

## Hello (new and returning) Middle School Students and Families -

Can you believe this summer is already almost over?! We have great expectations for the new school year and are looking forward to seeing you. Below you will find your supply lists and messages from your middle school teachers.

### PLEASE PURCHASE/BRING

1. Headphones (that can survive a backpack)
2. Pencils, pens, & highlighters
3. Erasable highlighters & pens (optional - These are REALLY helpful as students learn to highlight.)
4. Crayons and colored pencils.
5. Expo markers and eraser to use with individual whiteboards
6. Post-its (various sizes big and little)
7. Index Cards (optional)
8. A sturdy ruler (not one that bends)
9. A good pair of scissors.
10. (Please make sure you also have glue sticks, scissors, tape, and colored pencils available to you at home if you do not already, as you may need them to complete some assignments at home.)
11. Two 1.5 inch binders (humanities and math) (science will be provided)
12. 3-hole lined paper for class binders (humanities and math)
13. At least one tablet of  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch graphing paper (for math binder)
14. A composition notebook or wire notebook to leave in your science binder.
15. An extra composition notebook for advisory (6th and 8th only)
16. A journal for Writer's Workshop that you, the student, loves and will enjoy filling with your writing!

The following donations to the classroom would also be appreciated whether it includes all items to all three teachers or just some of the items for some of the teachers:

- Disinfecting wipes
- Tissue boxes
- Paper towel rolls (for science)
- Pencils
- Hand sanitizer
- Tape and glue sticks

17. A TI-30 calculator or better. It must be able to do square, cube, square root, cube root, and pi operations. Parentheses should be on to allow writing whole equations on the calculator.
18. Two pocket folders for science and humanities homework. Please make sure it is a sturdy one since it won't be in a binder. (or you can put two folders in a thin binder if you prefer).
19. It is unknown yet if regulations will allow us to use lockers this year still. If you choose to buy locker organizing stuff, hang on to those receipts.

\*please contact us if costs are piling up and you need to know what is the highest priority. For example, we have spare binders.

### Dr. Proctor UPDATE

Those of you who were students in the middle school last year may remember hearing/learning about scientist/artist Dr. Sian Proctor? (For those who don't know - she used to live in Nashua as a child, she is a jack of all trades scientist who teaches college in New Mexico now, she owns an art studio, she has participated in several mars colony simulations and even a reality show, and she was selected to fly on the first all-civilian space mission with Space-X later this year). Well, I thought you might like a summer update! Just a couple of weeks ago, she and her team got to go up on a plane that helps train them for being in zero gravity. You may have heard this summer about a couple of different billionaires that have traveled to space with some other all-civilian passengers too. While these trips were still historic and special, they also just "barely" made it into what we call space, they lasted only a few minutes, and they did not enter orbit. The mission that Dr. Proctor is participating in will be entering an orbit that is higher than the International Space Station's orbit and will last for three days while they conduct experiments and complete some research. So cool! We will be following her closely as they are scheduled to launch around the middle of September. You can read more about some of the zero-G training the team just got to do recently here.

<https://www.space.com/inspiration4-astronauts-experience-zero-gravity-flight>

Dear Students and Families,

My name is Mary Ellen Wessels and I'm looking forward to teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade Humanities in person again this year! Humanities is sort of like Social Studies and ELA smooshed together. Draco, my bearded dragon, is also looking forward to seeing you again!



I'll start by telling you a little about me: I have a M.Ed. in Arts Integration, and Curriculum. I have been a teacher, a paraprofessional, a curriculum editor, and I am a parent to 5 children (all grown up now). I'm also a singer / folk musician. This summer I had fun visiting my family in Michigan, and I also got to be part of the iCivics design squad, a group of teachers helping to redesign the fabulous iCivics platform that I love to use with students!



I love to read. I encourage students to get a library card for their local library (all GCCSA students may get one from Merrimack too if they like). Even if they never go to the library they can use their library card for tons of great online resources like ebooks, audiobooks and online research databases that normally would be too expensive. This will help them with research.

- Sincerely, Ms. Wessels (Humanities and 6th grade Advisory)  
[wesselsm@gccs-nh.org](mailto:wesselsm@gccs-nh.org)

Hey everyone

I hope you have all had a wonderful summer. I have kept busy with family, outdoor projects (when the rain takes enough of a break to let me), and summer jobs. I am looking forward to a new year with all of you and I have some exciting plans for science this year.

- Mr. Ward (Science and 8th grade Advisory) [wardr@gccs-nh.org](mailto:wardr@gccs-nh.org)



(my garden/jungle)

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you would like to visit our classroom, schedule a conference, or volunteer to help out, you can contact us by email or by calling the school.

Hello parents, guardians and students -

I hope your summer has been fantastic. I expect things are going to be a lot different and a lot more engaged this year. Projects, hands on learning, student and teacher collaborations and interactions. I have already been working on the curriculums for all three grades integrating art and design into classes. We will teach ratios and area with artwork from Piet Mondrian and design our own polyhedrons and apartments. Since we will not be virtual I can teach with Posters on the Walls.



One that applies to all classes is Invisible Math. Not all math is visible. As an example the power of 7 is one but is not written raised to the first power it is just written as 7. Numbers don't always have decimals. How do you write 10 as a decimal? Well 10.0 of course but the decimal is invisible. X is actually 1X. Very confusing to students. When I ask how many x's I have with the term 2X I usually get 2! But when I ask how many I have with X I get ummm? This poster will stay up all year. Now you know that a good part of the summer I have been making posters that will help clarify and speed up the learning. I did go Antiquing in Franconia today so I have been doing some fun stuff like that and Silver Knights baseball. Not a good year for them. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

- Mr. Wilson (Math and 7th grade Advisory) [wilsonm@gccs-nh.org](mailto:wilsonm@gccs-nh.org)