

August 2024

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: a new space! When we see you on August 29, the MS HQ will be in the Annex, just as it was when the Annex was originally opened in 2015. You'll have Humanities, Reading, Writing, some math, and Spanish in the Annex--with a bathroom!--and Science in the new Science space in the Trailer. We have done some sweaty work this summer to make this swap, and we're excited about our new spaces.

Our first get-together as a class: we hope to see you at the **Nelson County Food Pantry on Thursday, August 22 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 new MS classroom on **Tuesday, August 27 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, as well as reminders about everything you need to get started.

Our first day of school is Thursday, August 29. Our first field trip is Friday, August 30! We will take a day of service to start the year off right: first, we'll ALL go to the Food Pantry to help pack boxes for their distribution the next day. Then we'll head to the Rivanna River for some kayaking and river clean-up with the Rivanna River Company. **We need a driver or two for this trip.** I will send you more details as we get closer to the date; let me know if you're available to drive us to the Pantry at 9:30 am, from the Pantry to Cville at 11 am, from Cville home at 3 pm--or all 3. Thank you! (If your child cannot swim, please let me know ASAP.)

A reading reminder: we hope you've had fun reading new books in June and July. If you have not yet written to us about July, please do! We've really enjoyed hearing from you about what you're reading. **Remember that in August, you should read *Miss Rumphius* by Barbara Cooney, *A Bargain for Frances* by Russell Hoban, and *Weslandia* by Paul Fleischman.** These are all kids' picture books; you can find them at school or at the library. Let us know if you have trouble finding copies. **Write to us about ONE of those three--whichever one you want. Tell us why you think we had you read it, and whether it was worth reading, as well as anything else about your experience of reading it.**

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

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Middle School Supply List – 2024-2025

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

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

- ****new this year**** - a **camp chair labeled with student's name** for the Annex porch, so everyone has a place to sit and relax (and they are easily moved around) - please let us know if you do not have one that can come to school and stay there, and we will begin looking for extras
- a **water bottle (or cup) with the student's name permanently on it**
- 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.
- **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)
- **CHOOSE ONE:** a box of tissues or a roll of 13-gal trash bags

Folders and Spirals:

- a **BLUE** pocket folder and **BLUE** spiral notebook (wide-ruled paper, 70-100 sheets) for **Writing Workshop** (8th graders can use their old spiral)
- a **PURPLE** pocket folder for **Reading** (we'll provide a composition book to be a Reader's Notebook)
- a **GREEN** spiral notebook with wide-ruled paper (3- or 5-subject size) and **GREEN** 3 ring, 1-1.5 inch binder for **Science**
- for **Humanities**: a 2 inch, 3-ring binder in any color
- for **Spanish**, 1 white 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 (you can use last year's binder if you have it)
- for **Geometry** - we will provide the notebook you need. Students will also need a compass that can hold a pencil and index cards. Having a pouch to hold those things in your notebook will help you!
- for **Math 8** - a **RED** spiral bound notebook with graph paper
- for **Math 7** - we will provide the notebook you need

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

We'll supply an assignment book, a Reader's Notebook, Friday Folder, Math 7 notebook and spiral, Geometry notebook, music folder, math supplies (ruler, calculator, etc.), and 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. Take a moment to set up a homework location at home where supplies can always be found.