

Dear Parents and Students:

Welcome to Grade 8, Team 3! We are looking forward to a wonderful 2024-2025 school year filled with many fun learning activities. In anticipation of this coming September, we would like to take this opportunity to share some helpful information about our team.

It is our belief that organization is vital to success at this level. For that reason, we recommend that students use an agenda to record daily homework assignments and keep track of ongoing tasks throughout the marking period. It is also important to be prepared with all required materials for each class, some of which will be specific to individual courses. See the list of **common supplies required for all team classes** below:

- #2 Pencils (mechanical pencils)
- Blue/Black ink pens
- Loose leaf paper
- (1) Pocket folder to store daily homework
- Ear-buds to use with Chromebooks

→ **Supplies specific to individual courses are listed in the course information on the next page.**

In addition, we encourage students and parents to visit School Tool regularly to monitor progress. You can access School Tool through the district and school websites under the “Staff” tab. Students are able to log on using their school computer login information, while parents use an email address as the username and a unique password.

Please email us with any questions or concerns. We look forward to meeting you in September!

Sincerely,

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team 3 Teachers

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*\*See the next page for classroom expectations and course information*

### Team 3 Classroom Expectations

- Get to class on time, be prepared, and respect yourself and others.
- Take necessary measures to listen to all instructions and complete all class work.
- Be accountable for missed class time. It is the student’s responsibility to refer to **canvas** and make up all the work from an absence.
- Only speak when called on; don’t yell out answers or interrupt others.
- Be considerate of others. No inappropriate language; model appropriate behavior; follow the code of conduct.
- **Cell phones are not permitted in classes and will be confiscated and turned into the office.**
- **Homework will be accepted 1 day late maximum with a 25% penalty.**

### Course Information

- ❖ **Mrs. Greco** will be teaching Life Science 8 and Regents Biology. Life Science topics include: characteristics of life, cells, classification, simple organisms, plants, animals, evolution, ecology, and the human body. Regents Biology (Living Environment) will cover a variety of topics including: the cell and cell processes, simple organisms, reproduction and development, genetics. This course will be taught at a high level and has a lab component to qualify to take the regents exam in June and the ability to earn one high school credit. This is a fast paced class. We will be engaging in meaningful learning experiences that will encourage you to think about your thinking and think independently. Students must also be able to effectively communicate with their peers and work well in groups.
  - **Life Science 8 Materials: (1) Pocket folder**
  - **Regents Biology Materials: (1) Pocket folder, 2" 3 ring binder**
  
- ❖ **Mr. Layo**, your ELA teacher, structures the class around reading, writing, listening, critical thinking and collaboration skills. We will read numerous informational texts and short samples of literature, as well as three primary texts: *Inside Out & Back Again*, *Unbroken*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. There will be an emphasis on writing evidence-based constructed responses, as well as composing an argumentative essay. Over the course of the year, students will further develop their ability to infer and analyze text, both in discussion and through writing. They will also strengthen their ability to explore the impact of diverse perspectives on ideologies, relationships, and conflict within a variety of societal contexts.
  - **One-Subject Notebook**
  
- ❖ **Mrs. Popovich** is the mathematics teacher for Math 8 and Regents Algebra. Math 8 is intended to build upon your previous mathematical knowledge and introduce you to new concepts with the intention to help you to develop a deeper understanding of math and how it can be used in the real world. During the year in Math 8 we study the Number System, Expressions and Equations, Functions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. The Algebra course is intended to accelerate your mathematics education and deepen your understanding of mathematics. You will pass the Algebra Regents in June and earn one of the required high school credits. We will be engaging in meaningful learning experiences that will encourage you to think about your thinking and think independently.
  - **Math 8 Materials: Calculator (TI 30xs Multi-view); (1) two pocket folder with clasps**
  - **Algebra Materials: Calculator (TI 83 or TI 84 Graphing Calculator); (1) two pocket folder**
  
- ❖ **Mr. Darrh** will be your Social Studies teacher. The period of time we will explore this year is the Reconstruction Era (Post Civil War) through modern day. Using inquiry based style learning students will analyze both primary and secondary sources to discover the causes and effects of different historical events. Students will analyze multiple points of view of these historical events to develop their own historical arguments. Learning will be assessed in a variety of ways including projects, presentations, writing assignments, document analysis, unit tests and a comprehensive final exam.
  - **Glue stick and colored pencils recommended**