

August 2018

Dear Caregivers and Sixth Grader,

Welcome to the Stearns/Blais 6th grade team at the Easton Middle School! We hope that you have had a fun and relaxing summer and are ready to begin an exciting school year. Parents, we would like to begin by getting to know your child better. To do so, we ask you to kindly take a moment to write or email us about your child. Your thoughts about the following items as they relate to your child will be most valuable: academic strengths and/or weaknesses, special talents, hobbies, fears and insecurities, peer relationships, work habits, and any goals you wish for your child this year. Any information you can provide in writing will be greatly appreciated.

The class will begin the year by building a strong level of respect for each other and awareness for what a positive classroom environment means. Easton Middle School's Core Values follow the acronym PAWPRINT: Positive Attitude, Academic Excellence, Work Ethic, Perseverance, Respect for Others, Individuality, Non-Discrimination, and Tolerance. We will use class discussions, role playing, and response writing to develop an understanding about the importance of these core values throughout the year.

Students will rotate independently to specialists on a six day rotation. We will all be learning about our new daily rotating schedule together. The schedule will be explained in more detail on the first day of school. Mrs. Stearns will be teaching math and science while Ms. Blais will be focusing on language arts and social studies. Ms. Kelley, a sixth grade learning specialist, will also be working with our team.

We can't wait to begin all the wonderful units and special activities that are part of the sixth grade curriculum. The sixth grade curriculum is enriched with hands-on activities and projects. If you have specific knowledge or a special activity having to do with any of our units over the course of the year, please send in a note with your child and we can make arrangements for you to be part of the unit of study.

With this letter is a list of supplies that will help you get ready for school and keep you organized all year. Students, you will have a locker this year, and there is no place in the classroom to store things. Everything needs to be very compact and labeled. Also, please bring a *healthy* snack and water *everyday* to help keep your fast-growing body nourished.

We are thrilled to begin the school year at EMS and to be getting to know you. We value your input and hope that you will contact us with any concerns, questions, or other information that would be helpful. **Be sure to look for information about Aspen X2 for grades, homework, and announcements.** We look forward to meeting you, sixth graders, on Thursday, August 31, 2017. If you have any questions before then, please email us at sstearns@easton.k12.ma.us and/or tblais@easton.k12.ma.us.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Stearns and Ms. Blais

Stearns & Blais Supply List for Sixth Grade

- Ø An accordion folder
 - Ø 4 single subject spiral bound notebooks- one for each core subject
 - Ø LARGE soft pencil pouch for crayons, pencils, markers, etc. (**everything** needs to fit in it to carry and store at all times – Remember students don't have any storage areas in a desk this year)
 - Ø Colored pencils for map work and projects
 - Ø 2 Glue sticks
 - Ø Erasers for pencils
 - Ø Several sharpened pencils – required for many subjects, especially math
 - Ø Hand held pencil sharpener **with** shavings compartment
 - Ø Markers (1 small package of thin tipped, 1 small package of thick tipped, and 2 thin black Sharpies)
 - Ø Scissors
 - Ø Transparent ruler (12 inch – **metric/standard**)
 - Ø 2 Yellow highlighters
 - Ø Silent reading book_ - fun, pleasurable reading level with high personal interest
 - Ø 4 Dark colored dry-erase markers in a sock (to be used as an eraser) to use at your desk daily in math (dark colors – no yellow or orange) – keep two at home for mid-year use
 - Ø A calculator with exponent and square root keys– **label** it with your name and make sure that it is not expensive (Texas Instruments 15 is a possibility) – (for grade 7 use also)
 - Ø Ear buds (for computer-based testing and activities)
 - Ø Two large boxes of tissues
 - Ø One package of anti-bacterial wipes
- *Note that you will not be able to use stretchy book covers because they bend the books – paper only
- We will be checking our school email at the end of August if you have any questions.