

Dear Senior Students and Their Families,

August 2, 2023

We hope you have been enjoying your summer! While there is still another month until we begin school, you might be starting to think about buying school supplies and taking advantage of store sales in the coming weeks. **The 2nd page of this letter contains a list of supplies that you'll need to have as we begin school in just a few short weeks.** The time will fly by, so you may want to begin gathering the items.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the Annex and the Senior Class for the coming school year. We are also thrilled to welcome a new teacher to our core team this year, Lindsey Osborne. Some of you may know Lindsey from the community or you may know her family: Owen who will be in Primary Blue this year, Theo who will be joining the Nursery class, and Lindsey's husband, Rob. Lindsey brings her science knowledge from her biology and nursing degrees and professional experiences. Lindsey is most excited to get students engaged in asking questions and investigating the natural world around them. Our core teaching team includes Lindsey for Science and Music, Tim for Math, and Taylor for Humanities and Language Arts. Additionally, we also will enjoy Spanish with Karina, Electives with the Senior/Middle School teaching team, Art with Karen, and Chorus with Katrien. Finally, Melanie Stine, the 7th and 8th grade Science teacher this year, will also lead an enrichment and extension time for Seniors on Thursdays. We are excited about having such a dynamic team of teachers to collaborate, teach, and mentor the Senior class this year!

The Seniors' curriculum offers enrichment, engagement, and hands-on fun! We'll start **humanities** with an in-depth study of the Roman Empire, and its politics, art & architecture, culture, and food. Then, it's on to research of the Barbarians and then exploration of the mythology, history, and geography of the Vikings. You'll begin **science** this year with Lindsey, diving into our year-long *Trout in the Classroom* project where we'll care for a population of trout that will culminate in their release in the Spring. Also, this Fall we'll investigate *Birds and Migration* through the Wildlife Center's Hawk Watch. Then we'll explore our solar system, the stars, galaxies, and space exploration in our *Astronomy* unit. Later on we'll investigate *the Electromagnetic Spectrum* and how it relates to the anatomy of the *eye and vision*. Similarly we'll investigate the *Physics of Sound* and how it relates to the anatomy of the *ear*. We'll expand our study of physics into the exciting world of electricity and prior to the trout release, we'll spend time learning about *Stream Ecology*. Tim looks forward to building on students' terrific progress last year in **math**. We will question, look for patterns, and find multiple and varied solutions to interesting problems while getting even more comfortable with fundamental skills. We will work as a class, with partners and on our own to explore and master new skills and create an environment where it is okay (and encouraged) to ask questions, make mistakes and think out loud. We will also use *Get More Math* to help us keep up our proficiency and avoid forgetting what we worked hard to learn. In **language arts** this year, Taylor can't wait to support students as they again take on the 40 Book Challenge! Seniors will attempt to independently read 40 books in nine different genres over the course of the school year with the help of peer and teacher recommendations and with our pick of books in the ever-expanding Annex library. Taylor also looks forward to building our writing workshop community, where we'll support one another's growth as writers through journaling, sharing, and responding. We'll also hone our vocabulary skills using the online program, Membean.

If you haven't already begun your summer reading assignment, now's the perfect time! All Seniors received the Summer Reading Bingo assignment at Move-up Time in the spring. Please email Taylor at taylorlb@nbsva.org if you have misplaced your copy of the assignment, and she can send you a digital copy. Also, feel free to reach out to her if you have any questions about summer reading.

We hope you enjoy the rest of your summer, perhaps spending lots of time playing outside, seeing family and friends, and having lots of adventures! We also hope you're finding time to get lost in a book several times a week!

We'd love to have you join us for the Parent Workday on Saturday, August 19, to help get the school ready for a new year. Also, we look forward to seeing you at our Back-to-School Night *before school begins* on Tuesday, August 29. You are invited to attend this hour-long informational session during one of two time slots: 4-5 p.m. or 6-7 p.m. We will be eager to see your children when school begins on August 31. Thank you!

The Senior Team

Taylor, Tim, and Lindsey

Please read the next two pages of our detailed supply list carefully. Contact one of us if you have any questions.

Tim's email: tim@nbsva.org

Lindsey's email: lindseyo@nbsva.org

Taylor's email: taylorlb@nbsva.org

Seniors' Supply List - 2023 - 2024

Please obtain the following items before the start of school. We hope you will be able to take advantage of summer sales. *Please feel free to reuse folders, notebooks, and supplies that are in good shape. They do not need to be new.*

- A **water bottle**, with your child's name written on it in permanent marker
- A **pencil case** (box or pouch), large enough to hold the following items.
 - pencils** -- pack of 10 or 12, with extras at home
 - an eraser** - the pink or white rectangular erasers work well
 - hand-held pencil sharpener** - the simple small plastic ones with a cover to catch the shavings
 - fine tip dry erase markers** (4 pack, all black or assorted is fine)
 - scissors** - The small Fiskar style works well, but you can choose; nothing fancy or large is needed.
 - earphones/buds** - Your child should have their own pair for use throughout the year. Please label.
 - highlighters** - 1 each of yellow, pink, and green
 - black sharpies (optional)** - 1 fine, 1 ultra-fine
 - clipboard** - 12.5" X 9"
 - a student planner** with a place to write down homework for all subjects each day

For the Classroom:

- Please choose 2 items from the following list to donate to the classroom for general use:
bold-tipped dry-erase classroom markers, box of tissues, dish soap, kitchen sponges, extra #2 pencils, wide-ruled lined notebook paper, colored Sharpies (bold or fine line), pack of glue sticks

For use at Home:

- An eraser, colored pencils, markers, a pencil sharpener, pencils, notebook paper*

Subject Folders and Notebooks Needed:

- Language Arts: a **composition notebook** (of any color or design), as well as a **YELLOW** pocket folder
- Humanities: a **BLUE** 1" 3-ring binder with a pocket in the front or back, as well as three dividers of any kind
- Science: a **GREEN** or science-themed pocket folder for Science
- Math: a **RED** 3-ring binder with a pocket in the front or back (½" size is preferred, but no bigger than 1", please) and a red or math-themed pocket folder for homework/taking things home.
- Music and Chorus: a **PURPLE** or music-themed pocket folder for music
- Art: a **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!
- Spanish: You may have had a **WHITE** 1-inch 3-ring binder for **Spanish** in a previous year. If so, please bring this with you. If you do not already have this, you do not need to get one at this time.

We'll supply: *curriculum materials, a small whiteboard, ruler, protractor, and calculator, and supplies for special projects*