

July 28, 2021

Dear middle school students and parents,

I hope that you are enjoying this beautiful, hot, Michigan summer. Summer break is a great time to rest and recharge for the fun year ahead! Here are a few things to think about as we begin the month of August and plan for back to school.

This year Mr. Elder and I are switching a few classes. Once again, I will be the homeroom teacher for the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. I will teach Language Arts for the 5/6<sup>th</sup> grade and the 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade. We will continue to have Literature Circle again this year. Each Thursday one individual grade will meet with me and then the next month, they will meet with Mr. D. For example, in September, the 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Literature Circle with me, while the 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet for Literature Circle with Mr. D. In October, 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet with me, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade will meet with Mr. D. In order to make Literature Circle a special time, students will be allowed to bring a snack for the class to share. The students did a great job scheduling this very important task last year.

I will also teach 5<sup>th</sup> grade math as well as 7<sup>th</sup> grade math. We have fully transitioned to our new Horizon's curriculum and look forward to challenging the students and creating a special enthusiasm for mathematics.

Finally, I will be teaching 7/8<sup>th</sup> grade Bible class. In addition to our Bible history and knowledge curriculum, Mr. VanderZanden and I will be leading a personal growth Bible study on Fridays. This will be during our normal Bible class time. Boys will meet with Mr. VanderZanden and girls will meet with me. We believe that it is important to foster personal Bible study as well as general Bible knowledge, and this schedule allows us to do both.

With all of that said, Mr. Elder will teach 5/6<sup>th</sup> history, 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> mathematics, and 5/6<sup>th</sup> Bible class. Mr. Busse will give our middle school students two hours per week of outdoor education. Mr. Nagy will provide PE class on Mondays and Mrs. Hutchinson will continue art class on Fridays. Science/STEM/computer class will be 4 days a week.

I anticipate another great year at Grant Christian School. God has blessed us tremendously in the last year, and we are thankful to have another wonderful school year to look forward to. As you back to school shop for your child, please review the GCS handbook and dress code presented there. Also, we foresee having one-to-one technology this fall (Chromebooks for each student). Please make sure that your child understands this expectation as written in the GCS handbook, *use of school devices for gaming, e-mailing, or other personal purposes is not permitted at any time, including recess & break times.*

Again, I am so excited get back to school this fall. Your family and your children are what make Grant Christian School such a special place. Please feel free to contact me if you have any other questions or concerns regarding this fall.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Oatis  
[Susan.oatis@grantchristianschool.org](mailto:Susan.oatis@grantchristianschool.org)  
231-924-0741

#### Supply List for Middle School

2 tubs of antibacterial wipes (for washing down desks)  
2 boxes of facial tissue  
2 packages of lined notebook paper  
1 binder for language arts class  
1 binder for math class 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>  
1 binder for Bible class  
1 composition notebook for Bible class 9  $\frac{3}{4}$  X 7  $\frac{1}{4}$ , 150 sheets  
Personal colored pencils, 2 black sharpie markers, pencils and erasers