



June 30, 2026

Dear Incoming Grade 8 Families,

Welcome to grade 8 at Rising Tide! We are excited to see each student at the Open House event, on Monday, August 31. We wanted to take this opportunity to share a few expectations we have for students entering the new school year.

Students in grade 8 will be exploring the grade-level Guiding Question, ***“How can we take responsibility for ourselves and one another?”***. This will happen during the school year, through the Advisory curriculum, through team-building activities and at various community events, and also in the six academic courses. As emerging leaders, students are not only responsible for themselves, but also to their school community. They are able to serve in a variety of roles, including working with younger students and taking on different jobs within the building; grade 8 students can anticipate having an opportunity to earn privileges as the older students within the middle school. There will be an emphasis on community- and team-building during the start of the school year.

A goal for this school year is for students to take increasing responsibility by developing consistent work habits and self-advocacy skills, both in and out of the classroom. Students will face the challenges of becoming more confident, respectful, and inquisitive learners. Meaningful, regular homework in all classes can provide students with an opportunity to practice learning skills, prepare for future lessons, and develop a deeper understanding of content. Students should expect to spend, on average, two hours on homework per night. Students are expected, and also encouraged, to talk with teachers if they are having trouble in any of the classes.

Summer reading is an opportunity for learning enrichment and enjoyment. Students may choose to read one (or more!) of the following [four books](#) from a variety of genres. We would also like to encourage family members to read along and discuss the books together with your student.

Please see the following page for a supply list with items that grade 8 students will need at the start of the school year.

We look forward to seeing you all at the Open House event on Monday, August 31!

Sincerely,

The Grade 8 Team

Grade 8 Supply List for the 2026-2027 Academic Year:

- 2 Two-pocket folders
- 5 Two-inch binders
- 20 (*total*) binder dividers
- Portable 3-hole punch (*can fit into student's binder*)
- 1 Package of white lined paper
- 2 Packages of sticky notes
- 3 Large boxes of pencils
- 1 Pencil sharpener
- 1 (*package*) Erasers
- 1 Box of blue/black pens
- 1 Box of colored pens (*red, green, purple, etc.*)
- 1 Box of low-odor dry-erase markers
- 1 Dry Erase board eraser (*or a clean sock, t-shirt, etc.*)
- 2 Highlighters
- 6 Packs of 3½x5" index cards (*For learning vocabulary, researching, and studying*)
- 1 set of wired headphones (*NOT Bluetooth or wireless AirPods*)
- A scientific calculator (*such as: Texas Instruments TI-30XS or Casio FX-300ES*)

** Students will be provided with a Chromebook laptop and an agenda planner by the school*