

TOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

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WALTER N. WILLETT, Ph.D.
Principal

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Assistant Principal

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Dear Parents and Students,

We hope you have had an exciting school year and we are looking forward to working with you again next year.

As you are aware, grades 6 through 8 at TMS are organized in teams of teachers. Grades 7 & 8 have teams of teachers, one each in the areas of math, science, social studies, and world language, and two language arts teachers. The team structure provides the student with the best of both worlds. A variety of teachers means a diversity of teaching styles and a change of setting. Keeping students within teams means a limited number of students is the focus, and more than one teacher is monitoring and encouraging each child's progress. A main function of a team is to plan, carry out, and evaluate each student's instructional program.

Teachers meet daily to discuss the students' educational program. They discuss their current units of study and consider ways to interrelate work of one subject area with another. They talk about assignments, tests, behavior, and other matters which can be cooperatively managed to benefit their students. In team meetings, teachers discuss their students - how they are doing academically and socially. What works for one teacher with a particular child is shared with the group, as well as interests/activities that motivate particular children. Students are invited to meet with the team teachers as Parents are also invited to attend team meetings to discuss their child's progress, problem areas, and brainstorm together.

All students in the middle school are provided with agenda booklets. **Therefore, you do not need to purchase an assignment book.** This is a daily assignment booklet and a place for home/school communication. Your child should bring this to and from school, and to all classes daily. This system promotes responsibility/accountability and school/home communication. You will also find The Parent and Student Handbook in the front of the TMS agenda. We thank you for your support of this schoolwide system.

The first day of school for all Tolland students is **Wednesday, August 26, 2009**. This will be a full, regular day. Open House for Grade 8 is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 9th**. You will receive notification about this in the fall. At that time we will describe our curriculum and instructional programs.

There are still openings in our summer school programs. Please call the office if you want to consider a 2 or 4 week program in language arts and/or math for your child. This year, summer school will be conducted **July 6 - 17 and July 20- 31**.

Please have your child join the summer reading-at-home program at the town library. We have received state recognition as one of the top reading schools in Connecticut. Let's keep up that outstanding effort for summer reading!

Cordially,



Walter Willett, Ph.D.

Homeroom assignments will be posted at the front of the building on the first day of school. Staff will be available to direct students. Teams are as follows:

GRADE 8

	<u>Team Blue</u>	<u>Team Gold</u>
Language Arts	Mrs. DeGuire Mrs. Nichols	Mrs. Bellman Ms. Patrie
Math	Mrs. Erikson	Mrs. Hill
Science	Mrs. Foster	Mrs. Petsa
Social Studies	TBD	Mr. Chassanoff
Special Education	Mrs. Derby	Mrs. Morrissey
World Language	Mrs. Seideman	Mr. Ridolfo

The following supplies are recommended for purchase in grade 8 at the Middle School. Teachers in a particular subject may make additional requests of materials for students:

TEAM GOLD

- 4-one inch, well stocked 3 ring binders, one for each subject area: LA, Science, Social Studies, and World Language (different colors are helpful)
- Pocket folders if the binder does not have a built in pocket
- Loose leaf paper for all subjects, ¼” graph paper for math and science
- Composition books for math and science
- Highlighter
- Metric ruler
- An ample supply of pencils, erasers,
- An ample supply of pens – four different colors (blue, black, red, and green)
- Colored pencils, fine tip markers (no permanent markers or Sharpies, please)
- Scientific calculator for math and science (no graphing calculators)
- Texas Instruments **TI 83** graphing calculator is **optional** for Algebra students
- Students taking French or Spanish may find a French/English-English/French or Spanish/English-English/Spanish Dictionary helpful, but this is **not required**.

TEAM BLUE

- 5-one inch, well stocked 3 ring binders with dividers, one for each subject area: LA, Science, Social Studies, and World Language (different colors are helpful)
- Pocket folders if the binder does not have a built in pocket
- Loose leaf paper for all subjects, ¼” graph paper for math and science
- A composition book or journal for language arts
- Highlighter
- Metric ruler
- An ample supply of pencils, erasers, pens – blue or black, and red
- Scientific calculator for 8th grade math and pre-algebra
- Algebra I students **must have** a Texas Instruments (**TI 84 Plus**) graphing calculator

