

August 2023

Dear Middle School students and families –

Happy August! We hope you're having a great summer so far. We are looking forward to seeing all of you when school begins. We're writing to you to get you started thinking about coming back to school (there is a lot of summer left, don't worry!) and to let you know what to expect.

First and foremost, some introductions! We are very excited to have a teacher new to NBS and a teacher in a new role this year. Welcome to Melanie Stine, who will be teaching Middle School Science and teaming with Katrien on 8th-grade math. Melanie brings her love of and experience with teaching science, environmental research, and leading outdoor adventures to NBS. Heather, whom most of the students will know from her Electives and Emphasis Week offerings, as well as her teaching in Middle School last year, will take over Middle School Humanities. A PhD historian, Heather enjoys thinking about stories in history, how they are told, remembered, and taught. Heather will also team with Katrien on Reading and Writing this year. We're very lucky to have these two experienced and passionate teachers on our Middle School team. Karina will continue to teach Spanish to both 7th and 8th graders. Katrien will teach Math 7 & 8, Reading, Writing, and music, and will continue to be the point person for parent communication throughout the year.

A reading reminder: we hope you've had fun reading new books in June and July. We've really enjoyed hearing from you about what you're reading. **Remember that in August, you should read *Loser* by Jerry Spinelli.** Come to school ready to talk about it!

Our first get-together as a class: we hope to see you at the **Nelson County Food Pantry on Friday, August 25 at 10 am.** We'll work from 10 - 11:30 (or whenever we're finished), and then, if you're able, we'll go to Vito's for lunch. **Please let Katrien know by email** if you'll be joining us for the Food Pantry and for lunch afterwards--parents are welcome, or you can drop kids off, and we'll take care of them until about 12:30 pm. If you can help us transport kids to Vito's, please let us know that, too. If you need a ride, let us know that, too. We'll send out more details when we know how many are coming--we hope it's everyone!

Back to School Night! Parents are invited to the Trailer on **Tuesday, August 29 either 4 - 5 pm or 6 - 7 pm** to meet new teachers, see the room, and ask any questions about the school year. We'll have some information for you about field trips and classes and reminders about everything you need to get started.

Our first day of school is Thursday, August 31. Our first field trip is Friday, September 1: we will go to Triple C Camp in Charlottesville to tackle some of their team and individual challenges from 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. **We need a driver or two for this trip**--one way is ok. Just let Katrien know. This trip costs \$50 per participant; NBS is paying \$20 of that, so **your cost is \$30.** You can send that in with your child when school begins (check made out to NBS or cash). If there is any problem paying this amount, please let Katrien know; we can make it work. Also before school starts, **please fill out an electronic waiver** by following this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/hoXuan4KYeVc7mMn2>. Our group number is 23NB0901.

With this letter, you should find a **supply list** for Middle School. Please let Katrien know if you have any questions about anything on this list. Finally, parents, please make sure we have your most up-to-date email address so that we can keep in touch with you. If you have any questions about the year, please feel free to email us. **We look forward to a great year!**

Katrien - KatrienV@nbsva.org

Heather - HeatherW@nbsva.org

Melanie - MelanieS@nbsva.org

Middle School Supply List – 2023-2024

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

Your child should have at school (and leave at school):

- -a **water bottle with the student's name permanently on it**
- -a **face mask** (just in case) to live in the cubby
- -a **container (box, pouch, etc.) for writing supplies** - Your supplies will live longer.
- -**pencils** - Please get two packs of 10 or 12--one to keep and one to donate to the classroom. Please check in throughout the year to be sure your child has pencils and re-supply as necessary. You'd be surprised how quickly they disappear!
- -**highlighters** - a couple of colors for note-taking; we also have some in the classroom
- -**colored pencils and/or magic markers** (for map work and other assignments); we also have some in the classroom
- -**erasers** (these allow pencils to be viable longer)

Folders and Spirals:

-a **BLUE** pocket folder and **BLUE** spiral notebook (wide-ruled paper, 70-100 sheets) for **Reading/Writing**

-a **GREEN** spiral notebook with wide-ruled paper and **GREEN** pocket folder for **Science**, and a **bound, lined composition notebook** (7.5 x 9.75 inches)

-for **Spanish**, 1 white or black, 3-ring binder (1-1 ½", preferably with pockets) and 1 package of 5 dividers for the binder, as well as a pack of wide ruled lined paper to go in the sections

(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 RW folder. Have fun choosing! Please do not get one gigantic binder; these separate folders help students stay organized and take home only what they need.)

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, math notebook and spiral, Humanities binder, music folder, math supplies (ruler, calculator, scissors, protractor, dry erase marker, and white board), basic classroom supplies (tape, glue, scissors, markers, extra pencils, extra highlighters, lined paper). Each student will also have a 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.

Please make sure all of your supplies are labeled with your name. We would like to make your supplies last as long as possible.