soccer practice.

### *Make reading social*

Forget about the quiet and plan some read-aloud time. This could mean actively reading a book to — or with — a child or listening to an audiobook during car trips (even to the supermarket). This way, kids and adults can share and discuss the same book.

Other ways to make books social: Book clubs in which parents and kids both participate and family-reading meals where everyone either listens to an audiobook or reads their own book. Also, a trip to the movie theater. Make a book the gateway to seeing the film version of it. "Charlotte's Web," "Matilda," "Wonder," "A Wrinkle in Time" — there are so many wonderful books that have been adapted for the big screen. Reading the book first is great preparation for the theater experience — and creates a great conversation starter for the ride home from the theater.

[\[How to get kids to look away from their screens and take pleasure in books\]](#)

### *Make it a game*

Many children's librarians also recommend adding a "game" aspect to reading. Signing kids up for summer reading programs at the local public library is one easy way to do this. Creating book-related bingo cards or "Jeopardy"-like questions also boosts the entertainment value of books.

Or try out a game called "Spoilers," [created by children's librarian Kendra Wight](#), who works at Sno-Isle's Library on Wheels in Washington state. The idea is simple: An adult and a kid choose a book they both will read. The adult stops reading exactly halfway through the book, while the kid reads to the end. After finishing the book, the kid comes up with an alternate ending, then presents that ending and the real ending to see if the adult can guess which is correct. Wight suggests drawing out the conversation by asking kids to relate the story to something that happened in real life or to come up with a question they'd like to ask the author.

"I think that what makes 'Spoilers' appealing to kids, beyond the obvious opportunity to outwit an adult, is that an adult agrees to read something that is important to them," Wight said. "Too often I think our 'reading for fun programs' lead kids to books we have selected, instead of following them to the books they already love. And when we read together, even in this asynchronous way, we get to know each other better."

**Karen MacPherson** is the children's and teen services coordinator for the Takoma Park, Md., library.





# Think Spring.... LET'S GOLF!

TUESDAY, JUNE 25th, 2019  
Registration at 7:30 a.m. Shotgun start at 8:45 a.m.  
DEVIL'S RIDGE GOLF CLUB  
3700 Metamora Road, Oxford, MI  
(248) 969-0100  
[www.lakeorioneducationfoundation.org](http://www.lakeorioneducationfoundation.org)



**CORPORATE SPONSORS:** \$2500

Foursome, name on all outing materials, premier signage at the course, program recognition

**Benefactor:** \$850

Program recognition for you or your company, signage on tee, plus foursome of golf

**Contest Sponsor:** \$300

Sign at Closest to Pin, Long Drive or Putting contest, program recognition

**Breakfast/Lunch/Dinner Sponsor** \$250

Sign at check-in and dinner, program recognition

**Hole Sponsors:** \$100

Sign at a hole on the course, program recognition

**Golfer/participant:** \$125

One player golf package – 18 holes with cart, box lunch, 4 drink tickets, and bar-b-que dinner

**Gift Sponsors:** \$50

Program recognition (will also give recognition for donated gift items for silent auction)

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Method of Payment: (CC or Check) Visa/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization # (last 3 digits on back of card): \_\_\_\_\_

Authorization Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to: Lake Orion Education Foundation Address: P.O. Box 932, Lake Orion, MI 48362

Golfer's Names E-Mail Phone

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

The Lake Orion Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization - Tax #38-2990046.

Contributions to LOEF are tax-deductible within IRS guidelines.

Payments received for a foursome group prior to 5-31-19 receive a discounted price of \$400. Payments received prior to 5-31-19 receive a 2-1 golf certificate good for one round at Devil's Ridge during the 2019 golf season. For any further questions contact Al Brunmeier at 248-320-6616 or us at [LOEDFoundation@gmail.com](mailto:LOEDFoundation@gmail.com)

**\*\*Complimentary Bag Service and Club Cleaning is provided after golf\*\***