

June 18, 2019

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 2019-2020 school year and all of the adventures that we will share with your kiddos!

Our team is committed to meeting your students' needs and giving them a rigorous, meaningful, and engaging academic experience. Students will be assessed based district wide graduation standards that are taught through traditional book based lessons, thematic cross-curriculum projects, and community based learning opportunities.

Little River core teachers Sherry Coyne, 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:** The Samantha Smith Challenge (SSC) is a dynamic educational program for Maine middle school students designed to build a bridge between the classroom and the world and to show students that, no matter what age, they can be part of solving the challenges and problems they see around them.
- **Revolutionary War Board Games:** Combining Revolutionary War knowledge with probability to create amazing board games
- **Thanksgiving Unit:** Discovering the origins of the holiday as we study the relationship between the Wampanoags and the European settlers in the New World and creating catering companies that will use math to plan a Thanksgiving Feast. We also have a Thanksgiving Feast of our own!
- **Books on Film 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.

- Notebook Paper
- Pencil Box
- Pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Calculator
- Colored Pencils
- Small Sticky Notes
- Clear Plastic Sleeves (to put work in their portfolios)
- Tissues
- Pencil Sharpener
- Sharpies (thin and thick)

We are so excited to welcome you and your student to our Little River Family. Please email with any questions!

Sincerely,
Sherry Coyne
Sarah Rubin
Deb Noble
Kelly Winslow

P.S.

Check out [THIS VIDEO](#) of our 2018-2019 Little River School Year! It was an incredible year and we're looking forward to another one starting this fall!

Click on the link above or scan this QR code!

