



August 13, 2019

Dear Eighth Grade Families and Students,

Welcome to the 8<sup>th</sup> grade! I have been spending some time in the eighth grade classroom getting it ready for this important year. While the 8th grade room is smaller than the 7th, and there isn't a skylight, there is something so perfectly eighth grade about the room. Eighth grade comes with new responsibilities, one being that student's have access to the deck outside our doorway. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade classroom's windows are at the tree line, creating perfect pictures of elms, oaks and maples. I am looking forward to observing the trees change with the seasons, through the academic blocks, and simultaneously while your children grow and change.

I hope that your children are enjoying an engrossing book! Please remind them to bring in their summer homework, which will include the completed journal and book report. They can also bring in their copy of Anne Frank's Diary of Young Girl, unless of course they took it out from the library.

The end of summer always seems to bring about the question of school clothes. Please review the school's dress code here <https://gbrss.org/admissions/dress-code/>. Thank you so much for your support with the dress code as I know it can be challenging, but hang on, it is 8<sup>th</sup> grade! Students should be prepared to be outdoors in all weather.

For the first day of school, please bring the following supplies:

- 1) 2" to 3" 3-ring binder with a plain cover
- 2) 1 package of dividers
- 3) 2 packages of wide (or college)-ruled paper
- 4) 1 composition book with a plain or marbled cover

Many other school supplies they may already have, ask your child whether they have:

- #2 pencils
- pencil sharpener
- erasers
- colored pencils
- fountain pens
- ruler

I have purchased new planners for each student to help them stay organized and on top of their work throughout eighth grade. This is going to be so important and something that we will



continue to work on in the classroom. I have read many books this summer in preparation for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and one that I am currently reading is titled, The Teenage Brain: A Neuroscientist's Survival Guide to Raising Adolescents and Young Adults. The author, Frances E. Jensen, MD, writes about ways to support our teenagers. One academic support Dr. Jensen suggests is that teenagers have an organized and quiet space where they can do their homework, without distractions. I am hoping that you and your child can speak about this, and work on it before school starts. If you have questions, please do let me know.

I am so excited to see, teach and laugh with each and every eighth grader. If you would like to schedule a visit, voice any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me via email: [jgreen@gbrss.org](mailto:jgreen@gbrss.org). If you would like to set up a phone call, please do let me know.

Wishing you all some fun last days of summer.

Warmly,

Jennifer Green