



June 2017

Dear Grade Eight Families:

Welcome to the Rising Tide Charter Public School grade eight year! We are all excited to see our new students in the fall and want to take an opportunity to explain to families our expectations for the final middle school year at Rising Tide.

Our grade eight students will explore the guiding question, “*How can we take responsibility for ourselves and one another?*” through projects and activities incorporated into our Advisory program, team and community building event, as well as through academic classes.

One of our goals is to teach students personal responsibility by developing consistent work habits and self-advocacy skills both in and outside of the classroom. We challenge our students to become confident, respectful and inquisitive members of the classroom community. We also believe that meaningful homework provides students with an opportunity to practice skills, prepare for future lessons, and deepen their understanding of the material. Students who are sufficiently prepared should expect to spend 1½-2 hours on homework per night in order to complete all of their assignments. Students are encouraged and expected to speak to their teachers if they are having trouble in any of their classes.

Our emerging leaders are not only responsible for themselves, but for their school community as well. We believe that students in grade eight at Rising Tide should strive to be role models by setting a positive example for others, at school and on the bus. Students can serve as advisory helpers to younger students. In general, students in grade eight will have an increase in the number of opportunities for practicing leadership and responsibility skills throughout the school year.

This sense of responsibility extends beyond the school walls to the greater community. All students will have an opportunity to participate in community service learning projects. We will begin our exploration by making connections to the summer reading novel which students will hear more about in the fall.

This summer, the entire grade eight community will be reading *In the Heart of Sea , The True Story of the Whaleship Essex (Young Readers Edition)*. Students can purchase a copy through the school or at a local bookstore. We encourage you to read and discuss the book with your child. Students should come to school in the fall with a copy of the book, ready to participate in various discussions and/or activities connected to the book.

We look forward to seeing you at the end of the summer and to a memorable year with your child.

Sincerely,
The Grade Eight Team

The following is a list of required materials for 8th grade students:

- 2 Folders (folders with one pocket on each side)
- 7 One-inch binders, several packs of loose leaf paper, and thirty dividers
- 1 Package graph paper
- 2 Composition notebooks
- 1 Box of pencils
- 1 Pencil sharpener
- Erasers
- 1 Box of blue/black pens
- 1 Box of colored pens (red, green, purple, etc.)
- 1 Box of thin low-odor dry erase markers
- 5 Highlighters, multi-colors
- 5 Packs of 3½ x 5 index cards (For learning vocabulary, researching, and studying)
- 3 Boxes of tissues for use in the classroom
- 2 Disinfecting wipes for advisory
- 1 bottle of hand sanitizer
- 1 set of headphones (earbuds fine)