

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional Middle School
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August 15, 2017

Welcome to 8th grade, Team Blizzard!

We hope all Blizzard students and their families are having relaxing and productive summer vacations. Although it's certainly nice to get a break from school, we miss seeing you, and we are thinking about you.

What have your adventures been this summer? Whom did you meet? What did you try for the first time? What did you read? Whom did you see for the first time in a long time? Where did you go? We, your teachers, have been hibernating under our desks since the last day of school eagerly awaiting your return. Just kidding! We've been enjoying our summers too. Can you match each Team Blizzard teacher with some of the activities they enjoyed this summer?

Activity	Teacher
1. Biked a ride where ice cream was served at every rest stop.	Ms. Thibodeau
2. Played ukulele and read 4 books	Ms. Stevens
3. Read, hiked, and climbed	Ms. Clifford
4. Read, ran, and biked	Ms. Sullivan
5. I was so busy, I missed filling in this letter	Mr. Kelly
6. Learned standup paddleboard yoga	Mr. L-R
7. I'm glad school is starting because my summer was boring	Ms. Cocco
	Ms. Rosati

Along with our new school schedule this year, Team Blizzard has some changes of its own. As you probably know, Ms. Stevens will be teaching both math and science this year, and Mr. Kelly will teach only science.

We look forward to meeting Team Blizzard families at our **Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting on the morning of Tuesday, September 12** and at **Open House on the evening of Thursday, September 28**. Team B Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting is a chance to see all the advisors and students on Team Blizzard and to briefly meet team teachers and other team parents. Open House is the time where we go into more depth about our curriculum and plans for the year. You will get Course Expectations from us, too, at the start of the year (sent home via your student). Just so you know, 8th grade parent conferences are generally held in the spring, just prior to 9th grade registration time, so there will not be scheduled conferences in the fall this year. The first **Early Release Day** will be on **Wednesday, September 20**. On these once-a-month Early Release Days, teachers spend the afternoon in professional development and students are dismissed at 12:00 noon, after lunch. Finally, **School Picture Day is Tuesday, September 19** this year!

Again this year, we will be working on helping you develop good organizational strategies and work habits. The list that follows contains some supplies we would like you to have to start the year. Please acquire these materials by **Friday, September 8**. It is fine to use any recycled materials, especially binders. Students will be provided with an 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"> ● Pencils for the entire school year ● 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	Ms. Stevens Ms. Thibodeau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A 1" 3-ring binder with 4 tab dividers ● a folder for your homework assignments (can be shared with your other classes) ● lots of pencils
English	Ms. Clifford Mr. L-R and Ms. Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1" 3-ring binder with 3 tab dividers ● Lined paper for three ring binder ● Folder with pockets ● Composition book (for writers workshop)
Social Studies	Ms. Clifford Ms. Cocco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1" 3-ring binder with 4 tab dividers ● Lined paper for three ring binder
Science	Mr. Kelly Ms. Stevens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 1" 3-ring binder with 4 tab dividers

Recommended (useful, but not required): pencil sharpener and pencil case

If cost 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.

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

We are really looking forward to welcoming returning and new Team Blizzard students on Wednesday, August 30. Students new to ARMS will come in at 7:45, but **returning 8th graders get one last morning to sleep in—they begin the day at 9:45.** Enjoy the rest of summer vacation!

Sincerely,

Ms. Stevens, Math and Science
Ms. Thibodeau, Math
Mr. Kelly, Science
Ms. Rosati, Special Education

Ms. Cocco, Social Studies
Mr. Lawrence-Riddell, English
Ms. Clifford, Social Studies and English
Ms. Sullivan, Special Education/English