



EMBRACE CHALLENGE,
DISCOVER YOURSELF.

August 2019

Dear 8th Grade Parents,

It is hard to believe how quickly summer has flown by. We can't wait to see returning faces and meet the new students who will be joining our community. The 2019-2020 school year will begin on campus with two full days of classes on Wednesday, September 4th and Thursday, September 5th. These days are intended for your child to meet their advisor and connect with the students who will be in their advisory group, as well as learn about the classroom expectations for the upcoming school year. This is to ensure a smooth transition as they enter their final middle school year. Students should bring all appropriate books, notebooks, etc. so they are prepared for the day. These are regular uniform days. Students will have sports, so they should bring appropriate clothing to change into for the afternoon.

On Thursday September 5th, we will be adventuring off campus for an overnight at The Buffalo Museum of Science. On September 5th, students should arrive to school with everything they will need for the next two days. This includes the following; a change of clothes for after sports, sleeping gear including a pillow, sleeping bag (foam pad or air mattress is allowed), toiletries and clothes to change into for Friday, September 6th. September 6th will be an out of uniform day and students will have an opportunity to shower once we arrive back at Nichols in the morning. Please see the attached list with more specifics regarding the overnight at The Buffalo Museum of Science. Friday, September 6th will be a day of teambuilding, mindfulness, and HEART activities. Students will have the opportunity to engage with each other and their advisors. Students will have sports in the afternoon on this day.

The 8th grade team looks forward to getting to know your child and watching the tremendous amount of growth that happens during this year. If you have any questions regarding the first few days of school, please contact me at kachatz@nicholsschool.org. I look forward to working with you and your child this year.

Sincerely,

Kari Achatz

8th Grade Team Leader

8th Grade Night at the Museum 2019

On Thursday, September 5th the 8th grade class will head to the Buffalo Museum of Science for a fun filled night of activities. It is the expectation that students participating in the overnight will stay after school with the 8th grade team to engage in team building activities and have dinner before heading to the Science Museum. Students will have a chance to shower at Nichols before leaving for the Science Museum. We will have dinner at 5 pm on Thursday and arrive at the Buffalo Museum of Science around 6pm. Students will have a snack around 9 pm, and lights out at 11pm.

We will be participating in Crime Investigation activities throughout the course of the evening. We will help investigate a mystery while gaining an understanding of how police officers and scientists solve crimes. Activities include learning how to identify and lift fingerprints, understanding how to piece together clues to solve a puzzle, and analyzing similar looking substances to determine which one was part of the crime.

In the morning, students will be given breakfast and we will depart the Buffalo Museum of Science at 9 am and head back to Nichols. Once students arrive back to Nichols they will have time to change, shower if needed, and regroup before the day's activities. The days activities will include advisory challenges, mindful moments, and preparing for the year ahead.

Information from the Museum of Science

- Explore and experience the Museum at night! Enjoy a fun-filled evening, including hands-on science, a snack, movie, breakfast and access to all the Museum's exhibits.
- Each participant should bring a sleeping bag. You will be sleeping on a HARD floor, so you may wish to bring a foam pad or air mattress as well. We strongly suggest that you place all belongings together in one package or bedroll to facilitate storage.
- Wear comfortable shoes and clothing. Shoes must be worn at all times. The Museum's temperature fluctuates, so it is best to wear loose fitting clothes that can be layered i.e., shorts and T-shirt under sweats. (Students will change into these clothes before leaving from Nichols)
- A minimum number of personal items such as a water bottle and basic toiletries are all that are necessary. Please do not bring pajamas, food, headphones, or flashlights.

It is our hope that through this orientation sleepover, our 8th graders experience a place in Buffalo that they may already know in a new way. This is a reoccurring theme throughout the 8th grade year, and we hope our 8th graders make valuable connections to our local community. We look forward to a great kickoff to the 2019-2020 school year.