

TOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

One Falcon Way
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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 5 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 warranted. Parents are also invited to attend team meetings to discuss their child's progress, problem areas, and brainstorm together.

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 7

	<u>Team Blue</u>	<u>Team Gold</u>
Language Arts	Mrs. Bakulski	Mrs. Desy
	Mrs. Gedansky	Mr. Fay
Math	Mrs. O'Shaughnessy	Ms. Wilson
Science	Mrs. Hadyka	Mrs. Mawaka
Social Studies	Mr. Cardin	TBD
Special Education	Mrs. Kraus	Ms. Ryan
World Language	Mrs. Valli	TBD

The first day of school for all Tolland students is **Wednesday, August 27, 2008**. This will be a full, regular day. We understand the nervousness and excitement as TMS moves to its new location at One Falcon Way. If your child just can't wait until the first day of school, drop by on Tuesday, August 26, from 11:00 – 12:00 to take a peek at the new TMS. Open House for grade 7 is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 16**. At that time, we will further discuss the school program.

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, math, and/or study skills for your child. This summer school is conducted **July 7 – July 18, and July 21 – August 1**. Please contact the school for a registration form.

The following supplies are recommended for purchase **in grade 7** at the Middle School. Teachers in a particular subject may make additional requests of materials for students:

TEAM 7 BLUE

FOR CLASS:

- three one inch, well-stocked 3-ring binders, one each for science, social studies, and foreign language.
- one 1½ - 2 inch 3-ring binder for language arts.
- one spiral-bound notebook for math, preferably graph-paper type.
- one composition notebook for L.A.
- pencils, erasers, pens – blue or black, and a red pen for L.A.
- loose leaf paper and pocket folders for binders.
- highlighters
- colored pencils
- calculator, preferably scientific.
- large secure clip to fasten hand-outs to agenda.

FOR HOME:

- metric ruler
- protractor
- glue sticks
- art supplies for projects
- dictionary
- hole punch

TEAM 7 GOLD

- one large 2”, well-stocked 3-ring binders, with dividers for: math, science, social studies, and world language (different colors tabs are helpful)
- an accordion file with cover flap and at least five dividers
- one 2” 3-ring binder for L.A.
- 1 package (50), top loading clear plastic sheet protectors for L.A.
- 1 non-spiral composition book for L.A.
- loose leaf paper for all subjects, 1/4” graph paper for math and science
- 1-2 boxes of loose-leaf reinforcements
- metric ruler
- highlighter(s)
- colored pencils (a must for science)
- colored markers for social studies
- calculator
- pencils, erasers, pens—blue or black and red, art supplies for projects, glue sticks, colored paper
- Students taking French or Spanish will find a French/English-English/French or Spanish/English-English/Spanish dictionary helpful, but this is not required.
- Many students also find helpful a dictionary/thesaurus for home use, and a hole punch.

Please note that all students are required to have a book for recreational/leisure reading in school. Students are not allowed to bring large bags for their belongings; backpacks that fit into the locker are acceptable and must remain in the locker during the school day.

Please discuss the summer reading project with your child. A copy of the assignment is attached.

Have a wonderful summer!

Cordially,



Walter N. Willett, Ph.D.