Dear 8th Grade Students and Parents,

Welcome to 8th grade! We greatly enjoyed having 7th and 8th grade together in the new MS Addition this past year and we did a good job navigating the world of no lockers. We greatly appreciate your patience as we helped students adjust to a new way of managing their things at school and we continue to welcome feedback as we enter our second year of this new system.

As with last year, students will be allowed and encouraged to carry their backpacks to their classes. (They should be left in the Drop Zone during lunch and recess and not carried into the cafeteria.) Students seemed to enjoy having many things at the ready when they needed them. We do encourage students to keep items in their backpack to a minimum so as to not weigh themselves down; large items can be left in the Drop Zone if need be.

We are asking that you use the list below to have supplies ready at some point during the first week of school. As with this most recent year, the first week is a short one, so you could also use that first weekend after school begins to purchase supplies if your child wants to wait. We think this will actually SAVE you money and eliminate waste--that’s a win for all!

Suggested List (based on our test students!):

- A well-fitting (using both straps), lightweight backpack with lots of pockets
- Pocket/accordion organizer to collect/store papers
- Pouch for holding pens and pencils
- Pens and pencils of your choice (you can never have too many pencils!)
- Two composition notebooks
- 50 - 75 sheets of notebook paper
- Graph paper or graph paper notebook/composition book, 4 squares per inch
- Calculator (the calculator on their iPad will get kids through the first weeks of school, but there are times when students will not be able to use iPads. The 8th grade calculator will be used throughout Upper School and even college, so it is worth the investment!)
  - TI 84+ calculator (for 8th grade only, and for 7th grade Algebra)
  - TI 30X calculator (for 7th grade Pre-Algebra - same one they used in 6th)
- Small earbuds to be used with iPads (please leave Beats and larger headphones at home, as students need to hear teacher instructions).
We suggest that you keep the supplies in backpacks to a minimum, replenishing regularly from home as needed. Less is more! (You wouldn’t believe the amount of supplies we donate at the end of the year with our current program!)

If you have a rising JrK - 6th grader too, you can go to the Back to School page on the Cannon School website and download the supply list or you can use the following link to order online through July 10.

https://www.write-stuff.com/storefront/school/cannonschool

We as teachers continue to commit to minimizing the number of heavy items that get transported back and forth, and we know we may have to store journals or hard copy texts in our classrooms. Additionally, the Drop Zone continues to be available as a storage room for items such as sports bags and equipment, lunch boxes, large coats, etc. (Instruments will continue to be stored in music classes.) Students will not be assigned individual spaces in this area. It will be important that all coats and bags are clearly labeled to avoid mix-ups.

Students may also continue to have electronics turned OFF in their backpacks throughout the day. We have not had an issue with inappropriate phone use, and we are expecting that this will continue. We will handle inappropriate use just as we would have prior to this.

Please email me (cholyer@cannonschool.org) if you have any questions!

Christiana Holyer
Dean of Students, 7th and 8th grades