

Hello Parents and Students,

We are very excited to move toward a minimalistic approach to school next year! Part of the [SOAR Study Skills](#) course that we are teaching in 6th-8th grade involves paring down the school items to make the management of school materials and assignments easier and more efficient.

Here is what we hope to gain:

- Lighter backpacks for all students!
- More efficient student movement in the building (always have what you need).
- A tidier deck space that gets power-washed regularly (no student gear will be in the way and at risk of getting wet).
- Specific training for students on how to manage locker-less high schools and block scheduling.

Here are the items that a Paragon student will be expected to carry throughout a school day:

- One 1.5" binder to house all class materials
- Small Latin book
- A small pencil pouch
- A Calculator
- Computer/Chromebook
- A novel for English class
- A Science spiral
- Art Journal



Given the **much lighter load**, we are recommending smaller backpacks to carry class items from class to class instead of using the lockers on the deck. Specifically, a backpack with a padded laptop sleeve and roughly 28-31 Liters will work perfectly. See below for some great options. We know there are plenty of great backpacks that also fit this profile. *Please note that backpacks that are significantly larger than these specifications and backpack packs that have wheels will not be acceptable.*

[Jansport Node Backpack](#)

[Jansport Right Pack Digital Edition](#)

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, concerns, or kudos. Also, check out the next page for some answers to some questions I have already received.

Take care,

Paul

Frequently Asked Questions:

What about my student's other items? PE clothes and after school sports items? Lunchbox? Band instrument?

- We recommend carrying a small duffel/bag to carry any PE/Sports extras a student might need. We will have designated storage areas for these items.
- We will have a designated storage area for lunchboxes- All you need to do is drop it off at the beginning of the day and grab your lunchbox at lunchtime.

Carrying a backpack from class to class will be too heavy!

- After working with students over the year, it was clear that many were carrying a lot of unnecessary items to and from school. By paring down on the necessary items and communicating them clearly, all students will have a manageable backpack.

What about textbooks?

- Most of our textbooks are accessible online. For certain books, we also have hard copies that can be checked out and left at home for the year if that is preferred. We will also use class sets/home sets to avoid carrying a book back and forth everyday.

What happens when papers stack up? Where do they go?

- The SOAR Study Skills course teaches a specific filing system to catch materials at home. This will be done on a consistent basis and will be part of the study skills coursework. We'll use the first round of filing papers in the fall as the hands on learning opportunity for parents and students!

Where should my student keep items on the supply list that aren't in use yet?

- We are asking students to carry what they need on a daily basis and keep extra items at home until they are needed. For example, a student may carry a few pens and pencils in their pouch as well as some of the paper they need for the year and the rest can be stored at home until it is needed at school.