

August 1, 2019

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade **Team Cornell!** We are looking forward to an exciting 2019-2020 school year and are anxious to get to know each and every one of you! We hope you are enjoying your summer, but as the school year approaches, it is time to start thinking about getting ready for your new learning experiences. The Cornell teachers are:

Ms. Blais, Science

Ms. Gibson, Language Arts

Ms. Devine, Social Studies

Mrs. Carter, Math

Mrs. Horion, Special Education

**Language Arts:** In language arts we will be working in literature circles reading various texts, while analyzing plot, conflict, theme, and vocabulary. Additionally, students will participate in units that foster deep understanding of poetry, argumentative writing, and narrative strategies. We will also focus on citing textual evidence, and critical analysis of literature through close reading and student-centered discussions. Independent reading is required and will help to further develop and strengthen individual reading fluency and comprehension while enhancing critical thinking skills and a love for reading.

**Math:** Seventh-grade math emphasizes cooperative learning, problem-solving, and critical thinking skills. Real and rational numbers, algebraic expressions and equations, proportions, geometry, probability, and statistics are the major topics studied this year.

**Science:** Seventh-grade science has students investigating key scientific principles through a hands-on approach. Our units of study are called: *How can I make new stuff from old stuff?* (chemical and characteristic properties of matter) *Why do some things stop while others keep going?* (an introduction to force and motion) *What makes the weather change?* (a look at the weather patterns that govern our climate) and *What is going on inside me?* (human body processes).

**Social Studies:** Students will dive into the first half of American history and explore how America has taken on various forms as it has developed politically, socially, economically, and militarily from the creation of the Constitution through the First World War. We will explore this through reading with a purpose, simulations, discussions, primary source analysis, videos,

music, and much more. We will work together to connect the ideas of Manifest Destiny to most of the units throughout the year, as well as incorporate current events.

**The following is a list of recommended school supplies:**

**Math**

- 3-ringed binder (at least 1 ½") for math class only
- Dry erase markers and eraser

**Science**

- 3-ringed binder (at least 1 ½") for science class only
- Safety goggles (if you have goggles from 6th grade you are welcome to bring those in but if you don't have them then goggles will be provided in class)

**Language Arts**

- 3-ringed binder (at least 1 ½") for language arts class only
- Pocket folder
- One-subject notebook (college ruled)

**Social Studies**

- 3-ringed binder (at least 1 ½") for social studies class only
- 1 set of 5-tab dividers for binder

**All students will be provided with an agenda book.**

We hope you enjoy your last few days of summer and look forward to a great school year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Blais     [kblais@sau15.net](mailto:kblais@sau15.net)  
Ms. Gibson   [lgibson@sau15.net](mailto:lgibson@sau15.net)  
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