June 10, 2019

Dear Nettelhorst Middle School Students and Families,

Step-Up Day can be a bittersweet day as it marks both endings and beginnings. It proclaims the end of a school year as well as the end of a school journey for our graduating 8th graders. It signals the rapidly approaching start of summer and, for some of you, the start of something new: middle school.

Our first thoughts for all of you today are for your summer. We hope it’s a safe and restful summer for each of you. We hope you take advantage of all that summer offers: a chance to connect with family and friends in more relaxed ways—at parks, the beach, and other fun places. We hope you’re able to take time to enjoy all the season has to offer: a ball game, watermelon, the Summer Learning Challenge at the Chicago Public Library, outdoor theater and concerts presented by the Chicago Park District, and some of the wonderful street festivals around the city.

Between all your summer activities, remember to leave time for independent reading. It enriches your life in many ways, and it will help you keep your skills up for the next school year. It’s a perfect time of year to explore new authors and genres. It’s also a great time to pick up a journal and record your observations and thoughts as you journey through the summer.

Some of you may want to get ready for September right away; others may wait until the day before school starts to do back-to-school shopping while some of you may choose to order school supplies through the school. Either way, we’ve prepared a list of what you’ll need to have a successful year in middle school next year. We are all looking forward to a great 2019-20 school year. Take care and make the most of your summer!

Sincerely,

The Middle School Team

Ms. Chu, Ms. Getz, Ms. Hempe, Ms. Holmes, Mr. Merel, Mr. Nieciak, and Mr. Scott
2019-2020 Middle School Supply List
All students MUST arrive with the following supplies (these are the same supplies in the 6-8 school packages):

- 1 pack of sticky notes
- 1 pack of index cards (3-in. x 5-in. ruled)
- 4-pack of Expo markers
- 1 hand sanitizer (8 oz.)
- 6 boxes of sharpened No. 2 Ticonderoga pencils
- 1 pack of loose-leaf paper (100 sheets)
- 4 packs white computer paper
- 4 boxes of tissues
- 1 pack of 8 washable markers
- 1 pack of 2 highlighters
- 1 protractor (6-in.)
- 8 rolls of Scotch tape
- 6 rolls of paper towels
- 3 containers of disinfectant wipes
- 5 Mead composition notebooks (black-and-white hardcover notebook)
  - 2 math (graphing)
  - 2 language arts (lined)
  - 1 social studies (lined)
  - 2 science (lined)
- 5 hole-punched, pocket folders (one of each: blue, green, purple, red, yellow)
- Personal eraser
- 3-hole punched pencil case (to be secured in binder)
- 1 small, personal pencil sharpener (enclosed)

The following items are NOT included in the school package, but are still REQUIRED:

- 2-inch binder (or larger) (Many students prefer to use a “Case-It” binder with a shoulder strap.)
- Calculator (TI-30 or TI-30 XS) *8th graders are not required to have a graphing calculator, although they will be asked to get one in high school.*
- Earbuds (wired)

Mandatory summer reading:
Be ready to discuss these books upon returning to school in August.
6th grade: Crossing the Wire, by Will Hobbs
7th grade: Bronx Masquerade, by Nikki Grimes
8th grade: Hope Was Here, by by Joan Bauer

Summer Skills Enhancement
~ Math: Khanacademy.org, krazydad.com, frontrowed.com
~ Take part in the Chicago Public Library reading program (read 20 minutes a day!)
~ Visit local museums and parks
~ Keep up with current events in the news