



EMBRACE CHALLENGE,
DISCOVER YOURSELF.

August 2019

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

It is hard to believe how quickly summer has flown by. We can't wait to see returning faces and meet the new students who will be joining our community. The 2019-2020 school year will begin on campus with two full days of classes on Wednesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 5th. These days are intended for your child to meet their advisor and connect with the students who will be in their advisory group, as well as learn about the classroom expectations for the upcoming school year. This is to ensure a smooth transition as they enter their final middle school year. Students should bring all appropriate books, notebooks, etc. so they are prepared for the day. These are regular uniform days. Students will have sports, so they should bring appropriate clothing to change into for the afternoon.

On Thursday September 5th, we will be adventuring off campus for an overnight at The Buffalo Museum of Science. On September 5th, students should arrive to school with everything they will need for the next two days. This includes the following; a change of clothes for after sports, sleeping gear including a pillow, sleeping bag (foam pad or air mattress is allowed), toiletries and clothes to change into for Friday, September 6th. September 6th will be an out of uniform day and students will have an opportunity to shower once we arrive back at Nichols in the morning. Please see the attached list with more specifics regarding the overnight at The Buffalo Museum of Science. Friday, September 6th will be a day of teambuilding, mindfulness, and HEART activities. Students will have the opportunity to engage with each other and their advisors. Students will have sports in the afternoon on this day.

The 8th grade team looks forward to getting to know your child and watching the tremendous amount of growth that happens during this year. If you have any questions regarding the first few days of school, please contact me at kachatz@nicholsschool.org. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Kari Achatz

8th Grade Team Leader

8th Grade Night at the Museum 2019

On Thursday, September 5th the 8th grade class will head to the Buffalo Museum of Science for a fun filled night of activities. It is the expectation that students participating in the overnight will stay after school with the 8th grade team to engage in team building activities and have dinner before heading to the Science Museum. Students will have a chance to shower at Nichols before leaving for the Science Museum. We will have dinner at 5 pm on Thursday and arrive at the Buffalo Museum of Science around 6pm. Students will have a snack around 9 pm, and lights out at 11pm.

We will be participating in Crime Investigation activities throughout the course of the evening. We will help investigate a mystery while gaining an understanding of how police officers and scientists solve crimes. Activities include learning how to identify and lift fingerprints, understanding how to piece together clues to solve a puzzle, and analyzing similar looking substances to determine which one was part of the crime.

In the morning, students will be given breakfast and we will depart the Buffalo Museum of Science at 9 am and head back to Nichols. Once students arrive back to Nichols they will have time to change, shower if needed, and regroup before the day's activities. The days activities will include advisory challenges, mindful moments, and preparing for the year ahead.

Information from the Museum of Science

- Explore and experience the Museum at night! Enjoy a fun-filled evening, including hands-on science, a snack, movie, breakfast and access to all the Museum's exhibits.
- Each participant should bring a sleeping bag. You will be sleeping on a HARD floor, so you may wish to bring a foam pad or air mattress as well. We strongly suggest that you place all belongings together in one package or bedroll to facilitate storage.
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Shoes must be worn at all times. The Museum's temperature fluctuates, so it is best to wear loose fitting clothes that can be layered i.e., shorts and T-shirt under sweats. (Students will change into these clothes before leaving from Nichols)
- A minimum number of personal items such as a water bottle and basic toiletries are all that are necessary. Please do not bring pajamas, food, headphones, or flashlights.

It is our hope that through this orientation sleepover, our 8th graders experience a place in Buffalo that they may already know in a new way. This is a reoccurring theme throughout the 8th grade year, and we hope our 8th graders make valuable connections to our local community. We look forward to a great kickoff to the 2019-2020 school year.



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June 2019

Dear Parents,

The spirit of the uniform dress code at Nichols Middle School is to provide a model for appropriate appearance in an educational and business setting. All attire (even on dress down days) should be in good condition, clean, and appropriate. Nichols Middle School has a vast array of gently used uniforms. Please feel free to purchase items at any time. Also, as your children grow throughout the year, please feel free to exchange items for larger sizes free of charge.

We are very pleased once again to present you with the options available for your child's uniform for the 2019-2020 school year. We will be working with Land's End as our uniform supplier. Each year we update the uniform options that are available to Nichols students. *Please confine your selections to those earmarked for Nichols students on the website*, which you may view at:

Lands' End website: www.landsend.com/school
Nichols Code: 900126202

The Nichols School logo is mandatory on polo shirts (both long- and short-sleeved), turtlenecks, and sweaters only. It is optional on all other uniform pieces. Finally, **please put your child's name on all pieces of their uniform for ease in identifying lost or mislaid items.** Other items with the Nichols logo sold at the Nichols bookstore (fleeces, pullovers, etc.) may be worn overtop the Nichols uniform.

Supplemental Pieces:

These are the pieces that complete the uniform, but can be purchased anywhere, according to personal taste. Please follow the guidelines below when making your purchases.

- Khaki or Land's End selected skirts (of an appropriate length nearly touching the knee) or pants (shorts are allowed in the fall and spring).
- Socks must be worn during the school day and can be any color, but should be designed for dress shoes and not for athletic footwear. Also, students should wear different socks during the school day versus during their athletic periods.
- Dress shoes/boots must be worn and be closed toe/heel. Heel height maximum 1-1/2 inches. Shoe laces should be non-athletic and appropriate to the dress shoe. Dress sneakers, fashion sneakers, anything close to an athletic shoe is not permitted.
- Sandals, flip-flops, slippers, etc. are not allowed.
- Solid color button down shirts are allowed accompanied with a tie.

The dress code is an important tool to help create a school atmosphere of learning and growth. As trends change, we attempt to adjust our policies accordingly. When making decisions around particular items of dress, we often refer to the 'spirit' of the dress code.

Sincerely,

Greg Plumb
Middle School Dean of Students



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7th and 8th Grade Athletic Equipment Requirements for the 2019-2020 School Year

All students participating in Physical Education are required to have the following locked in their assigned gym lockers at all times:

- Practice short(s)
- Athletic t-shirt(s)
- Athletic socks
- Sweatshirt(s) and sweatpants
- Cold weather accessories – hat, gloves, etc.
- Water bottle with name on it
- Two pairs of footwear:
 - One pair of sneakers – will be worn ONLY for indoor activities (*to protect the gym floor*)
 - One pair of sneakers or molded cleats – will be worn ONLY for outdoor activities (*or any footwear appropriate for a particular sport*)

Athletic clothing may be purchased at the Nichols Campus Store.

All students are required to use a Nichols School lock on gym lockers, which can be purchased in the Nichols Campus Store.

Additional sport specific requirements:

- **SOCCER:** shin guards, molded cleats
- **BOYS' MODIFIED FOOTBALL:** mouth guard, molded cleats, cup
- **GIRLS' FIELD HOCKEY/TENNIS:** molded cleats are recommended, mouth guard*, field hockey stick, tall field hockey shin guards (that come up just below the knee), black spandex for under kilt, one white AND one black turtleneck, field hockey approved eyewear; tennis shoes, tennis racquet, 2 cans of tennis balls
***Combination Field hockey/Lacrosse eyewear is recommended for those athletes that participate in both sports. Please make sure that lacrosse eyewear meets ASTM 3077 standard for lacrosse and ASTM F2713 for field hockey. Generic mouthguards-\$2.00; SISU custom mouth guards available in the equipment room for \$25.00.*
- **BASKETBALL:** basketball sneakers
- **ICE HOCKEY:** pads (shin, elbow and shoulder), skates, helmet, hockey pants, cup/pelvic protector, hockey stick, neck guard, gloves and mouth guard
- **BOYS' LACROSSE:** helmet, shoulder and elbow pads, lacrosse stick, gloves, cup, green shorts, mouth guard (rib pads are optional)
- **GIRLS' LACROSSE:** mouth guard*, girl's lacrosse stick, molded cleats, lacrosse approved eyewear-must be labelled that it meets ASTM 3077 standard – new for 2017, black spandex for under kilt, one white AND one black turtleneck, water bottle
- **BASEBALL/SOFTBALL:** baseball/softball glove, molded cleats; boys – cup
- **BOYS' TENNIS:** 2 cans of tennis balls, tennis racquet, tennis shoes

NOTE: Please clearly label all of your child's equipment and clothing with his/her name.



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8th Grade Supply List 2019-2020

General:

- ☐ Loose leaf paper
- ☐ Colored pencils/gel pens
- ☐ Highlighters
- ☐ Thumb drive (optional)

Subject Specific:

English: ☐ One 2-subject spiral notebook

Math: ☐ Dry erase marker
☐ One folder
☐ 3-subject spiral notebook with perforated edges and pocket dividers or binder with loose leaf paper
☐ TI-84 calculator, recommended but not required

History: ☐ One 200-page spiral notebook

Science: ☐ One 3-single subject spiral notebook with perforated edges
☐ Colored pencils
☐ One folder

Latin: ☐ One 3-ring binder with dividers
☐ Dry erase markers and eraser

Spanish: ☐ Notebook or loose leaf paper
☐ Index cards
☐ Dry erase markers
☐ One folder

French: ☐ One 3-ring binder with 5 dividers
☐ One 1-subject spiral notebook

☐ Index Cards

☐ Paper (looseleaf)
☐ Correcting pen (red, green, purple)

Chinese: ☐ One notebook
☐ Index cards
☐ One folder
☐ One dry erase marker

Music: ☐ Pencil
☐ One folder

Drama: ☐ Pencil
☐ One folder

Computer: ☐ Pen or pencil

At Home (supplies that should be purchased and kept at home):

- ☐ Dictionary ☐ Thesaurus ☐ Index cards (3x5 flash/bibliography cards;
- ☐ Language specific Dictionary ☐ Stapler ☐ 4x6 research note cards)



NICHOLS SCHOOL CALENDAR-2019-2020
2/15/19

August 2019

Monday, August 19
Monday, August 26
Monday-Friday, August 26-30

Fall Sports Practices Begin
New Faculty/Staff Orientation
Opening Faculty Meetings

September 2019

Tuesday, September 3
Wednesday, September 4
Thursday, September 12
Thursday, September 19
Friday, September 27
Saturday, September 28

New Student Orientation (Grades 6-12)
Opening Day of the 128th Nichols School Year
US Parents' Go-to-School Night, 6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
MS Parents' Go-to-School Night, 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
Spirit Day/Big Green Party
Homecoming

October 2019

Friday, October 4
Sunday, October 6
Wednesday, October 9
Thursday, October 10
Monday, October 14
Tuesday, October 15

Convocation and Student Commons Dedication – Time TBD
All-School Open House – Time TBD
School Closed – Yom Kippur
Grade 9 and US New Student Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:30-8 p.m.
School Closed – Columbus Day
Professional Day – No Classes

November 2019

Thursday, November 7
Friday, November 8
Monday, November 11
Wednesday-Friday, November 27-29

US Parent Conferences, 3:30-8:00 p.m.
US Parent Conferences, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (No classes for US students)
School Closed – Veterans Day
School Closed – Thanksgiving Break

December 2019

Thursday, December 5
Friday, December 6
Monday-Friday, December 16-20
Friday, December 20

MS Parent Conferences, 4:00-8:00 p.m.
MS Parent Conferences, 8:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (No classes for MS students)
US Mid-Year Exams
Holiday Break begins at end of school day

January 2020

Monday, January 6
Friday, January 17
Monday, January 20

Classes Resume
Professional Day – No Classes
School Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February 2020

Monday, February 3
Monday-Tuesday, February 17-18
Thursday, February 20

Professional Day – No Classes
School Closed – Winter Break
Sophomore Parent/Advisor Conferences, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

March 2020

Monday, March 9
Friday, March 27

Professional Day – No Classes
Spring Break begins at end of school day

April 2020

Monday, April 13
Monday, April 27

Classes resume
Professional Day – No Classes

May 2020

Saturday, May 2
Friday, May 22
Monday, May 25
Thursday-Friday, May 28-29

Derby Day Auction
Verdian Day; Jr./Sr. Prom
School Closed – Memorial Day
MS and US Exams

June 2020

Monday-Tuesday, June 1-2
Tuesday, June 2
Wednesday, June 3
Friday, June 5
Friday-Saturday, June 5-6

MS and US Exams
Senior/Faculty/Alumni Induction Luncheon
8th Grade Recognition/MS Awards Ceremony; Senior Thesis Celebration
128th Upper School Commencement, 11:00 a.m.
Reunion weekend