

Welcome to the 5-8 Team!

June 2025

As the school year winds to a close, we want to take an opportunity to welcome our rising 5th Grade families to the 5-8 Team. We were excited to meet our new 5th Grade students on Step Up Day. We can't wait for next year to begin!

We love teaching middle school, and forming relationships with students and families is the best part. Although we will work hard next year, we will also have fun. We believe in education that is challenging, intrinsically motivating, empowering and enjoyable.

Teaching Team



Samantha Cantell has taught at Folsom for 9 years, and at Bakersfield Elementary and Middle School before that. Samantha is the 5-8th grade science teacher. I love creating new ways to bring engineering into my classroom. When I am not teaching, I am ushering games for the Vermont Lake Monsters; come find me along the third base grandstand. (scantell@gisu.org)

Caila Harte has taught at Folsom for 5 years. Caila teaches 5-8 ELA. I love the power that stories have to open doors to new places, people and experiences. When my nose isn't in a book, you can find me crafting, exploring the outdoors and playing with my 2 dogs and 2 cats! (charte@gisu.org)



Tom Nolan has taught at Folsom for 14 years. Tom teaches 5-8 social studies. I love learning about people from other times and places, and talking to students about how different cultures think about the world. In my free time, I enjoy reading, playing games, traveling, and hiking in the Greens. (tnolan@gisu.org)

Alison Perry has taught at Folsom for 12 years, and in Grand Isle for 11 years before that. Alison is the 5-8th grade math teacher. I love math, and love to see the look on a student's face when a concept suddenly makes sense. When I am not teaching, I am running Eagle Camp, a summer camp in South Hero and am a mom to my two children and two step children. (aperry@gisu.org)



Summer Reading

Students on the team are expected to read during the summer to keep their skills fresh for next year. Please see the attached sheets with detailed information about what is required for students in each grade.

Summer Math

Students have an opportunity to practice math over the summer with an optional math packet. The packets were sent home on step up day, but you can also find those packets on the [Folsom Middle School website](#). You may print the packet and complete the work in the packet, or use a separate sheet of paper (just make sure you number the problems.) Every student who completes the packet for the first day of school will receive a homework pass to be used during the school year as well as a sweet treat!

School Supplies

Look for our list of recommended supplies on the Folsom Middle School web page later in the summer. [FOLSOM MIDDLE SCHOOL](#) Organization is an essential skill in middle school, and we will work with students to develop a routine to manage their paperwork and plan their school and homework. While every student will eventually find an organizational system that works, we encourage students to come with the supplies needed to keep classwork separated and organized.



Community Service

Summer is a great time for 8th graders to start community service. Eighth-grade students are required to complete 10 hours of volunteer work for a non-profit group as a graduation requirement. We have posted the [FORM](#) students can use to verify their volunteer hours.

In closing, we realize the transition to 5th Grade is a big one, and we want to assure you that we are ready to welcome your students in the fall and support them wherever they are in their learning.

We're looking forward to a great year with you!

