

TOLLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL

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WALTER N. WILLETT, Ph.D.
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. I would like to make you aware of some important resources available to you here at TMS:

- The school's web-site, accessed at <http://www.tollandmiddleschool.net> has calendars, menus, athletic and club schedules, important notices, and teacher web-sites with weekly updates.
- The "Digital Backpack" – announcements sent out via an e-mail list to which you can subscribe to keep up to date on all the current information and happenings at TMS and the district as a whole.
- Students are provided individual "agenda" booklets. You do not need to purchase an assignment book or calendar for your son or daughter, as one is provided to every student. In addition to a class organizer and calendar, it contains useful information from the school calendar to the Parent and Student handbook, all in one. This "agenda" functions as a daily assignment booklet and a place for home/school communications. Your child should bring this to and from school, and to all classes daily. This system promotes student responsibility and accountability, and helps them learn organizational skills. We thank you for your support of this school wide "agenda" system.

Due to an asbestos removal project at TMS this summer, TMS will be closed this summer. Your child's schedule will be mailed home during the last week of August. The first day of school for all Tolland students is **Wednesday, August 31, 2011**. This will be a full, regular day. Open House for Grade 8 is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 14, 2011**. 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 5 - 15 and July 18-29**.

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!

The summer reading assignment and recommended supply list are attached. Please be aware that individual teams may request additional supplies at the beginning of the year.

Have a wonderful summer with your family.

Cordially,



Walter Willett, Ph.D.

School supplies

GRADE 8

For the convenience of parents, the following supply lists are being provided for all students as early as possible. Please be aware that teams may request additional items at the beginning of the school year. Some items may need to be replenished throughout the year.

All students will be given an agenda, and locks for their regular and gym lockers.

- 4 – one inch, well stocked 3 ring binders, one for each subject area: L.A., science, math, and social studies (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
- 2 composition books
- metric ruler
- an ample supply of pencils, erasers
- an ample supply of pens – different colors
- colored pencils, fine tip makers (no permanent markers or Sharpies, please)
- scientific calculator for math and science (not graphing calculators)
- Algebra 1 students **must have** a Texas Instruments (**TI 84 Plus**) graphing calculator
- also helpful: electronic storage devices, white out, 3 hole punch, reinforcements, personal pencil sharpener

Incoming Eighth Graders

Summer Reading 2011

As language arts teachers, we want to emphasize the importance of reading as a skill in itself and as an indicator of future success. We also acknowledge the importance of summer as a time for fun and relaxation for students as well as teachers. In order to prevent reading and fun from being mutually exclusive, we are not assigning a project or any specific materials to read. Instead, we encourage you to read material related to science and/or social studies topics you will be learning about in eighth grade. Science topics include: body systems, work, energy and motion, and chemistry. In social studies you will study the American West, immigration and reform, World War II, civil rights, Vietnam, and the Cold War of the 1980's. You may want to read some fiction and/or non-fiction related to these topics to spark your interest and help you make connections. In addition, if you enjoy a particular author, series, or subject, we strongly encourage you to read those as well.

We are also interested to learn about your summer reading experiences. Therefore, we ask you to complete the attached form as you read and bring it to your language arts class on the second day of school.

Have a wonderful summer!

The Eighth Grade Language Arts Teachers



We are interested in your reading habits. Please fill out the form below as you read over the summer.

Books

Title	Author	# of Pages	Date Started	Date Completed

Magazines, Newspapers, Other

Title	How Often?

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Grade 8 Summer Reading Suggestions

SERIES

Artemis Fowl
The Shadow Children
Alex Rider Adventures
Harry Potter
Eragon
Princess Diaries
Sammy Keyes
Percy Jackson and the Olympians
On The Run
Chronicles of Ancient Darkness
Maximum Ride
The Starcatchers Trilogy

Erin Colfer
Margaret Peterson Haddix
Anthony Horowitz
J.K. Rowling
Christopher Paolini
Meg Cabot
Wendelin Van Draanen
Rick Riordan
Gordon Korman
Michelle Paver
James Patterson
Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson

AUTHORS

Mike Lupica
Dan Gutman
Lauren Myracle
Scott Westerfeld
Paul Zindel

Caroline B. Cooney
Lisi Harrison
Nancy Farmer
Gordon Korman
Sarah Dessen

WEBSITES

<http://www.reading.org/Resources/Booklists.aspx>

<http://www.ncte.org/awards/orbispictus>

<http://www.nutmegaward.org/>

<http://www.childrensliteratureassembly.org/>

<http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsgrants/booksprintmedia/childrenyngadults/index.cfm>

<http://www.teenreads.com>