

TEAM THUNDERBIRD

August 2019

Dear Parents and Student,

Team Thunderbird would like to welcome you to Northwestern Middle School. We hope that you are enjoying your summer vacation. We are looking forward to meeting our new seventh grade students, the Thunderbirds.

Your team teachers this year will be:

Mr. Michael DiMartino	Social Studies
Ms. Jennifer Fantano	Math
Mrs. Jennifer Hurley-Coughlin	English
Mrs. Angela Sabolcik	Science
Ms. Amy Bardino	Special Education
Mrs. Nancy Wiecking	Reading
Mrs. Darci Stenson	Educational Assistant

Team Thunderbird places an emphasis on maintaining high standards in the quality of your education. We have several tools in place to help you stay informed about progress.

1. We require that each child use the school provided agenda to record their homework. This agenda is expected to be brought to all classes and home every evening. Please ask to see your child's agenda in order to stay informed on daily homework assignments. Also, students may access homework and many assignments using Powerschool Learning, an online learning platform used to enhance student learning.
2. After-school academic support sessions are available for students to receive extra help from teachers most Mondays and Thursdays. These sessions allow for more individualized attention and should be seen as a tool, not as a punishment. Please encourage your child to attend these sessions and to come prepared with appropriate tools and specific questions if they need extra help in any subject. Students should make an appointment with a teacher, as all students **must** be with a teacher during this time.
3. Grades will be posted on Powerschool. Please check this resource in moderation. While it is school policy to update assignments every two weeks, longer assignments may require longer grading time. *Tip: Click on blue links to find out more about assignments and/or grade.*

As well as academics at Northwestern Middle School, there are a wide variety of extracurricular opportunities. For the sports enthusiast there are many teams including soccer, baseball, softball, cheer, field hockey, basketball, etc. For the student who likes to be involved there are clubs such as student council, drama club, civil rights stories, etc. Students are encouraged to develop their interest outside of academics. It is a chance to make new friends and get involved in the middle school experience.

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Required School Supplies for the Core Academic Classes:

It is your responsibility to ALWAYS COME TO CLASS PREPARED! In order to be prepared for the 2019-2020 school year, you will need the following items:

- agenda or other organizational tool (one will be provided to you by the school)
- 2 2" 3 ring binders (social studies and math)
- 4 pocket folders (English, reading, science, PE/health)
- lined loose-leaf paper
- notebook dividers
- at least 2 packs of Post-it notes (1 for reading class, 1 for personal/home use)
- 8 one subject composition books (4 in English, 1 in science, 3 reading)
- calculator (*See math teacher for calculator most appropriate for course. A TI-84 PLUS or TI-84CE graphing calculator is optional in grade 7, but will be required in 8th grade.*)
- blue or black pens/pencils/colored pencils/highlighter/erasers
- earbuds to allow student to listen during multimedia learning opportunities
- \$5 deposit for a PE Lock

Recommended: accordion folder or other organizational system for homework

Recommended: pencil case to help keep track of utensils

Requested: a box of tissues to donate to homeroom

Thunderbird Apparel Fundraiser: Order T-Shirts and Sweatshirts Now!

We look forward to building our new team community with you. As a first step, we would like to invite you to purchase our team apparel for your child or the whole family!. We will wear our apparel during special events and on exciting upcoming field trips. Proceeds from team sales will fund student need-based scholarships for field trips and/or other educational opportunities.

Access our team "storefront" at the following website:

<https://www.customink.com/fundraising/team-thunderbird-spirit-fundraiser-2019> . The deadline to order apparel is **September 4 , 2019**. Order online and we will deliver directly to your child in homeroom. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser!

We are looking forward to working with you to ensure a positive and productive 2019-2020 school year. Please feel free to contact us during the school year with any questions or concerns. Have a wonderful summer.

Sincerely,

Team Thunderbird

Ms. Bardino, Mr. DiMartino, Ms. Fantano, Mrs. Hurley-Coughlin, Mrs. Sabolcik, Mrs. Stenson, Mrs. Wiecking

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Dear Parents and Student,

We are excited to announce a unique educational program to **Riverfront Recapture** along the Connecticut River in East Hartford. To welcome our new students and to create a sense of cohesiveness, students will engage in group problem solving initiatives, low-ropes course group challenges, team dragon boat paddling, and at least one high ropes challenge element.

Team Thunderbird will be attending Riverfront Recapture on **Tuesday, September 24, 2019**, for a full day of friendship, exercise, team building, and fun. Students will be encouraged to work together to build leadership skills and make friends with students from each of our feeder towns.

The cost of this trip will be **\$50 per student**, which includes the cost of the instructors, all activities, and transportation to and from Regional to East Hartford. We will leave Northwestern at **7:45 a.m. and return at 3 p.m.** **Students must arrange pick up from the school promptly at 3 p.m.**

We recommend that students consider bringing the following items: a sweatshirt and/or appropriate weather gear, sturdy footwear, and sunblock. Students must bring a **bagged lunch** to eat on site. Please no glass bottles. All students must have a current immunizations form, a current state medical form for the 7th grade, and a medications packet (if your child takes any medications during the school day) on file with the school nurse to be eligible to attend.

Please sign and return the permission slip and waiver agreement below, along with payment to Mrs. Hurley-Coughlin by *September 13, 2019*. Both the permission slip and money need to be handed to Mrs. Hurley-Coughlin in person.

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Please make checks payable to RSD #7 in blue or black ink.

We are very excited about this team building opportunity and hope all of our students are able to participate.

Sincerely,
Team Thunderbird

I give my son / daughter , _____, permission to attend the 2019 Team Thunderbird Riverfront Recapture Adventure. Students will be bused to the Riverfront Recapture area along the Connecticut River in East Hartford, CT at 7:45 a.m. on Tuesday, September 24, 2019.

Parents must pick up their child at Northwestern at 3 p.m.

SIGNATURE OF PARENT / GUARDIAN

DATE