



To the Parents of 8th grade Track 3,

I would like to extend a huge shout out to both Mr. Lamb and Ms. Walton for doing such a remarkable job of stepping into a very difficult position. Not only are they new to Salem Middle School but they are navigating much larger class sizes than what we have been used to here at Salem.

As you are all aware of, we knew of this disparity of numbers between tracks 2 and 3 when this group of students entered Salem as 6th graders. It was the primary reason we combined these two tracks for the last two years. This year, we did make the decision to split these tracks and we are seeing the impact of this decision by the large class sizes, especially in ELA, SS and Science. I was able to allocate teaching months to help reduce the class size in the Math 1 classes but that is all I have. The entire district is facing budget cuts and severe funding shortages and I have already been told that Salem will not receive any additional teaching months.

Currently, Track 2 classes are sitting in the low 20's. If you would like for your child to continue their school year in smaller classes, then we would be more than willing to support your decision to move your child to Track 2. You are more than welcome to reach out to Kerri Bridges, the 8th grade counselor, to help make this transition or answer any questions you may have.

Both Mr. Lamb and Ms. Walton are thoroughly enjoying getting to know your students and they will do everything in their power to make this school year a successful one. They are veteran teachers with much experience but even that doesn't discount the fact that there will be challenges. Your willingness to make a move to track 2 will be greatly appreciated by all!

Sincerely,

Elaine Hofmann – Principal of Salem Middle School
Molly Dibble – 8th grade Assistant Principal
Kerri Bridges – 8th grade Counselor