

Team Vista “Where We Go One, We Go All.”

September 2011

Greeting To All New and Returning Vistonians:

As you know by now, the first day of school has been delayed until September 19, 2011. We leave for our Fall Overnight Trip to Pinkham Notch the first week of school on Thursday, September 22, stay overnight on that evening, and return to school on Friday, September 23.

You should have received a welcome letter to you, a letter for your parents, and a letter about your summer reading; all of this was mailed out from the middle school in June. This second mailing you are receiving today, has many forms from the school and extra forms just pertaining to Team Vista and our scheduled overnight. We don't usually send out overnight information in the summer mailing but this year is different.

Because we return late this year and leave for the overnight the same week, here are some extra things you need to do to get ready for our trip:

1. Read all the information about the overnight, what to pack, and bring your permission slip and money with you on the first day of school, September 19.
2. Begin to get all your gear together and be ready to bring it to school and get it checked on **Tuesday, September 20**. We have gear that is available to be borrowed including rain gear that you can keep for the entire year. There are forms for all of this in this mailing. We will answer any questions 7th graders might have about gear on Monday. Don't worry, the 8th graders and the Vista staff will make sure you are good to go.
3. Check and see if you have a tent that you can use for the overnight. Tents must not have more than four people in them and must have at least two people; no one sleeps alone. We will make tent groups on Monday, September 19. **Do not bring in your tent until Tuesday, September 20**. Make sure you set up your tent at home and have all the parts including the rainfly. Tent groups are mixed with 7th and 8th graders.
4. Be ready with the ten essentials for our first hike of the year on Wednesday, September 21.

On the first day of school, we begin another journey as a team. We have many getting-to-know-you and team building activities planned with an emphasis on the upcoming overnight that first week.

Reread the summer letter from June. Although we have a delayed start this year, everything will come together. All of the paperwork coming home from Team Vista will also be posted on my blog as a PDF file that can be opened and printed at home. If you are missing any paperwork, you can also pick up copies at the middle school office located in the new Arts Center. I will also post the letters that went home in June. Go to:

<http://ajviens.edublogs.org/>

You can also reach me at: ajviens@gmail.com

I leave you with these final thoughts. Enjoy your extended summer vacation and keep up with your summer reading; I plan to keep reading, running, hiking, and doing a lot of fishing in September. Here is a list that was given to me by one of our 8th graders on the last day of school in May:

The 10 Best Things About Vista

1. Starting off as a bunch of individuals but over time becoming a family.
2. The friendships and bonds created.
3. The Friday hike adventures that lead to the Fall Overnight that leads to the AWESOME Spring Trip.
4. All of the different opportunities we get over others.
5. The sledding, snow adventures, capture the flag and camouflage.
6. The AMAZING teachers.
7. The memories made that can't be replaced.
8. All of our inside jokes that may be laughed about forever.
9. 'Doing our own thing'—separate from others.
10. Discovering more—about students, about friends, about teachers, about plants and animals, about ourselves, but most of all, about life.

See what a year on Vista can bring to you. See you on the first day of school, September 19.

Yours truly,

Arthur Viens

Team Vista Team Leader and Social Studies and Reading Workshop Teacher