

Dear Students and Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at CREECS We hope this letter finds you excited and ready for a year full of learning, growth, and new adventures. We, the middle school teachers, are thrilled to be your guides on this educational journey.

Middle school is an incredibly important phase in a student's life, where they transition from elementary school to the high school years. It is a time of exploration, self-discovery, and building a solid foundation for future success. We understand the significance of this phase and are committed to providing a nurturing and engaging environment that fosters academic, social, and emotional development.

Our team of dedicated educators is passionate about teaching and empowering students to reach their full potential. We believe in creating a classroom community where every student feels valued, respected, and safe to express their thoughts and ideas. Our goal is to cultivate a love for learning, encourage critical thinking, and develop essential skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

As teachers, we strive to create dynamic and interactive lessons that cater to different learning styles, ensuring that each student can actively participate and engage with the material. We will challenge you to think beyond the surface, ask questions, and seek answers. We encourage you to embrace this process and take ownership of your education.

Communication is crucial to fostering a successful partnership between teachers, students, and parents/guardians. We strongly believe in maintaining open lines of communication, and we encourage you to reach out to us whenever you have questions, concerns, or suggestions. We will provide regular updates about classroom activities, assignments, and any important information through various communication channels, including email, parent-teacher conferences, and our school website.

We are truly excited to embark on this journey with you and look forward to building a strong partnership with both students and parents/guardians. Together, we can create a supportive and enriching learning environment that helps every student thrive.

On behalf of the entire middle school team at CREECS, we extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you. Let us embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead and make this academic year one filled with meaningful learning experiences, personal growth, and cherished memories.

Please see the attached information regarding each core course.

General Information

Behavior Expectations:

We would like to outline our behavior expectations for your child's academic journey and establish a comprehensive understanding of the consequences that may result from inappropriate behavior. We firmly believe in fostering a safe and conducive learning environment for all students. We expect each student to demonstrate respect, responsibility, and integrity in their actions, both inside and outside the classroom. In the event that a student consistently disregards these expectations, a progressive disciplinary process will be followed. Initially, the teacher will address the behavior with a verbal warning and encourage self-reflection. If the behavior persists, the consequences will escalate, including loss of privileges, detentions, and parent-teacher conferences. However, in cases where the behavior seriously disrupts the learning environment or compromises the safety of others, it may result in a referral to the appropriate administrator. We appreciate your support and collaboration in reinforcing these expectations, as we strive to provide an enriching educational experience for all students.

Supplies for all classes:

It is important for students to arrive at school fully prepared each day, equipped with the necessary supplies. To ensure a seamless learning experience, we kindly request that students charge their Chromebooks at home on a daily basis. In an effort to support this, we have arranged for chargers to be available in our classrooms, allowing students to conveniently keep their chargers at home.

Additionally, we kindly ask students to bring the following supplies to school. We recommend periodically checking with them to ensure they have these items throughout the year:

Pencils and pencil pouch

Paper

Calculator (TI-30XIIS)

Below are supplies specific to each course:

Science and 7th Grade Social Studies -

Each student should bring the below items at the start of the year. These items will be used a classroom set throughout the year

3-Pack of Clorox Wipes

3-Pack of paper towels

1-Pack of full size hot glue gun glue sticks

2-Pack of glue sticks

One item from this Amazon list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/KLEWYL1IL6GH?ref=wl_share

6th/8th social studies and 6th/7th ELA

Each student should bring the below items at the start of the year. These items will be used a classroom set throughout the year.

3-Pack of Clorox Wipes

3-Pack of paper towels

2-Pack of glue sticks

3 composition books (for each class)

Crayola markers

Crayola colored pencils

Highlighter

Scissors

SCIENCE

Teacher: Crystal Herron

Email: cherron@creecs.org

All assignments will be conveniently posted on Google Classroom, providing students with easy access to their coursework. Our science curriculum will primarily rely on the innovative digital platform called Amplify, which will be complemented by another valuable resource called STEMscopes. At the beginning of the school year, I will ensure that both students and parents/guardians receive the necessary login information for these platforms.

To support your student's academic progress, it is crucial that you assist them in regularly checking for assignment due dates and ensuring completion. This can be accomplished by actively monitoring PowerSchool, Google Classroom, and their Google Calendar. By staying engaged with these platforms, you can help your student stay organized, meet deadlines, and stay on top of their assignments.

Math

Teacher: Abby Duncan

Email: aduncan@creecs.org

I am excited to begin a new school year at CREECS with many students I have taught before and new students that I will have the pleasure of getting to know! Math is hard and you may have to work hard to understand the material and be successful. The math you learn in middle school will be so important when you move on to highschool. It is crucial to the students' success to let me know when they are having trouble understanding the material so I can help them. All assignments are posted and turned in on Google Classroom. There are weekly homework grades posted in Powerschool based on completion of those assignments. Homework assignments should not be taking more than 30 minutes most days. Please let me know if homework is taking too long and we will work on a solution. Doing your homework helps you practice for quizzes and tests which are your other grades on Powerschool. Quizzes and tests unlike homework are graded for accuracy. Completing your homework to the best of your ability increases your likelihood of being accurate! Remember you should use Google Classroom and Powerschool to make sure you are keeping up with your assignments and stay on track for a successful year!

Middle School Math Supplies

Math notebook- either spiral with pocket dividers or small binder

Pencils, pencils, pencils :)

Scientific Calculator <https://a.co/d/3MYHv7U>

The link is for the TI-30XIIS

ELA/Social Studies

Teacher: Beth Baldwin

Email: bbaldwin@creecs.org

Dear Middle School Families,

My name is Beth Baldwin and I will be your child's ELA and/or Social Studies teacher this year. I am excited to have the opportunity to work with your child and help them learn and grow.

I have been teaching for 20+ years and I have a passion for helping students learn. I believe that all students can learn and succeed, and I am committed to providing each student with the individualized attention they need to reach their full potential.

In my classroom, I create a positive and supportive learning environment where students feel safe to take risks and make mistakes. I believe that mistakes are an important part of the learning process, and I use them as an opportunity to teach students how to learn from their mistakes and improve.

I am also committed to helping students develop critical thinking skills. I believe that critical thinking is essential for success in school and in life. In my classroom, students will learn how to think critically about the information they are presented with, and to form their own opinions.

I am looking forward to getting to know your child and working with them this year. I am confident that they will have a successful year in my classroom.

Sincerely,

Beth Baldwin

