

Dear Families,

Welcome to Little River!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your student to what we hope will be an amazing 7th grade year. After meeting your students' on step up day, we are even more thrilled about the 2017-2018 school year and all of the adventures that we will share with your kiddos!

Our team, both core-teachers and advisors, are committed to meeting your students' needs and giving them a rigorous, meaningful, and engaging academic experience. Students will be meeting curriculum goals and state and national standards through traditional book based lessons, thematic cross-curriculum projects, and some community based learning opportunities.

Little River core teachers Sherry Coyne and Sarah Rubin work closely together to deliver every aspect of the curriculum in all four subject areas so we can best meet your student's academic needs and make sure that expectations for students are the same regardless of what class they're in. All of the Little River teachers and advisors also work closely with the students to develop a close-knit community of learners who embody the Gorham School's Core Values of Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Honesty, and Compassion.

UNITS

Here is a sampling of the incredible units Little River students participated in this past year:

- **Samantha Smith Challenge:** Engaging kids in community service learning to show them that even middle schoolers can make a difference in their community.
- **Hamilton: The Musical:** Studying the American Revolution and narrative writing through the hit Broadway musical.
- **Books on Film, Why We Move, and Historical Fiction Book Groups:** Reading great literature that students choose, in small book groups.
- **Rigorous Math Program:** We use the same textbook as the rest of the school for our math program and sometimes are able to split kids up based on their needs as well as add real-world connections through projects.

SUPPLIES

Because Sherry and Sarah often team-teach subjects and due to the fact that most work is computer based in 7th grade; your student will not need a separate binder for the four main content areas. They will need **one Trapper Keeper** (or something like it) that will hold their planners and has folders or dividers for HW Assignments and handouts in different subjects.

Most 7th graders do best with at least **5 hard plastic folders** instead of dividers. Students should have this central organizer ready by the end of the first week of school.

All students need **ONE durable folder** that will be sent home every week and will act as a communication folder between school and home. This will showcase corrected work and self/parent assessments of students before they need to go into the student's portfolio which will be kept at school.

Lastly, we are suggesting that students bring in an **extra large binder** to serve as their portfolio of the year. They will be storing all graded work (after you see it of course) in this binder for reflections, conferences, and an end of year learning showcase. We have some binders but, if you can bring one in, it may be helpful.

Below is a list of other *suggested* supplies that your student should bring to school within the first week. We have many of these materials available but, it may be helpful for your student to bring his/her own.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notebook Paper• Pencil Box• Pencils• Glue Sticks• Calculator• Colored Pencils | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Small Sticky Notes• Clear Plastic Sleeves (to put work in their portfolios)• Tissues• Pencil Sharpener• Sharpies (thin and thick) |
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Lastly, in an effort to make sure your student doesn't fall behind too much this summer, we strongly suggest that your student read as much as possible. Students should read at least two novels this summer and if that isn't possible, they need to be reading magazines, newspapers, SOMETHING! They should also be doing a math a few times a week. There are great math games online (search math games for middle school) and even asking your child to calculate grocery bills or tax on a back to school purchase can help keep those minds going.

We are so excited to welcome you and your student to our Little River Family. Please email over the summer with any questions and otherwise, have a wonderful summer and we'll see you all in the fall!!

Sincerely,

Sherry Coyne (core teacher/advisor)

Sarah Rubin (core teacher/advisor)

Deb Noble (advisor)

Kelly Winslow (advisor)