

Supply List for Middle School Students 2015-2016

Part of the middle school experience is to learn how to organize work and belongings. Through years of experience with middle school students, we have identified the most useful tools for students to use as they learn organizational strategies and skills. Those items are described below. (Super organized students that were at TSA last year may veer from this list with their advisor's approval.) For easy reference, we have included a summary of what students need at the end of this document.

All students should arrive on the first school day (August 26th) with the items listed below. We will help students organize the items on the 26th, so it is important that students come prepared.

This summer, Pam worked with a group of students to revamp last year's system. So, **returning students, be aware that this list is slightly different than last year's set up.**

Choose a System:

There are two systems from which to choose – the Binder System or the Expanding File System. Please work with your student to decide which system might work the best for them.

Binder system:

- **A 2-3 inch, three-ring binder** (D-ring for easiest access).
- At least **5 plastic notebook dividers with pockets**. Please check out the Staples website to see an example of one brand of these plastic pocket dividers: Staples® Divider Pockets, 3-Hole Punched, 5 Set, Assorted Colors
- **Four single subject spiral notebooks**, different colors, with three holes and lined paper. Make sure they fit into the binder.

– OR –

Expanding File System:

- **7-pocket Expanding File:** Expanding files work very well for some students. They eliminate the need to open and close the rings on the binder, which can be frustrating for students. It also can be much less cumbersome overall. **We highly recommend the Staples Fabric Expanding File with 7 pockets.** It is durable, has a great design and the right number of pockets. Unfortunately, this item is only sold at Staples and cannot be ordered from Staples Online. We have searched high and low to no avail for a comparable item. We are trying to convince the West Lebanon Staples to be well stocked with this item. If they are out of stock, you can get a cheaper accordion folder to hold your student over until this item is restocked.
- **Four single subject spiral notebooks**, different colors with three holes and lined paper. Make sure they fit into the expanding file.

Other Essential Supplies:

- **Pens** (erasable pens are great) and **PLENTY of pencils** (some students lose these at a rate of one per hour).
- **A pencil box or pouch** (since all students will have this, no one should feel dorky). The container should be large enough to fit pens, pencils and a calculator. Expandable File students, please make sure the pencil pouch fits into the file. Binder students also may want to buy a pencil holder that fits into the binder – but this can make opening and closing the binder rings a bit more challenging.
- **Shoes:** At least one pair of **running/exercise shoes** that give feet support and shock absorption. In addition to academic work, your student will be involved in physical activity. We encourage students to be active during free time and often do activities that require students to move around. It is very important that your student have at least one pair of shoes that they can run in safely.
- **Calculator:** You will soon receive your Math Placements in the mail. Once you receive your placement, you can refer to this section to know what sort of calculator to buy.
 - For Mr. Durgin's 8th grade Algebra 1 math class, **the TI-83 or TI-83+ calculator is required**. This calculator is about \$100.00, and will be used throughout high school. If you need assistance buying this calculator please contact Pam Ward (802-763-2531) for discreet financial assistance. If you are not sure if you are in this class you may contact pward@sharonacademy.net over the summer. We also have a few of these calculators to loan.
 - For all other students (all 7th graders and 8th graders not in Mr. Durgin's Algebra class), **a scientific calculator is required**. Scientific calculators cost about \$15.00 and have square root and exponent functions. The Texas Instrument TI-30Xa scientific calculator is highly encouraged as class is MUCH more efficient when all students have the same calculator. If you cannot purchase this particular calculator, please make sure that the calculator your student is using has the above functions.

What you do not need:

- An assignment notebook (provided by school)
- Anything else that is not on this list.

Shopping List (a summary of above)

If using Binder System:

- A 2"-3" D ring binder
- At least 5 plastic dividers with pockets and three holes
- 4 single-subject spiral notebooks (different colors) with three holes and lined paper. Make sure they fit into the binder.

OR

If using Expandable File System

- The Staples fabric expandable file with 7 pockets (about \$18.00) or a much cheaper expandable file until this is in stock.
- 4 single subject spiral notebooks (different colors) with three holes and lined paper. Make sure they fit into the expandable file.

AND

- 1 pencil box /pouch (make sure it fits into expandable file if you are using this system).
- Pens (erasable pens are great)
- Pencils (lots of these)
- A scientific TI 30xa calculator (or one like it) or for Mr. Durgin's Algebra class a TI-83 calculator.
- 1 pair of running/exercise shoes that give feet support and shock absorption.