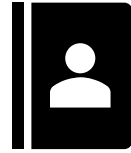




# Welcome Back to School!

8<sup>th</sup> Grade Team Newsletter, August to September




Welcome back, 8th graders! This is going to be a year full of growth, new challenges, and exciting opportunities. Whether you're looking forward to connecting with friends, diving into your favorite subjects, or discovering new passions, this year is your time to shine. Stay curious, work hard, and make the most of every moment. You've got this!



## Things you need to know:

- Students will need to be in uniform every day.<sup>1</sup>
- Students need to have all their supplies every day.
- All personal technology is turned in during advisory (homeroom).
- No outside food at any time. There is no more “Snack”.
- Breakfast and lunch are provided.

Needed School Supplies	
<p><b>ELA:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Subject Notebook</li> </ul> <p><b>Humanities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Subject Notebook</li> </ul> <p><b>Science:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Composition Notebook</li> <li>• Headphones / Earbuds</li> </ul> <p><b>Math:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scientific Calculator (Used through High School)</li> <li>• Protractor</li> <li>• Ruler</li> <li>• Notebook</li> </ul>	<p><b>Basics:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backpack</li> <li>• Pencils</li> <li>• Folder x 4</li> <li>• Colored Highlighters (Two Colors)</li> </ul> <p><b>Optional:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pencil Box</li> <li>• Erasers</li> <li>• Pens / Markers</li> <li>• Colored Pencils</li> </ul> 

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<sup>1</sup> VSP Uniform Expectations: Collared black shirt, Khaki or black pants or Khaki or black shorts and skirts that hit below the knee, close-toed shoes and sneakers

Please note that the following clothing items are NOT considered school uniform:

Leggings, jeggings and joggers, Athletic shorts, Slides, sandals, Black or white t-shirts, Bonnets, durags, caps or hats, Hoodies/jackets

# Meet the Teachers!

## **Scott Allison, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math**

I'm Scott Allison (Mr.Scott). This year I am teaching 8<sup>th</sup> grade math. I've been teaching for 9 years, math for 5 of them. I taught a lot of you last year so I may sound familiar. 8<sup>th</sup> grade math builds off what you have been learning and practicing in the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades. Math this year is going to focus on graphing, slopes, systems of equations, and some foundational skills for high school math. Unit 1 is "transformations and congruence". It's my hope that this year we can practice these advanced skills inside and outside the classroom. My email is [allisons@springfieldpublicschool.com](mailto:allisons@springfieldpublicschool.com).

## **Blasmiry Villalona, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA**

Hi Students and families I am Ms. Villalona, I am going to be your eighth grade English teacher. I am excited for this upcoming school year. A little about me: I am from Boston, I went to Westfield State University, and graduated with my bachelors in English and I love to bake. Throughout the year we will be working towards working on argumentative, literary, narrative and exploratory essays. We will also be working on discovering the bigger pictures throughout literary works.

Parents and Students may always reach out to me via email or phone:

413-239-7539 or [villalona-martinez@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:villalona-martinez@springfieldpublicschools.com)

## **Travis Alexander, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Humanities (Civics)**

Hello everyone! My name is Mr. Alexander, and I am very excited to be your civics teacher this year! I used to work with the education department at the North Carolina Museum of Art, and that's where I was introduced to the classroom. I decided that I wanted to be on the classroom side of the learning process, so I stopped looking for museum jobs and began the process to become a full-time teacher. I love helping students to find reading and writing in the social sciences interesting, enjoyable, and directly relevant to their personal lives. Parents and students alike, please feel free to introduce yourselves and ask me anything you want about the class. Thanks for letting me be your teacher; I know we're going to crush it this year. We will examine historical evidence and current events to learn more about civic life in the United States.

Some important questions that we'll answer: What is civics? What ideas gave shape to our civic system? What are your legal rights and responsibilities? Why do they matter to you? What do politicians and other civil servants do? What is their effect on our daily life?

My email information is [alexandert@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:alexandert@springfieldpublicschools.com).

## **Ruben Aviles, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Science**

My Name is Mr. Aviles, your science teacher. I have been a teacher in Springfield for 8 years and have worked at Kennedy Academy and the Academy at Kiley. I live in Connecticut and am a father of three daughters. I like to spend my free time participating or watching sports, and I am always looking to learn something new. I look forward to working with you all and am excited for the year.

Ruben Aviles – [avilesr@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:avilesr@springfieldpublicschools.com)

# Meet the Teachers!

## **Gregory Boisvert, 8<sup>th</sup> Special Education**

Hi! My name is Mr. Boisvert, and I am the Special Education Teacher for the 8th grade at VSP. As an 8th-grade special education teacher, my job is to support your child in reaching their fullest potential in the classroom. I work with students with diverse learning needs by providing personalized instruction, accommodations, and strategies to help them succeed academically and socially. I aim to create an inclusive and supportive learning environment where your child feels confident and capable. I also collaborate closely with general education teachers, specialists, and you as parents to ensure your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is being followed and updated as needed. Communication is key, so I'm always available to discuss your child's progress and address any concerns. My email is [boisvertg@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:boisvertg@springfieldpublicschools.com) and my work phone number is (413) 642-1721.

## **Sara Ryan, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor**

Hi, my name is Sara Ryan and I will be the 8<sup>th</sup> grade counselor this year. You may have seen me in the building before working for a different program.

As your counselor you may see me in the hallways helping with transitions/lunchtime, in your classrooms, and you may meet with me individually or in a group. You may meet with me to work on things like organization, anxiety, depression, stress, and interactions with others. You may also find that I work with your families or guardians outside of school in many different ways in order to help you become the most successful student you can be.

I am really excited to be working with all of you this school year and to help prepare you for the transition to high school that will come very quickly! My email is [ryansar@springfieldpublicschools.com](mailto:ryansar@springfieldpublicschools.com) and my phone number (413) 320-8582 (During work hours).

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