

# TAWASENTHA 8

2025-26 edition

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Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

We are so excited to welcome you to eighth-grade Tawasentha this year.

Eighth grade brings a lot of challenges and added responsibilities, as we work towards your (exciting!) transition to the high school. We, your team teachers, are open-minded and flexible above all; we know you will have a lot going on, and we will be here to guide you. Our job is to work together to keep in mind and account for all of these varying circumstances while still providing you with the most consistent, inclusive, supportive - and, yes, challenging - academic environment possible. We want you to feel comfortable, and at the same time, we want you to know that we have lofty standards for you. You'll meet them. We know it.

As a team, we value communication—communication amongst one another, as well as communication between home and school. First, eSchool. That will be your single greatest resource regarding class assignments, including missing work. *(Please take a moment to log into eSchoolData to make sure that all of your contact information is up to date and accurate).* We also utilize individual Google Classrooms, a whole-team Google Classroom, and ParentSquare.

We would also like to take a moment to highlight the updated cell phone policy at the school. At no point during the day are students allowed to use cell phones; they may not even carry the cell phones on them. **Phones must be left at home or stored in students' lockers.** Please take a moment over the summer to teach your student to use a combination lock if necessary. Students are encouraged to visit the house office to use the phone (and will be allowed to do so) if they need to contact home for any reason during the school day. We have found that removing cellular devices encourages students to be more present with their peers and more engaged in class, and this new policy is in accordance with the Guilderland Schools Board of Education.

We are eager to meet you and are looking forward to everything this school year will bring!

Sincerely your **team teachers**,  
*Mr. Chiesa, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Lagios, Mrs. Pachucki*

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## a note on STUDENT LOCKERS AND LOCKS

FMS Students will be assigned two lockers: a hallway locker near their homeroom and one for physical education. Students will need to bring in **two combination locks\***:

- One for their homeroom locker.
- One for their PE locker.

*\* Homeroom and PE teachers will keep the combination on file to help students who may forget their combination.*

# TAWASENTHA 8

*Team Supply List, 2024-25*

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The following is a list of supplies we are requesting students have for their core and world language classes.

## **HOMEROOM**

- 2 Boxes of Tissues
- 1 Combination Lock

## **ALL CLASSES**

- Pencils
- Colored Pencils (1 package)
- Multi-color Highlighters
- Earbuds\*\*\* (*Very important!*)
- Pencil Pouch containing: *Pens/pencils, earbuds, dry erase marker (1), colored pencils (above package)*

## **ELA**

- 2-pocket Folder
- Independent Reading Book

## **MATH**

- 2" 3-Ring Binder
- 3 Binder Dividers
- 2 Thin Dry Erase Markers
- Calculator (which type depends on which Math Class):
  - **MATH 8:** TI-30 SXII
  - **ALGEBRA 1:** TI-84 Plus Graphing Calculator

## **SCIENCE**

- 1½" - 2" 3-Ring Binder with Pockets
- 2-pocket Folder

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

- 2" 3-Ring Binder with Pockets
- 10 Binder Dividers
- Composition Notebook

If purchasing a calculator or any other supplies creates a financial burden, please contact your child's teacher or school counselor to work on a plan. Solutions can and will be found.

Sincerely your **team teachers**,  
*Mr. Chiesa, Mr. Hanson, Mr. Lagios, Mrs. Pachucki*