



## 2019-2020 Grade Eight Supply List

### **It's Time to Make the Choices that Serve You Best**

In the final year of middle school we still work on one of the most important personal skills related to academic success: organization. While organization is typically not considered a specific assignment, it is often the skills related to organizing that determines if you are prepared to do well in any class and can influence your grades, too! To that end, the 8th grade team of teachers would like to share our ideas with you about organization and the materials needed for our classes.

### **Paper, Writing Instruments and a Pencil Case**

For every academic class, you will need loose leaf paper (3-hole standard ruled), standard pens (blue or black and red ballpoint) and sharpened pencils, highlighters in two colors, and some enclosure for keeping handouts and notes (more on options below).

Buy a ream of wide ruled (not college ruled) loose leaf paper and keep it handy at home. When you run low on paper, you need to replenish your in-school supply. Not having paper or writing instruments is never acceptable in any class. You do not need an extensive selection of colored pens or markers, so don't overbuy or overpack. Your pencil case should not resemble a small carry-on bag!

### **Enclosures for Papers and Notes: An Exercise in Knowing Who You Are**

The enclosure you use for day-to-day classroom materials is an important decision and one that we feel you should have personal choice in selecting. There are several factors to keep in mind as you decide what to use. Are you naturally well-organized or is it difficult for you to keep papers together and easily accessible when you need them? Are you a 'collector' (meaning do you hang on to things in your binder beyond their usefulness?) Are you a 'stuffer' (meaning that you are likely to cram things randomly into your backpack and the crisp corners of papers are bent, torn and no longer even a uniform size?) Consciously considering how you address the organization of materials on a daily basis will help you determine the right organizational method for you.

#### ***Here are some options:***

The first two approaches may be best if organization comes more easily to you. Both will alleviate issues of keeping track of several binders. Also, the process of packing for school in the morning and at the end of the day to go home is simplified using either approach.

#### ***The zipper binder***

These are large, cloth-bound binders that can accommodate multiple subjects. They are durable and because they can be closed, can keep things from getting lost. On the other hand, they do not always foster strong organizational skills. Things can quickly become disorganized if papers are simply stuffed in and zippered shut. These are good at reducing the number of binders you may need to use, but zippered binders don't really help address organizational weaknesses.

### ***An AM and PM binder***

As a way to reduce the amount of individual binders you need to maintain, you could use one binder for all of your morning classes and one for those in the afternoon. This may reduce the backpack load and locker mayhem, but this also requires a greater organizational effort. Care will need to be taken to make sure handouts and notes from a particular class are in the correct section—and binder! If you know that you struggle with organization, you may quickly become discouraged with this system.

### ***Individual binders for each class***

This has been the approach used by most students in the past, and for some good reasons. Organization (or lack thereof) is contained class-by-class. Each class is different, taught by different teachers and the rhythm of classwork and materials are different as well. Single-subject binders reduce the clutter and keep most students from misplacing materials in the wrong subject binder. English, Social Studies, and the Foreign Languages only need a 1-inch binder. Math will require a 2-inch binder. If you decide to use individual binders, you can make life much easier for yourself if you stick to these sizes! Science will only require one tab in an existing binder for a short time in the year.

### ***Individual pocket folders***

Not every student takes advantage of the 3-ring binder. Some students prefer to type their homework and not hole-punch it, or sometimes you just know you're bound to have an aggressive relationship with the rings that will pinch or no longer line up. Or perhaps you are left-handed—binders are usually easier for "righties". Any of these make the 3-ring binder a burden. It is possible that pocket folders may make more sense as document keepers than any of the others mentioned here, but you will be required to keep them in very good shape, so if you opt for this method, please know that a good heavy paper pocket folder rarely lasts a full year and will likely need to be replaced. On the plus side, this is still a cheaper method for organization!

### ***Required Supplies (In addition to general supplies and choice of enclosure method from the list above)***

- *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* by Sherman Alexie (Reading Sept-Oct)  
ISBN: 978-0316013697
- *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (Reading Nov-Dec)  
ISBN: 978-0060935467
- *Night* by Elie Wiesel (Reading in February)  
ISBN: 978-0374500016
- From Amazon: 6-pack travel sized (8.5 x 5.5) 30-sheet journal for note-taking. Lined, unlined, dots or squares (personal preference). [Product Link](#) (We will use one per unit in English. Please do not buy another size!)
- Texas Instruments TI 30Xa calculator ([product link here](#)). Do not buy another model!
- 6 two-pocket folders with pockets at the bottom (various classes)
- Dividers for binder (if required)
- Earbuds
- For Art: 2 gum erasers and a 12 pack of #2 pencils
- 6 packs of 3x5 in index cards (keep all but one at home until needed)
- Graph paper (all math classes)

**You do not need to purchase a lock. The school will provide all locks for hallway and gym lockers.**