

WELCOME



Welcome to the **6th grade Rapids Team** at Oyster River Middle School. We look forward to working with you this year. This letter will give you an overview of just what to expect.

On the first day of school (August 30th), you will find your name posted on the bulletin board in our team area (3rd floor, blue rivers stairwell). There are 4 sections on our team, and you will be assigned to one of them. Find your name and then look for the teacher's name and room number at the top of that paper so that you will know where to start each day at 8:05 am. That is called your home base. We will be in the hall to help you find your way.

You will be given a schedule for the first quarter. You will also receive an agenda book to keep track of your daily assignments, as well as a laptop for school use. We suggest that everyone brings a water bottle and a healthy snack each day. We will make time for a snack break during the day.

Please check out our team's **Supply List** and **Walking Permission Slip**. The list includes both recommended as well as optional materials for classes, and the permission slip is for us to keep on hand for when we take a walking field trip off campus. If you have any problems or questions about the supply list, please let us know via email. Please return the completed Walking Permission Slip on the first day of school. We will still notify you when we are taking these walking field trips.

It is important to us that we keep in close contact. Once school begins, our team's teachers can be reached by email at ssadana@orcsd.org, llsworth@orcsd.org, jpare@orcsd.org, smathison@orcsd.org and mkearney@orcsd.org. Email is the quickest and easiest way to reach us, and we check it every day during school hours. We will frequently send an email blast home with information on what we do in class, homework, and important dates. Homework will be posted on the team's Schoology page, and students will be required to write their assignments in their agenda book each day.

Now that you are in sixth grade, one of the biggest changes for you at ORMS will be having four teachers instead of two. Speaking of your new Rapids teachers, it is time to learn just a bit about each of them:

Ms. Paré is happy to be returning to ORMS as your ELA teacher and share her love for reading and writing. Together we will explore everything from the classics to the latest young adult literature that appears in the new section of our library. We will use several creative forms of communication including writing to discover more about what we read and what we think. When not at ORMS, Ms. Paré may be watching her son, Kaden, play drums or soccer and visiting her daughters, Nathalie at UNH and Shea in Montana. She treasures the chance to learn more about our history and discover places that are new to her. Experiencing the natural world both right here in NH and her expanding travels is building her appreciation for the great wonders around us and the little things that are right in front of us. We have a remarkable year in ELA ahead of us on the Rapids team.

Ms. Mathison will be your social studies teacher this year. We will be practicing geography together! She LOVES to travel and experience new cultures to share with students in her classroom. In fact, she has been to 30 different countries on 5 different continents. "I haven't been everywhere, but it's on my list!" In Mathisonland (aka the geography classroom be it in person or virtual) we will learn to be geographers; being curious about the world, asking deep driving questions and sharing what we learned. We will create maps, reports, infographics and other projects as well as plan ways to leave the world better than we found it!

Mrs. Ellsworth teaches Math. She loves to show how "Math is Everywhere!" You will often find her relating math to real life situations. Also, she will help you truly understand (not memorize) math concepts. She will do her best to make all students feel comfortable (even if math is not your strength) while challenging every student at the same time. Mrs. Ellsworth has some great ways to stay organized and she would like to help her students master this fabulous skill. Please keep this in mind if you ever need help with organization. Mrs. Ellsworth enjoys spending time with her family, hiking, skiing, fishing, boating, watching her daughter (Sarah) play basketball, and visiting her sister in France.

Mr. Sadana will be taking you on a journey through science this year. Although he considers himself mostly a California native, he has had the good fortune of living coast to coast (now is a Durham resident), has a hunger for global travel, and has dedicated his professional life working with children in a variety of settings; including as an environmental educator, outdoor adventure guide, kayak instructor, summer camp director, and classroom teacher. After a 10-year stint in 5th grade, Mr. Sadana established his roots in 6th grade where he has been fortunate enough to teach you about one of his true passions; Science! Prepare to explore a vast array of science topics using the outdoors, technology, our local community resources and experts! When not working with his students in the classroom you will find Mr. Sadana hiking in the Whites, on the ocean (boating or surfing), or on a lake or river (canoeing, kayaking, or paddle boarding), acting as the Middle School's Athletic Director, cooking (international foods are a favorite), travelling, and spending time with his wife, children (Ian & Jade), and their dog Kaya.

Mrs. Kearney will be the team's Special Education Teacher/Case Manager. She can be found in and out of Ms. Mathison's, Mrs. Ellsworth's, Mrs. Pare's and Mr. Sadana's classrooms. She works directly with students who have individualized learning plans helping to set them up for success in the classroom. She also collaborates with the other teachers on the team to be sure that every student is getting what they need. Mrs. Kearney lives in Nottingham, NH with her husband and three children (Will, Julia, and Maddie). She enjoys traveling, playing sports, and spending time in the outdoors exploring the mountains and the beach.

That probably tells you all that you need to know at this point. The teachers have been working together this summer preparing for a great year of learning, having fun and growing together. Enjoy the rest of the summer. See you soon!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Ellsworth, Mr. Sadana, Ms. Paré, Mrs. Kearney, Ms. Mathison