



SIDE BY SIDE
CHARTER SCHOOL

**Side by Side Charter School
2026-2027
Upper School Summer Packet**

ATTENTION STUDENTS & PARENTS:

Please be sure to take the time together to review all of the enclosed important materials before the start of the new school year!



August 3, 2026

Dear Upper School Families,

The Mission Statement of Side By Side Charter School states that, *"We will provide a community of learners with an atmosphere that fosters safety and a passion for learning."* To adhere to this mission, there are several expectations that all of our Upper School students are required to meet. These expectations, as well as additional information regarding the educational program and social expectations for Side by Side students Grades 6-8, are outlined in the contents of this packet.

Whether you are new to Side by Side this year, or have been here for many years, it is important that you and your child(ren) take the time to review all of this information carefully and please sign and return the necessary "agreements." Enclosed are descriptions and outlines of the following:

- **Upper School Supply List:** *A list of the supplies that all students are expected to have for the start of the school year.*
- **Upper School Code of Conduct:** *This policy-document states specific infractions and consequences that we will follow when a student's conduct does not meet expectations. (not enclosed- please see online – Resources dropdown menu, School Forms)*
- **Carver Center After School Program at Side by Side (for grade 5-8 students)**
- **Upper School Uniform Policy:** *An integral part of the "Code of Conduct," the Uniform Policy, clearly outlines the specific uniform requirements for SBS Upper School students. (not enclosed- please see online – Resources dropdown menu, School Forms)*
- **Memo regarding prohibited use of cell phones in school:** *Please read, sign and return to Sally Davids*
- **Acceptable Use of Technology (Internet) Student and Parent Agreement:** *Please read, sign and return to Sally Davids*
- **Upper School Code of Conduct Student and Parent Agreement:** *Please read, sign and return to Sally Davids*

It is very important that all families review these documents carefully and that **both "Student and Parent/Guardian Agreements" (Code of Conduct and Internet Usage, Cell Phone)** are filled-out, signed, and returned prior to the first day of school.

We are all very confident and optimistic that these Upper School policies will help guarantee that our students are provided with the learning environment described in our mission. If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to call at any time.

Thank you,

Matthew Nittoly
Executive Director



Middle School Block-Scheduling, What I Need (WIN) Block and Electives

Middle School “Block” Scheduling for students in grades 6-8:

The Side by Side middle school program design is structured to engage our students with the Common Core State Standards in the most effective ways possible. As such, grades 6-8 students participate in a block schedule program. These longer instructional blocks in their core subjects will enable interdisciplinary learning across subject areas as well as extra support for long-term learning projects. As part of this structure, there will also be designated block for STEAM learning. STEAM, which stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, is a way for students to engage with traditional math and science concepts through the contemporary and innovative lenses of technology, engineering and the arts. The goal of this approach is to enhance engagement, problem solving skills, creativity and high school readiness amongst our middle school students. Much of this instruction incorporates fieldwork with project-based learning, and connects newly acquired research skills to real world problems. This year students will participate in their three core instructional blocks (Humanities, Science and Math) along with one Specialist class (Art, Music, Physical Education/Health), and an Elective or “What I Need” daily. This allows us to prioritize learning time, provide students with what they need as individuals, and allow students to pursue their interests in relation to college and career readiness.

“What-I-Need,” or WIN block: As in recent years, we will continue our “What I Need” block two times a week in our middle school. These flexible instructional blocks will give students the opportunity to receive extra instruction and support in literacy and math on topics they may have missed in earlier grades or just topics that they find especially challenging. Importantly, these classes will enable us to provide instruction and tutoring for students based on their individualized needs. WIN classes will be scheduled during Electives time, so that students will not miss core instruction while they are receiving the individualized support they need to prepare for high school.

Edmentum Electives courses: During the 2024-2025 school year, our middle school piloted using the digital learning platform Edmentum to help students access advanced math courses. Over the 2025-26 school year, we continued to refine our implementation of this program through the lenses of students’ overall engagement with school and their high school readiness. The original goal of this pilot was to see if we could find ways to broaden our students’ access beyond our core instructional program in order to empower them as learners, develop technology skills in a structured and intentional way, and broaden the offerings of our middle school program. While this pilot was an enormous success, we continue to adapt offerings based on students’ interests and developmental readiness in middle school. Keeping these goals in mind, for the 2026-2027 school-year we continue to fine tune our offerings to include a wider array of electives for students as they move through the middle school. This year, our 6th through 8th graders will be engaging with supplemental learning in the areas of world history, U.S. History, and Civics. Selected units will be integrated with their core instruction in the Humanities. As an example, this means that when they are studying the heroic ideal and Greek mythology via *The Lightning Thief* in 6th grade, they will also be doing a deep dive into ancient Greek history and culture to enhance their learning. We are excited about these flexible opportunities for our students, as they allow us to meet individual students’ needs while also offering them some choice in their course work. Besides allowing them to explore their personal academic interests, they will also be better prepared for the digital learning experiences they will have in high school.

Grades 7 and 8 Theater program: Based on high volume student request, for the 2026-2027 school year Side by Side is partnering with [Crystal Theater](#) in order to produce our first ever full scale middle school musical. As a pilot year, this year this offering will be open to 7th and 8th graders as an elective over a yet to be determined 4 month period. More information will be available at Upper School “Back to School Night.” We cannot wait to share this news with students!



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Another way to RISE at Side by Side!

RISING, INNOVATIVE SCHOLARS of EXCELLENCE:

***THE CARVER FOUNDATION'S MIDDLE SCHOOL, AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM
AT SIDE BY SIDE FOR GRADE 5-8 STUDENTS***

- Courtesy of a grant award to The Carver Foundation of Norwalk, Side by Side will again be collaborating with The Carver to offer this unique opportunity to our middle school students, and this year, they have included 5th grade in the program grant!
- This unique and innovative after-school program will focus on helping our students as they prepare for high school.
- In an effort to support your child's academic and personal enrichment and development, the goal of the RISE after school program is to offer every single SBS 5th-8th grader a spot in this new program
- A minimal family contribution of \$210 will cover tutoring, programming, and after school snacks for the ENTIRE 2026-2027 school year. Registration information will be made available soon.
- This after school programming will be led by certified teachers, SBS teaching assistants and additional experts from outside the school.
- The program runs from 3:40-5:30 Monday through Thursday, and includes academic support, homework help, an enrichment activity and a snack. **Start date will be announced soon, but is usually mid-September.**
- Enrichment program offerings will include: robotics, sports, hands-on-science, marine biology, engineering, videography, and digital arts, and more.

The sooner you register the better, as low enrollment effects programming.



UPPER SCHOOL SUPPLY LIST 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR

HUMANITIES, Colin Konkell, 6-8th

- **5 subject** notebook **full sized**
- Post-it notes (3 pads, 3"x3")
- Red pens
- Two pocket folder

SCIENCE, Jemuel Saint Jean, 6-8th

- Colored pencils
- 2" **durable** three ring binder
- Binder dividers
- 2 composition notebooks (the black and white marbled kind, but can be any color)

MATH, Nicole Shagoury, 6-8th

- Lined paper
- Graph paper
- Pencils
- Dividers for 4 sections
- 2 **separate** spiral notebooks - one for notes and one for the POD
- 2" or 3" Binder
- Ruler
- Calculator

PROJECT BASED LEARNING

- 1" or 2" binder
- Two pocket folder

ALL UPPER SCHOOL CLASSES

- **Headphones that plug into computers**
- Pencils
- Highlighters
- Erasers
- Pens (black or blue)
- Handheld Pencil Sharpener
- 3 x 5 Index cards for Humanities and Science
- One **durable** homework pocket folder



6th GRADE ADVISORY

- 2" binder



Upper School Acceptable Use of Technology (Internet)

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

All students of Side by Side Charter School must have an appropriately signed *Student and Parent/Guardian Agreement* on file with the school before they are allowed access to school technology resources (such as the internet). All users must agree to follow the school's policies, regulations and procedures.

As a user of the Side By Side Charter School computer network (internet, etc.) I have read, understand, and will abide by the rules, regulations and guidelines stated in the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy. I understand that my signature and the signature of one of my parents or legal guardians are preconditions to my accessing and using the Side By Side's electronic information resources (including the internet). I also specifically agree to the following:

1. I will use the internet only for educational and research purposes that are part of assignments given to me by my teachers and only for those purposes consistent with the educational objectives of my teachers, administration and the Board of Directors of Side By Side Charter School.
2. I will use the internet in a responsible, ethical, and legal manner at all times. I will never intentionally do anything to destroy any of those resources or anyone else's work on those resources.
3. I will never copy (plagiarize) someone else's work and claim that it is my own. I will give the appropriate credit to the author or the resources as the source of information that I find when I research.
4. I will use the internet only with the permission of my teacher or another staff member, and only if an adult is present in the room.
5. I will be considerate of students and their privacy while using the school's resources, and I will use polite and appropriate language at all times while accessing and using these resources. I will keep my log-in identification and all passwords confidential, and I will report any log-in/password misuse to the network administrator or staff in charge.
6. I will send and receive electronic mail (email) appropriately for educational purposes. I will report inappropriate email messages or any misuse of email to the staff in charge.
7. I will not give out any personal information about myself or anyone else while using the internet or email address.
8. I will never intentionally damage, degrade, or disrupt the electronic information resources, including computer hardware or software, vandalize or change data in any way, intentionally introduce computer viruses, attempt to gain access to restricted or unauthorized networks or network services, or violate copyright laws. I understand that such activity may be a crime.
9. I will immediately report any problems or any violations of the Responsible Use Policy to the network administrator or the staff in charge.



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10. If I do not follow the rules outlined in the Side by Side Acceptable Use of Technology Policy, I know that I may lose my privilege to use Side By Side's electronic information resources. I also know that I may be disciplined for not following the rules and that my parents and I may have to pay for any damage I cause because of my intentional misuse of these resources.
11. I will not access or attempt to access any internet sites that are not educational in purpose and or those that may display vulgar, explicit or inappropriate material.
12. I am aware that some violations of the Responsible Use Policy may also be violations of local, state and federal laws and regulations and that I may be prosecuted for violating those laws.

Parental Consent

By signing below, I give Side By Side Charter School permission to allow my child to access and use the electronic information resources in the schools for educational purposes. I understand that when using a resource such as the Internet, it is impossible to restrict access to all controversial or potentially inappropriate materials or to predict with complete certainty what information a user may locate. I understand that the school will use filtering programs, access controls, and active supervision of students and will make all reasonable efforts to protect students from any misuses or abuses as a result of their use of the school's electronic information resources.

My child and I have read and discussed the "Side by Side Acceptable Use of Technology" policy and guidelines. We understand that students are only to use the internet under the guidance and supervision of an appropriate staff member and at appropriately designated times. We understand that any violation of this policy and its guidelines may result in loss of internet privileges as well as additional disciplinary action.

I understand, and have explained to my child that he or she may lose his or her privilege to use these resources at school and may be disciplined if he or she does not follow all of the rules outlined in the *Acceptable Use Policy* and this Access Agreement.

Please fill-in the information below and return this signed form to your child's teacher.

Student Name: _____ **Grade:** _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____



IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CELL PHONES IN SCHOOL

DATE: School Year 2026-27

TO: ALL Upper School Families

FROM: Mr. Nittoly and Upper School Staff

RE: Cell Phones in School

Cc: SBS Board of Directors

Please be aware that student use of cell phones (or other similar electronic device) on school grounds (including the school buses) is **not allowed** at Side by Side Charter School. If any of these items are seen in your child's possession during the school day, they will be confiscated. For obvious reasons a cellular phone/PDA in school can be a great distraction to the learning environment (phones ringing or vibrating during school hours, students' texting, emailing, playing games or web-browsing during class, etc.).

However, we are also aware that some parents require their children to carry cell phones for communication needs outside of school hours. **In order for your child to be permitted to have a cell phone in school due to these circumstances only, we will make the following accommodations:**

- A parent/guardian must contact Side by Side (Sally @ ext. 140) to make the request
- If the request is approved, your child will be **required to turn-in his/her cell phone (powered off) to the homeroom teacher at the start of each school day.**
- Your child will be required to retrieve his/her cell phone from the homeroom teacher at the end of the school day.
- **It will be your child's (not the teacher's) responsibility** to turn-in and retrieve his/her phone on a daily basis.

Please be reminded that these special circumstances ONLY apply to those children whose parents make contact with the school and are granted these conditions. You may contact Sally Davids at ext. 140 to make a request. If a child is caught using a cell phone during school hours, the following consequences will be implemented:

For a 1st offense, the cell phone/device will be taken away and will be returned to the student with a warning at the end of the school day.

For a 2nd offense, the cell phone/device will be confiscated and will ONLY be returned to a parent/guardian and the student will receive a behavioral consequence.

For a 3rd offense or more, the cell phone/device will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school year. The student will also receive a consequence of school suspension.

Please understand this important school policy is in place for the sole purpose of protecting the educational environment of your children and to avoid any unnecessary distractions. We thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.



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Cell Phone Permission Form

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

My child has permission to bring his/her cell phone to school during the 2026-27 school year. We have read the policy as outlined in this packet and will follow the procedures outlined.

Date _____

Student's Name: _____

Grade: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Parent's / Guardian's Signature: _____

RETURN THIS FORM TO YOUR HOMEROOM TEACHER



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Upper School Code of Conduct

STUDENT/PARENT AGREEMENT

I, _____, have read and understand the Side By Side Upper School Code of Conduct. I understand that, as a student of the Side by Side Upper School, I have responsibilities to uphold in order to be a member of a safe, caring and respectful community.

I understand that any violation of this code will result in a direct disciplinary consequence, as stated in the "Code of Conduct."

I understand that there are many people to whom I may go if I am having any problems. The advice and intervention of a family member, teacher, social worker, or nurse will always be available to me.

Both my parent/guardian and I have read and agree to the Upper School Dress Code Policy, and will comply with the regulations listed.

By signing below, I hereby consider myself to be a part of this community and will do my part in ensuring that my behavior and actions will promote and support the safety and positive learning environment of all students at SBS.

Name:_____ Grade:_____ Date:_____

x_____
STUDENT SIGNATURE

x_____
PARENT/GUARDIAN SIGNATURE



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TRANSPORTATION FORM

FORM MUST BE RETURNED BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2026

You are strongly encouraged to use school bus transportation to and from school. Kindly complete this form and **return to the main office.** For children in the lower grades, be sure to convey this information to your child's classroom teacher.

Please list each child attending Side by Side:

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Student's Name: _____ Grade: _____

Parent Name: _____ Home Tel: _____ Cell: _____

_____ My children are driven to school in the morning.

_____ My children are picked up from school in the afternoon.

For Kindergarten thru 8th grade Norwalk students that ride the bus

_____ My child(ren) rides Bus # _____ .

The bus stop is at _____ and _____.

Please list both streets, if available.

Parent signature: _____ Date: _____



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STUDENT EMERGENCY INFORMATION – 2026/27

Please fill out a separate form for each child that has a different family name and return it on first day of school.

STUDENT INFORMATION

Entering Grade, September 2026 _____

Student's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Home Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone _____ Parent E-Mail: _____

☐ Please (✓) check here if this is a new address, telephone number, and/or E-mail address.

Please choose: ☐ My child is driven to school ☐ My child is picked up from school ☐ Rides Bus (# _____)

Please choose how you wish to receive school notices: ☐ email ☐ hardcopies

Please add any additional EMAIL contacts here: _____

SIBLINGS CURRENTLY ATTENDING SIDE BY SIDE:

_____	_____	_____
Name	Grade	Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____
Name	Grade	Date of Birth
_____	_____	_____
Name	Grade	Date of Birth

Mother's/Guardian's Name _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Father's/Guardian's Name _____

Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

OTHER EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Please list the people authorized to pick up your child or act on your behalf if we cannot contact you:

Name	Relationship to Child	Telephone Number
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		



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MEDICAL INFORMATION

Child's Doctor _____ Telephone _____

Allergies: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION

STUDENT DIRECTORY

May we include your name, address, and phone number in our Student Directory? _____ YES _____ NO

Please indicate your preference: _____ HOME # _____ CELL # _____ BOTH

May we share your email address with parents seeking volunteers for class events? _____ YES _____ NO

MEDIA ACCESS

Side by Side is often visited by the media and other organizations who take photographs and/or interview students for articles or publicity that benefits Side by Side. May we have your permission for your child to be included in such events?

_____ YES _____ NO

CLASS TRIPS

Class trips are an important part of our curriculum. These trips may include walking in the vicinity or driving via school bus and/or parent drivers. In all cases, we obtain proof that those drivers are licensed and insured.

For every trip you will receive separate notification and consent forms from your child's teacher with detailed information about each class trip and type of transportation used.

Does your child have permission to attend?

Walking Trips _____ YES _____ NO

Trips with Parent Drivers _____ YES _____ NO

Trips via Bus _____ YES _____ NO

SOCIAL WORKER RELEASE

The role of the social worker at Side by Side is to provide information, support and assistance to our children, families and staff. At times she may need to observe, meet with children and discuss issues with both parents and staff. All individual and family sessions are confidential.

May we have your permission for your child to meet with our school social worker?

_____ YES _____ NO

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date