

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional Middle School
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Patty Bode, Interim Principal
Alicia Lopez, Interim Assistant Principal
David Ranen, Interim Assistant Principal

August 15, 2017

Dear Team All-Stars Students-

We hope that all of you and your families are having relaxing and productive summer vacations. We are too! Although it has certainly been nice to get a break from school, we are already thinking about, and eager to get back to, working with you all as 8th graders this fall.

Next year, our team will have both new and familiar faces. Some of last year's teachers will be back on the team and some new teachers will be joining the team.

Mr. Michael O'Connor will be teaching Social Studies on our team, in room C-6. Mr. Patrick Sullivan has joined our team as the Science teacher, and he is in room C-25. Mr. Patrick Hunter will be co-teaching one section of Algebra 8 with Mr Z-A and sharing some of the special education duties with Ms Zelaya.

We would like to each share some things that we did this summer to both introduce your new teachers and to update you on how your "old" teachers spent their time.

- Mr. Z-A has been outside a lot, biking, hiking, kayaking, camping and gardening. The rest of his time has been spent cooking, reading, teaching his son how to drive, calling contra dances and taking an online course about teaching math!
- Ms. Gomes enjoyed teaching at Vela and the IMA Rock Camp for girls in July. She has been traveling to Cape Cod, listening to music at Tanglewood and the Newport Jazz Festival, and visiting with family and friends. She looks forward to hearing about students' summer adventures in September.
- Mr. O'Connor had a great experience working on an exchange program for college students from Iraq who came to Amherst to learn about American government and society. He travelled to Wisconsin to hike, kayak, and visit family and will end his summer by going to Oregon to view the solar eclipse.
- Mr. Sullivan took a few day trips around New England with his family and tacked on a longer trip to Chicago to visit friends. Lots of bike riding and working on timber frame projects kept him outside.
- Ms. Zelaya had a terrific summer travelling to many places in Massachusetts, California and Hawaii! She is excited to see everyone again!
- Mr. Hunter had a fun summer of going places and doing things. He is excited to join the team.

We look forward to meeting Team A families at both our **Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting on Monday, September 11** and at **Open House on the evening of Thursday September 28**. Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting is a chance to meet all advisors and team teachers on Team A, as well as other team families. Open House is the time where we go into more depth about our curriculum and plans for learning for the year. Please mark these dates on your calendar, along with **School Picture Day on Tuesday, September 19** and, of course, the **first day of school, Wednesday August 30**.

Just so you know, 8th grade parent conferences are generally held in the early spring when we will meet to discuss issues around your child's transition to the high school. The first **Early Release Day** will be on **Wednesday, September 20**.

On these Early Release Days, teachers spend the afternoon in professional development and students are dismissed at 12:00 noon, after lunch.

A primary goal of 8th grade is to help students prepare to be more organized and independent learners as they move to high school. A great place to start is to be fully prepared with the necessary materials for class. With that in mind, each teacher is listing below the materials they want you to have for their class. You do not need these for the first day of school, but should have them by your academic classes on Tuesday, September 5. It is fine to use any recycled materials, especially binders. Students will be provided with an assignment/agenda book early in the year, and should bring it with them to every class, every day. On the first day, you only need to bring something with which to write!

| Subject | Teacher | Supplies |
|----------------|--------------|---|
| All subjects | All teachers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A box of pencils ● Pens (blue or black) ● Erasers ● Highlighters ● Box of colored pencils ● Box of tissues for Advisory ● Sense of humor & positive attitude (not available in stores!) |
| Math | Mr. Z-A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A three ring binder with four sections that can be labeled ● a separate folder for your homework assignments (can be shared with your other classes) ● lots and lots and lots and lots of pencils. |
| English | Ms. Gomes | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1” 3-ring binder with 3 tab dividers ● Lined paper for three ring binder ● Folder with pockets just for English ● Composition book (for writers workshop) |
| Social Studies | Mr. O’Connor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1 inch” 3-ring binder just for Social Studies ● Highlighter ● Pocket folder just for Social Studies ● even more pencils |
| Science | Mr. Sullivan | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Single subject notebook or a composition book or a large section of a multi-subject notebook |

Please note, Music, World Language, Exploratory, and Physical Education classes may require additional supplies not listed here.

If cost of materials is a concern, please let us help. If you need assistance in getting these materials for your child, please call, email, or have your child bring in a note to his/her advisor, or just speak to any team teacher.

We are looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday, August 30. Remember, 8th graders, come at 9:45 on the first day!

Sincerely,

Your Team A Teachers:

- Steve Zakon-Anderson, Math
- Marcia Gomes, ELA
- Michael O’Connor, Social Studies
- Patrick Sullivan, Science
- Blanca Zelaya, Special Education
- Patrick Hunter Special Education and Math Co-Teacher
- Michael Rousseau, Bridges
- Alicia Lopez, ELL
- Nadla Smith-Tavares, ELL
- Ingrid Hopkins, ELL