

September 2, 2008

Dear Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s):

This year I have the pleasure of welcoming your child into our classroom: **Team Straus**. I take my responsibility for educating your child and for guiding him/her in mental, physical, emotional, and social growth very seriously.

This responsibility is not mine alone. It can only be accomplished through the cooperation of student, parent, and school. Approximately twice a month I will be sending home a newsletter that will briefly outline the objectives for our future period of study, report on what has been accomplished in recent areas of study, report on upcoming events, and/or include samples of students' work done. I invite you to regularly visit our website: <http://www.teamstraus.com> where you will find a lot of information about our classroom! I update the site regularly, so check it often for new information, photos, and student work.

At Central Academy, each student is given a planner. Our class will be utilizing these planners to help with both study and time management skills. Every day your child will write a planner message containing homework instructions and special notes. I ask that planners be returned to school *every day with a parent or guardian's initial* to ensure communication between school and home. Your initial will acknowledge that you have seen your child's homework and that they have completed their work.

Team Straus students will also bring home a homework summary detailing submitted and missing assignments every Monday beginning next week. Parents or guardians are asked to sign and return the homework summary every Tuesday. Team Straus students will also soon receive a special TEAM Tracker to help them organize their work this year. Please watch for details arriving home soon.

On the attached sheet, please write any thoughts concerning the upcoming year and return it to me by Friday, September 5. These comments will be very helpful to me as I prepare to teach your child this year. Comments will be held in strict confidence. I also ask that a parent/guardian fill out the Student Information Card for my records and complete the photo and website permission form.

On the back of this letter I have included a list of supplies that your child will need in grade five. It is important that students have all of the supplies on the list so that they may complete class work and assignments to the highest quality possible.

I look forward to working with you and your child during the upcoming year. Please feel free to call me or write to me about anything you would like to share and I will do the same. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year!

Thank you,

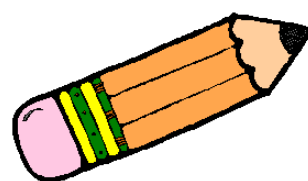
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School Supplies - Team Straus

Each student is asked to have all of the following items at school for his/her use as soon as possible:

- pens (blue and red)
- pack of pencils
- pencil sharpener (enclosed kind which traps the shavings only, please)
- pencil case
- ruler
- many glue sticks (they will need to replace these often)
- colored pencils (not crayons, not markers)
- erasers
- highlighter
- 5 individual coil notebooks labeled as following (Please bring separate notebooks so that I can take each subject for grading at different times)
 - 1) Word Study Notebook
 - 2) Reflection Journal
 - 3) Math Notebook
 - 4) Science Notebook
 - 5) Social Studies Notebook
- 1 composition notebook (available at Walmart for 50¢)
- 1 set of index dividers (5 tab)
- \$6 to cover the cost of 3 sturdy binders for in-class use (I buy these in bulk to get a discounted price - they cost \$4.19 each at Staples)



The following class items will be needed throughout the school year (we appreciate your continued donations!):

- kleenex
- lined paper
- hand sanitizer (example: Germ-x, Meijer, Purell)
- disinfectant wipes (e.g. clorox, lysol)

