

Your future is a jungle full of adventure and the unknown.
Welcome, and explore it with the Grant/Miller/Schlanderer/
Little team!

Welcome to 8th Grade at Mill Creek Middle School!

We hope you are enjoying a fabulous summer! Since September 2nd is fast approaching, we thought you might like to learn a little bit about us, your 8th grade team teachers. You will also find a list of recommended supplies along with your teachers' contact information.

Amy Grant - History & English

I am excited about this upcoming year at Mill Creek. My past experiences include one psychology degree, nine seasons running a summer camp, three years as a special education aide, two years coordinating a reading mentoring program, and a few return trips to college (for my teaching certifications, Master's degree in reading, and history minor). Nowadays, I keep busy with my family (husband, three sons, one dog, and one cat) and with YOU! In the classroom, I can engage my mind, challenge my skills, and learn something new every day. I can read, write, and discuss. I can improve myself and, in doing so, I can improve the world. I expect you to be ready to do the same, and I look forward to facilitating your growth!



Kyle Miller - Science & Math

Welcome back, Mariners, to another year at Mill Creek! My name is Mr. Miller and I am very fortunate to be returning for my 3rd year at Mill Creek as a math and science teacher with a wonderful team of teachers. I am very humbled by the opportunity to work with students, parents, and staff at Mill Creek. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Saginaw Valley State University in 2010, and acquired my endorsements in Math and Science at that time. Before starting at Mill Creek, I was a long-term substitute in 2nd grade at Union City Elementary, and also worked as a coordinator for a summer school transition program with 7th and 8th graders. My experience in Dexter includes working one-on-one with a student with ASD as a para-educator at Wylie Elementary. I also have the privilege of coaching the Mill Creek Cross Country and boy's Track and Field teams which allows me to interact with students outside of the classroom and share my love of fitness. In my spare time I enjoy exercising, reading, biking, playing sports, spending time with family and friends, and being outdoors. I have been married for 3 years to my wonderful wife Amanda, and we have a French Bulldog named Diesel. I look forward to educating and learning from a group of wonderful students this upcoming school year. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of summer. See you soon!



Rich Schlanderer - Math & English

Welcome back, Mill Creek 8th graders. This is my third year at Mill Creek, and I'm so excited to be back! I'm part of an extremely talented group of Mill Creek teachers and students. I'm also the Photojournalism teacher and, if you enrolled, we'll have an awesome time creating the 2014-2015 yearbook. I graduated from Oakland University in 2011 with a degree in Education. I was fortunate enough to have done





my student teaching at Dexter's Creekside Intermediate School and had a wonderful experience there. My wife and I have lived in the area for almost 5 years now, and our family recently grew to 3 with the addition of our baby boy. We were lucky enough to find a house on a lake. Needless to say, I enjoy anything water related. I like kayaking, canoeing, skiing, and fishing. I also love to read. Two of my favorite series of books are the *Harry Potter* and *Hunger Games* series. I'm an animal lover and have two furry friends (dogs) named Graham and Jovie. I'm very enthusiastic and eager to meet all of my students and their parents for the upcoming year. I look forward to a great teaching experience and learning a lot from my students. See you in the halls!

Nikki Little - Teacher Consultant

I am excited to be starting my fifteenth year of teaching at Mill Creek. Prior to coming to Mill Creek, I taught in Maui, Hawaii, and Eaton Rapids, Michigan. I graduated from Western Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Cognitive Impairments, and Eastern Michigan University with a Master's Degree in Learning Disabilities. I grew up in Boyne City, Michigan and still love going up north as much as possible. In my free time I love spending time with my husband and our five children. I also enjoy running, skiing, kayaking, fishing, camping, gardening, and reading. I am looking forward to a fun and exciting school year!



Class Supplies

Binder Options:

- One 1.5 in or larger binder (if you like to keep all four subjects in one binder) OR
- Two 1 in binders (if you like to keep two subjects in each, so you can use one binder each day) OR
- Four 0.5 in binders (if you prefer each subject have its own binder)

Recommended Supplies:

- Many pencils and/or pens
- One pair of headphones to use at school (inexpensive earbuds are fine)
- Much lined looseleaf paper (at least 200 sheets)
- Much 3-hole punched graph paper (at least 100 sheets)
- Two 2-pocket folders with prongs



Optional Supplies:

- Scientific calculator or graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84+ preferred. TI-89 is NOT recommended)
- One package of colored pencils
- Flash drive to store and transport files
- Two boxes of kleenex to share†
- Any gently used books you're willing to donate to a class library†

†These items should be turned in to a team teacher! Thanks for sharing!





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Please visit our team website for further information:

<http://gmsteam.weebly.com/>

Be Successful in the Classroom!

adapted from "How to get Good Grades in Ten Easy Steps" by Linda O'Brien

Be in school, on time, every day:

Unless you are ill or have a family crisis, it is important for us to see you every day!

Be prepared for each class:

To be prepared, you need to have books, paper, pencil, planner and homework. You also need to eat right, exercise and get enough sleep so you can be physically and mentally alert.

Keep yourself organized:

You should bring your planner to every class, fill it out completely, and take it home with you each night. Check off assignments as you complete them. And remember your planner is a calendar, so you can also write in sports games, youth group activities, and other commitments that you may have.

Always do your homework:

Every time you miss an assignment, you also miss out on a learning opportunity. Believe it or not, doing your homework helps you do better on tests!

Participate in class:

In addition to helping to keep you focused, participating in class will usually make the discussion more interesting, so the time will pass more quickly.

Treat others with courtesy and respect:

Treat your teachers and classmates as you'd like to be treated. Be polite, look at others when they speak, and listen when others are talking. Honor everyone's space & belongings.

Involve your parents:

Whenever possible, let your parents help you study for a test, practice a presentation, or edit a paper. Tell them what's going on in school, and let them know if you're having problems.