

August 1, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardians,

Welcome to 8th grade, Team Dartmouth. We are very excited about starting a new school year with a new group of students. Our goal is to give students a strong foundation in the areas of organization, work habits, communication skills and social skills along with the academic curriculum.

Team Dartmouth:

Ms. Abbas and Mrs. Schaeffer will continue students' explorations into rigorous mathematics courses. Through problem solving they will empower students to develop critical thinking and communication skills in a variety of mathematical domains by bridging algebra and geometry topics.

Language arts teachers, Mrs. Gartland and Mrs. Saltus, will focus on various forms of writing such as research, narrative, and argument. Reading fluency, comprehension, and analysis will also be reinforced throughout the year. Students will study works by William Shakespeare and Edgar Allan Poe as well as a variety of short stories, poems, and nonfiction selections.

Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Collins will facilitate investigations and explore science phenomena in areas such as heredity and natural selection, chemical reactions in living things, large-scale geological processes on Earth, force and motion and various STEM experiences throughout the year.

Social studies will be with Ms. Levesque and Ms. Witcher and begins with WWI and finishes with events of the present day. A strong emphasis will be placed on writing and geography skills.

Mrs. Gonthier, Mr. Gregoire, Mrs. Horion and staff will be providing specialized instruction for eighth grade students who require additional support according to Individualized Education Plans.

Since we feel that parent communication is important, class information and homework are posted on each teacher's [webpage](#) weekly. Teacher websites have additional resources to help students succeed. Students should use an agenda book to keep track of nightly and long-term assignments. The [school website](#) is a great tool for staying updated on school wide events and it also lists teachers' email addresses for

Details of student grades are updated regularly on PowerSchool. We strongly urge you to check these grades often and email the teacher with any concerns.

We look forward to working together during the students' transitional year as the students prepare for high school. Our goal is to provide the best education possible and to foster the ideals of respect, honesty, and responsibility in each child.

Suggested Supplies

Independent reading books

Writing instruments and something to carry them in

Binders (1-2 inch), folders and dividers for each class

A hardcover composition book for science

A large notebook for math

Enjoy the remainder of the summer!

8th Grade Team Dartmouth

Jayne Abbas, Math

Jennifer Schaeffer, Math

Cindy Whitcher, Social Studies

Sarah Levesque, Social Studies

Brooke Saltus, Language Arts

Kimberly Gartland, Language Arts

Margaret Collins, Science

Lori Adams, Science

Mark Gregoire, Special Education

Audria Gonthier, Special Education

Mary Horion, Special Education