

Eighth Grade Summer News -- 2008

Congratulations and good luck to the class of 2008! You are a great group and I look forward to hearing about your high school experiences when you come back and visit.

Welcome to incoming eighth graders! I know that we are going to have a great year. We will be involved in many activities and projects that I know you will enjoy. It is time to start thinking about your eighth grade class sweatshirt. One of the first things we will do in the fall is to develop a final sweatshirt design that will be used for the class of 2009.

There are really two things that eighth grade students could be doing over the summer to be ready for the next school year. One is to read for recreation purposes. Read good books, magazines and even the daily paper. Now is also good time to try your hand at the daily crossword. Reading develops many skills from vocabulary and comprehension to writing and spelling. Summer is the perfect time to curl up with a good book!

Secondly, I would like to encourage students to take advantage of opportunities to practice basic skills in math. Students entering the eighth grade should be able to add, subtract, multiply and divide fractions, mixed numbers and decimals **without** a calculator. While we use calculators in class at times, students should always be able to do these calculations by hand. So when you are doubling a recipe or figuring out the cost of something, see if you can do the math without a calculator first. You can always verify your answer on a calculator later. While we will review these skills over the course of the year, these concepts have already been taught and students are expected to be able to do these calculations with reasonable accuracy without much reteaching.

I hope everyone has a wonderful summer. Whether you have big travel plans or are just looking forward to some relaxing time at home, I hope you have lots of fun and come back to school in September, ready for a fantastic eighth grade year!