



## Farragut Middle School

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### *A National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence*

Gail Kipper  
Principal

Hilda McGivney  
Assistant Principal

August 2009

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of Incoming Eighth Grade Students:

The eighth grade core team of math, science, language arts, social studies and world language teachers recognize the importance of being prepared for the upcoming school year. We would like to share the following information with you concerning several areas that will relate to your child's upcoming school year.

During the summer, your child will be required to read either **The Outsiders** or **The Hobbit** or **Charms for the Easy Life**. The seventh grade students were supplied with a copy of their choice in June. If, for some reason, your child does not have a copy, one may be picked up in the middle school office. In addition, the students were given a suggested reading list. It is strongly **recommended** that they select three additional books of their own choice to read during the summer.

Students and parents are often anxious about what materials are necessary in the eighth grade. Language arts, world language, science, math, and social studies require students to use a **LARGE** three-ring binder with loose-leaf and subject dividers. Students will probably need two or three of these binders to accommodate all five subjects. In addition, students will need plenty of pens, pencils and **colored** pencils. Language Arts students must also purchase one two subject notebook. French students are asked to also purchase a marble notebook. Math requires a graphing calculator, such as a TI-83/84 (approximate cost \$80.00), in class everyday. If a student cannot purchase the calculator, please contact your child's math teacher in September. A suggestion is to purchase a pencil case that can be clipped into the student's binder. Students will be provided with an Agenda Book that should be used throughout the year. All textbooks should be covered.

Students taking Earth Science, Living Environment and integrated algebra should keep in mind these are high school level courses and will be taught as such. The pace, quantity, and quality of work will exceed that of a middle school course. Earth Science and Living environment students are required to have colored pencils, a metric ruler, a protractor, and the aforementioned calculator.

Additionally, our World Language students are required to take the New York State proficiency exam in June.

The teachers of our special area subjects have requested that students be prepared for these classes with the following materials:

**ART:** a pencil; **MUSIC:** a pen and a section in a binder; **HOME & CAREER SKILLS:** a pen or pencil and a section in a binder; **PHYSICAL EDUCATION:** a folder, sneakers with laces or Velcro straps, weather appropriate athletic clothing, such as a T-shirt, sweatshirt, shorts or sweatpants; **HEALTH:** a pen and a section in a binder; **TECHNOLOGY:** pens, pencils and a section in a binder.

In keeping with the middle school philosophy of the child in transition, we also encourage your child to participate in the full range of activities available in the middle school. The middle school affords opportunities for student participation in a school newspaper, play, student government, and both intramural and interscholastic athletics. Please encourage your son or daughter to explore these various possibilities. Please bear in mind, however, that the nature of 8<sup>th</sup> grade lends itself to a more rigorous curriculum and students should not feel overwhelmed by extracurricular activities. The students involved in support team classes will each receive a letter informing them of additional requirements.

We are looking forward to having your child as a member of the eighth grade team.

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Team