



Growing Enlightened Minds

Mrs. Daher
Mr. Delaney
Mrs. Busch
Mr. Blankman
Mr. May
Mrs. Wallace

August 24, 2011

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 7th grade and to the GEMS village! Your child has a very important year ahead them. They will encounter many new things this year as they begin their preparation for high school and so they will be ready for college. The skills they can learn this year should be ones that can propel them to success and allow them to reach their dreams beyond high school. Accomplishing basic and organization skills are the most powerful in their journey through school.

Our village will require the students to have common supplies and manage their binders in a common way. We have found that the more students are able to manage their binders, tools and backpacks the more successful they are in school. Also, there is less disruption and time spent in class for students to find their needed items and the curriculum can progress at a nice pace. We will be teaching them how to handle their current and graded work within their 3 ring binders. They will be held accountable to be organized with their work and tools.

Materials recommended to help your child succeed:

- **Large durable binder (3inch)**
- **Notebook paper-College Rule**
- **Large durable pencil pouch**
- **Several #2 pencils, NO mechanical pencils**
- **Several blue or black pens**
- **Several red pens**
- **Several highlighters**
- **Color pencils**
- **Dividers (Labeled)**
- **Plastic sheet protectors**
- **Eraser**
- **Scissors**
- **Mini Stapler**
- **Backpack**
- **Silent Reading book**
- **Planner**
- **USB Flash drive**
- **Composition book for LA**

Please see pages 9 to 10 in student planner regarding Citizenship and Work Habits grade. You will notice that Outstanding CITIZENSHIP requires more than just being quiet in class. We want them to stretch themselves as leaders and contribute to the class as needed and when it is appropriate. Same with WORK HABITS, they need to do their personal best with their assignments which will be evidence by their complete and clean papers that are routinely turned in within the deadlines.

Poway Unified School district has a Homework Policy; here is the website if you would like to brief yourself on this policy http://www.powayusd.com/news/homework_policy/#faqs. The block schedule remedies the homework crunch at home because students have just 3 classes each day. The students should be doing any assignments on the night that they are assigned and not waiting. They also need to be using their RAM time to start or finish items and not saving it for homework. RAM time is a time for students to do their independent reading required by the language arts teacher, they must read 8 pages minimum each day and record this in their log. The 20 minutes allotted for reading is ample for them to complete this task each day in RAM.

Also, students who are absent need to make up their work within a reasonable amount of time. They can speak with their teachers during RAM to begin the process of completing their missed work. Sometimes they will need to stay after school to do the make up; they should see the teacher during their tutorial or schedule a time to meet with the teacher.

We are anxious to begin the year and meet your children. We would love to meet you at **Back to School Night on August 31st**. Welcome to the GEMS village!

Sincerely, *GEMS Teachers*