

AMHERST - PELHAM *Regional* SCHOOL DISTRICT  
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS

Amherst Regional Middle School  
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Patty Bode, Interim Principal  
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August 15, 2017

Dear Team J Students and Families:

We hope all Team J students and their families are having terrific and fun summer vacations! Mr. Hunter, Dr. LaRoche, Mr. Levy, Ms. Oliver, Ms. Ryan, Ms. Tedder-Hughes, and Ms. Welborn are looking forward to meeting you and working with you and your family to have a very successful 7<sup>th</sup> grade year at ARMS!

### Summer Teacher News

As you will learn, **Ms. Welborn** is both a country mouse and a city mouse, after having lived, studied and worked in New York City, Pennsylvania, Maine and Massachusetts. To satisfy those two very different parts of her personality, she spent a week in Brooklyn and a week camping in Maine on an island. Unfortunately, she broke her foot there while rock climbing! Fortunately, she was able to be rescued by kayak! When she returned to Amherst, she spent the rest of the summer swimming, biking, sewing 3 baby quilts, reading a lot of books and taking care of her NEW PUPPY, named Bari. He is an Italian water dog (a Lagotto Romagnolo) who looks like a living stuffed animal and steals the hearts of everyone he meets! In spite of her broken foot, she competed in the Greenfield triathlon as part of a team with two other Amherst teachers. As a team, called Beauties and the Beast, Ms. Welborn swam, Mr. Sullivan biked and Ms. Betke-Brunswick ran. You'll have to wait until September to hear whether or not Beauties and the Beast earned any medals at Greenfield! Ms. Welborn is very much looking forward to meeting the new 7<sup>th</sup> graders and having a blast in science class!

**Ms. Oliver** has been called a renaissance person by Dr. LaRoche for the variety of things she seems to get involved with in her free time. This summer was full of building, mending, planting, painting, and creative projects of many sorts. She took some classes where she delighted in doing math with other math teachers all day. She had fun grilling, eating, reading, relaxing, going to renaissance fairs (see she really is a renaissance person!) and exploring the valley.

**Ms. Ryan** has spent her summer working at a camp in the woods of Maine, singing camp songs, having fires and lots of fun. She also spent some time vacationing at the sunny beaches of Cape Cod with her husband and kids.

**Ms. Tedder-Hughes** spent half of her summer visiting Texas and vacationing in Cozumel, Mexico. Her time spent in Texas was filled with seeing family and friends, eating lots of Tex-Mex, shopping, and relaxing indoors as the heat is something she does NOT miss in New England. Cozumel was a special time of relaxing, snorkeling, and swimming in the ocean. Her summer was not complete without visitors coming to see her and her husband here in Massachusetts.

**Mr. Hunter** went places and did things. He had a good summer.

**Dr. LaRoche** went to see *Hamilton* in NYC!!!! She and her husband, David, saved and saved and saved for birthdays and other gifts until they could finally go and it was SO worth it! Dr. L. is a big *Hamilton* nerd. If you want, you can do *Hamilton* sing-a-long in her class, or dance-a-long, or swap stories about your favorite *Hamilton* quotes. Since her kids, Teagan (9) and Gavin (6) did not get to see *Hamilton*, she drove with them to Niagara Falls and the Toronto Zoo to see the Giant Pandas. Have you ever watched Youtube videos of pandas rolling? Seriously, you have to google it. Our family has been captivated for hours of fun by these videos. Hopefully, Dr. L. will get to tell you about seeing panda rolling live--fingers crossed! She can't wait to hear about your obsessions, interests, and summer fun when she meets you in the fall!

**Mr. Levy** spent July with family and friends — at weddings and cookouts and beach camping trips. He looks forward to being completely free from plans for all of August so that he can dive into his summer reading list. He's currently working on a massive fantasy series (*The Song of Ice and Fire*) and an equally massive memoir/novel (*In Search of Lost Time*). He is excited to meet the new 7<sup>th</sup> graders and hear about how they've spent their summers and what they've been reading!

## School Supplies

Staying organized is an important first step to success in school and life! The list that follows contains some supplies to help you start the year organized. Please acquire these materials by **Tuesday, September 5th**. It is fine for you to use recycled supplies, especially binders, as long as they match the descriptions below. 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"><li>● Pencils and pens (some for your backpack and some to store in your locker)</li><li>● Erasers</li><li>● 1 durable two-pocket folder with pockets to be used for homework for all your classes (The plastic ones last much longer)</li><li>● 1 box of tissues for the classroom (please, and thank you!)</li><li>● Pencil case</li></ul>
Social Studies	Dr. LaRoche	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 50 plastic sheet protectors (reused ones encouraged!)</li><li>● 1” binder(Preferably BLUE-think, “Blue planet”-Earth-Global Studies class!)</li><li>● lined paper</li><li>● colored pencils</li></ul>
Math	Ms. Oliver Mr. Hunter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● PENCILS! Lots of them! Mechanical or Wooden (or erasable ink)</li><li>● A 1.5 inch 3-ring binder (any color)- We have a few extras if needed.</li><li>● Pencil Case- <u>Mandatory!</u></li><li>● 1 or 2 dry erase markers (for you to use for math practice)</li></ul>
English	Mr. Levy Ms. Tedder-Hughes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1” binder--your choice of color</li><li>● 3 dividers (Current Unit, ETQs, Journal)</li><li>● lined paper for Journal section</li><li>● pencil case--mandatory, please</li></ul>
Science	Ms. Welborn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1” binder</li><li>● 1 subject notebook (spiral or perforated is fine, recycled is fine)</li></ul>

If cost of school supplies is a concern, please let us help. If you need assistance in getting these materials for your child, please email, or have your child bring in a note to Ms. Welborn or email [welbornj@arps.org](mailto:welbornj@arps.org)

### Recommended Supplies (useful, but not required):

- metric ruler
- highlighters
- thumb drive
- dry-erase marker

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

### Other Information

We look forward to seeing all families at our **Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting on Tuesday, September 5** and at **Open House on the evening of September 28**. Team/Parent/Student Brown-Bag Lunchtime Meeting is a chance to see all the advisors and students on the team and the team teachers. During Open House, teachers will go into more depth about curriculum and plans for the year. At the start of the year, we will send home Course Expectations for each core class. Additionally, we will have parent conferences in October. Another date to remember is our first **Early Release** of the year, which will be **Wednesday, September 20**. Early Release Days are days where students arrive at the regular time, have classes which are shorter than usual, eat lunch, and are dismissed at noon. Teachers spend the afternoon in professional development. Finally, **School Picture Day is Tuesday, September 19** this year!

We look forward to seeing you all on **Wednesday, August 30, the first day of school!** Enjoy the rest of summer vacation!

M. Hunter, Special Education and Math  
Dr. LaRoche, Social Studies  
Mr. Levy, English  
Ms. Oliver, Math  
Ms. Ryan, Special Education  
Ms. Tedder-Hughes, Special Education and English  
Ms. Welborn, Science