

August 2025

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 face! 7th graders will recognize Sean Psujek, formerly of Staunton Montessori School. We got to know Sean last year on some get-togethers with SMS's 7th and 8th graders, and when that program closed, we were lucky enough to get Sean to join us to co-teach science and math! Sean is a STEM educator with diverse experience and has taught from college to middle school levels. She is a member of Staunton Makerspace and often brings a design challenge involving making into her classrooms to help drive a deeper understanding of the material.

It's not too late to register for a math camp!

- ★ August 11 - 15: 3-D Geometry, 12:30 - 3:30, \$125 for the week -- polygons, area, prisms, surface area, volume, etc.
- ★ August 18 - 22: Back-to-School Readiness, 10:30 - 11:30. \$60 for the week - Students will practice basic grade-level skills using the online program "Get More Math," which offers spiral review for long-term retention. I'll be there to answer questions. Skills are customized by grade, and students work at their own pace. **No class Thursday, 8/21 due to Food Pantry.**
- ★ August 18 - 22: Bootstrap Coding Intro, 12:30 - 3:30, \$125 for the week. Bootstrap combines a bespoke coding language (meant to be a good precursor to Python) and algebraic concepts to help students build their own very simple video game. No experience with coding or Algebra required. This is a very good intro to the logic of coding. **Thursday's class will be 1:30 - 4:30 because of the MS Food Pantry trip.**

Our first get-together as a class: we hope to see you at the **Nelson County Food Pantry on Thursday, August 21 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 MS classroom on **Tuesday, August 26 either 4 - 5 pm or 6 - 7 pm** to meet our new team member, see the room, and ask any questions about the school year. We'll have some information for you about important dates in the school year, field trips, and classes, as well as reminders about everything you need to get started.

Our first day of school is Thursday, August 28. Our first field trip is Friday, August 29! First, we will all go to the Nelson Food Pantry to help pack boxes for their August distribution. After that, we'll eat lunch and head to the Scrappy Elephant in Cville for an afternoon art activity that connects to our Humanities curriculum, builds teamwork, and aligns with our reduce/reuse/recycle mindset. We 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-ish am, from Cville home at 3:30 pm--or all 3. Thank you!

Some quick things students can do to get ready for the year:

- Join the correct "Get More Math" math class online. Use these links:
 - Math 7: <https://mygmm.app/XTCQCM>
 - Math 8: <https://mygmm.app/BPNFVX>

- If you are itching for something to do, start on the practice skills already available on Get More Math. If you are coming to the “BTS Readiness” camp August 18 - 22, you’ll be able to ask questions as you work on these.
- Join the correct Membean class online. Use these links:
 - WW7 (7th graders): <https://membean.com/enroll?t=NQSQEXT>
 - WW8 (8th graders): <https://membean.com/enroll?t=NQSQA8B>
(Your account data will stay with you as you join this new class.)

If anyone is unable to join these classes over the summer, they’ll be able to do that at school during our first few days--never fear!

Parents! You can get quick reminders about field trips and class activities by signing up for the **Remind** app. Use this link: <https://www.remind.com/join/efkaeh>.

A reading reminder for students: 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 *Ban This Book* by Alan Gratz. Write to us when you finish.** 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 us know if you have any questions about anything on this list. One hint: less is more, except when it comes to pencils.

Finally, **parents**, please fill out [this Google Form](#) to help us partner with you to give your child the best year possible. We appreciate your support, and we love having up-to-date information from you about your child’s wants and needs.

If you have any questions about the year, please always feel free to email us.

We look forward to a great year!

<i>Katrien</i> -	KatrienV@nbsva.org
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Middle School Supply List – 2025-2026

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

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

- 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** -- students who want hot chocolate or tea throughout the year should bring a mug we can label with their name
- a **container (box, pouch, etc.) for writing supplies** - Your supplies will last 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**
- 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**
- a **YELLOW** pocket folder for **Humanities**
- 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** - a **RED** binder (1 or 1.5"). Students will also need a compass that can hold a pencil and may want a small ruler. Having a pouch to hold those things in your notebook will help you!
- for **Math 8** - a **RED** binder (1 or 1.5" — you can use last year's if you like) and a **RED** spiral bound notebook with graph paper
- for **Math 7** - a **RED** binder (1 or 1.5") and a **RED** spiral bound notebook with graph paper
- a music folder --whatever you like; try to make it not one of the previous colors to avoid confusion

(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 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.