TEAMS NOVA MISSION STATEMENT

Team Nova is a unique and safe community of learners who strive to create a respectful and safe environment, work hard, and be accepting of everyone’s learning. Nova members reach for the stars.

August, 2021

Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to eighth grade! We are very excited to welcome you back to Team Nova and to get this school year up and running. We had a busy summer planning for this coming school year. We are looking forward to continuing to build a strong community on our team and at EMS. The mission statement you see at the top of this letter was created by you, our Nova students, and will serve as our team’s social contract. As a community, we will work together to ensure everyone is successful.

This year we have ordered every student on the team an academic planner. We will be using it to teach some organizational skills and practices that will help prepare them for high school and beyond.

In preparation for the start of school, please do your best to have the following supplies:

Math Supplies
- 15 plastic sheet protectors

Science Supplies
- Composition notebook to use as their science journal

Humanities Supplies
- Composition notebook

Team Wide Supplies (materials used for all subjects)
- A box of tissues to donate to your homeroom teacher (you will thank us later)
- One 2” or 3” binder that will be used for Math, Science, and Humanities
- binder dividers (5 tabs)
- Pens, pencils and erasers (lots of pencils)

Optional Team Wide Supplies
- Colored pencils
- Markers
- Ruler
- Calculator
- Highlighters
- Lined paper
- Graph paper

We look forward to a productive year and we hope you enjoy the last few days of summer! If you have any questions, please contact us through email.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kasprisin (Science) - akasprisin@ewsd.org
Stacy Myers (Humanities) - smyers@ewsd.org
Clara Ripley (Math) - cribley@ewsd.org
Janet Battaile (Special Education) - jbattaile@ewsd.org
Teacher Bios

Andrew Kasprisin: Science
I am very excited for our upcoming year together. This marks my ninth year at Essex Middle School. I have a Bachelors in Science from the University of Vermont in Biochemistry and Nutrition. I also did research in Human Physiology using fluorescence spectrometry. After a few years of doing research and working for a pharmaceutical company, I went back to get my Master’s Degree in Education so that I could teach. I started out teaching high school, but quickly found myself gravitating toward teaching middle school because of their energy and curiosity for learning. Outside of the classroom, I like to run, be active, and add to my collection of minerals and fossils. I also love to spend time with my wife and our four year old son Miles.

Stacy Myers: Humanities
Hello, Nova! Hope you’re staying cool with lots of swimming and ice cream, and enjoying all of the other little treasures summer offers. This will be my second year at EMS and I am beyond excited to see all of your (hopefully) maskless faces! I had always planned on teaching high school English, but after coaching field hockey with a very spirited group of middle schoolers, I was hooked. I have been teaching middle school Language Arts for over twenty (yikes!) years. I love being a part of helping middle schoolers figure out who they are and who they want to be through reading and writing. I am humbled and honored that they allow me into their lives. I am a proud, born and raised Vermonter, but actually began my teaching career in the outskirts of Boston. My husband and I moved back home when we started our family, and I have spent the past few years teaching at MVU in Swanton. Our kiddos, Nate and Livi, will be 8th graders in Colchester this year. I love gardening, photography, cooking, skiing, yellow labs, reading, and spending time on the lake at our family’s little camp on Marble Island. Can't wait to see you all!

Clara Ripley: Math
I hope summer is giving you a great recharge so we can all start the school year strong and ready to do great things. I am in my tenth year of teaching middle school math. I love teaching middle schoolers; they are so fun and unpredictable. I always tell people “I am not a teacher because I love math first, I am a teacher because I love kids first.” A passion of mine is to coach and play field hockey. It’s a huge part of my life. At home, my family consists of my husband Parker, my four year old son Chester, our son Tucker who is going to be one on August 22nd, my dog Jackson, and my two cats Callie and Jacob. My hobbies include field hockey, four wheeling, fishing, sugaring, hiking, and anything with my family and friends and being outdoors.

Janet Battaile: Special Education
Summer is in full-swing, but quickly coming to a close. I have been spending the majority of my time with family and friends mountain biking, boating, and relaxing by the lake. I hope you all have had time for fun and relaxation, as well! I am excited to start my fourth year at Essex Middle school and your eighth grade year! How exciting! I can’t wait to see you on August 28th! Enjoy the time you have left.