July 2020

Dear Middle Schoolers and Parents of Middle Schoolers –

 We hope you’re having a great summer so far. We are looking forward to seeing all of you when school begins—IN PERSON!! Boy, did we miss you all last spring. Our first school day is Monday, August 31. We’re writing now to you to let you know about some new things to expect.

First, we hope you’re having fun reading new books this summer. We’ve really enjoyed hearing from you about what you’ve read in June. (**If you forgot, send it now!** We’ll still enjoy it—it doesn’t spoil!) Remember that you can read anything you like in July, and that your choice in August must come from the list we gave you in the letter. If you need another copy of that list, just let us know.

Second, we usually begin the year working together at the **Nelson Food Pantry** on an August day before school starts. Marian at the Food Pantry has missed us! We are invited to gather there on **Friday, August 28th at 10 am** to help them prepare for the next day’s distribution. We will work outside, and people will wear masks. You can also bring and wear gloves. We usually go to Vito’s afterwards for pizza. What I would like to suggest is that we order pizzas and take them to the Nelson Wayside (picnic tables outside) to share? We can also bring lemonade and dessert. We cannot drive students in our cars at this point, so this would be a parent-and-kid pizza lunch. Parents can drop off students at 10 am at the Food Pantry, run errands for an hour or stay and help, come back around 11 and either pick up your child and go home or pick up your child and bring him/her to the Wayside for a class picnic. I’ll check back in in August to get a head count.

Third, there will be a lot of new routines this year--for everybody. When you arrive at school, each and every day, we’ll take your temperature and make sure you don’t have any symptoms. We’ve cleaned out anything that isn’t easily cleaned from the Trailer, so you’ll be surprised to see no couches and no rugs! This also lets us spread out and stay the recommended distance from each other. Our schedule will be a little different, too, as we’re trying to stay within the group and with the same teachers throughout the day. There won’t be Book Buddies, Advisory, or Assembly until we know we can mix together again safely. Jennifer and Katrien will be your teachers for every subject except Spanish and Art. We will be in two spaces, the Trailer and the former Spanish room, to try to stay in our “bubble” as much as possible.

We also usually begin the year with a field trip to help us build our class community. That plan is on hold for the moment as we figure out how field trips will work this year. We need to determine what school’s policy is and also what parents are comfortable with. We take our students’ safety very seriously!

So this year will start off missing a few things that we are used to, but what it WILL have is all of us together, learning, exploring, and having fun together. Be ready for some limitations on what we can all do, due to social distancing precautions, but be ready, too, for good friends, good conversations, and, we hope, really interesting things to think about. We need your voice for those conversations and your brain for that thinking! We can’t wait to be together again!

With this letter, you should find a supply list for Middle School. Please let us know if you have any questions about anything on this list. We know there is a lot of time before school starts, but we want to make sure you can take advantage of back-to-school sales and tax-free weekends, etc. If you shop at Staples, mention Katrien’s name or use this link to earn rewards for the classroom https://www.staples.com/classroomrewards/parent/katrien-vance

 If you have any questions about the year, please feel free to email either Katrien or Jennifer. There will be some things that are new and a little weird, we know--like masks!! (Katrien has super cool Washington Capitals and Washington Nationals gaiters that she looks forward to showing off)--but we have a lot of great things planned for you. We look forward to a fun year! *Katrien and Jennifer*

**Middle School Supply List – 2020-2021**

Please email Katrien (KatrienV@nbsva.org) or Jennifer (JenniferP@nbsva.org) if you have any questions.

Out of extra caution due to COVID-19, we are going to ask students to have their own collection of classroom supplies that they keep in a container and bring with them from class to class. We will have extras in the classroom if someone forgets, but **we’ll try not to share supplies** as much as possible. Given this new situation, we ask that students have:

-a **water bottle with your child’s name on it** (we will not be lending cups from the kitchen)

-a **face mask every day**; send in an extra one to live in the cubby in case the daily one is forgotten, please

-a **container for your writing and art supplies** - This might need to be larger than a traditional pencil pouch. It could be a plastic box that snaps shut; it could be a shoe box; it could be tupperware or any other kind of box that has a lid and that we can label as yours. It needs to fit in your cubby. In that box will go (you do not have to buy new things if you already have them!):

-**pencils** - Please get one pack of 10 or 12 and hang on to them!

**-**a small **pencil sharpener** - we will still have the one in the classroom, too

-**highlighters** - a couple of colors for note-taking

-a small pack of **sticky notes** (like Post-It® notes) for note-taking

-**colored pencils and/or magic markers** (for map work and other assignments)

**-erasers**

**We will supply a “math box” for each student with basic supplies, such as a ruler, calculator, scissors, protractor, dry erase marker, and math materials.**  You do not need to buy those things.

**Folders and Spirals:**

-a **YELLOW** pocket folder and **YELLOW** spiral notebook (wide-ruled paper) for **Humanities**

-a **BLUE** pocket folder and **BLUE** spiral notebook (wide-ruled paper) for **Writing Workshop**

-a **GREEN** **1” size or smaller,** 3-ring binder with wide-ruled paper and with pockets for **Science**

-a **RED** pocket folder for **Math** and **RED** spiral notebook (graph paper)

-a 5th-color pocket folder for **Reading** (you do not need a spiral notebook for Reading)

-for **Spanish**, 1 white, 3-ring binder (1-1 ½") and 1 package of 5 dividers for the binder

(It’s ok if your folders are patterned or decorated--try to make the designated color be the main color, so we can all tell which is your math folder and which is your WW folder. Have fun choosing!)

 **For Art:** (please use your judgment—no need to break the bank!)

· One hardcover sketchbook to use at home and in class. It should be 8.5 x 11 or larger. It does not have

to be new. If you already have a sketchbook that you are using, that is great: please keep using it!

· To keep at home (you might already have these from last year:

 One white plastic eraser, colored pencils, crayons, pencil sharpener, # 2 or softer pencil.

**We’ll supply** an assignment book, a Reading Log (composition book), Friday Folder, and a “math toolkit.” Each student will also have his or her own Chromebook at school that will be assigned only to them for the year. We have 55-cent earbuds for all students that will stay in their cubby or supply box; students are also welcome to bring their own to leave at school.

Staples Link (your purchases help us buy more classroom supplies): https://www.staples.com/classroomrewards/parent/katrien-vance