

## **Parent Information for Students Transitioning from Grades 5 – 6**

The following information was shared through the guidance department with your child to help assist in their transition into Middle School. While it certainly does not encompass everything, it does offer many of the specifics to our Middle School building.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CONFIGURATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. ***This is my first child at the middle school. What are the hours my child has to be there? What does the actual building look like?***

The middle school hours are from 7:30-2:19. There is an after school period from 2:22–3:00. Late busses (elementary bus run) arrive at about 3:15. The middle school, grades 6 – 8, is housed in one wing of the Middle/High School building. The middle school does use a few areas shared by both the middle school and high school. There is little to no contact with high school students during the school day.

2. ***What does the typical day look like for the 6<sup>th</sup> graders? Are 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades any different?***

The day starts with busses beginning to release the students around 7:20, then a homeroom period from 7:30 to 7:40. Students listen and watch the middle school announcements at that time on Warrior TV. The schedule for the day is as follows:

- Period 1-Core Class (43 minutes)
- Period 2-Core Class (43 minutes)
- Period 3-Special or Study Time (43 minutes)
- Period 4-Core Block (43 minutes)
- Period 5-Core Block (43 minutes)
- Period 6-Lunch (30 minutes)
- Period 7-Core Block/AIS/Sp. Ed Support (43 minutes)
- Period 8-Core Block/AIS/Sp. Ed Support (43 minutes)
- Period 9-Special or Study Time (43 minutes)

The core classes are ELA, Math and Science and Social Studies. The specials taken by 6<sup>th</sup> grade include Music, Art, PE, Computer Tech and Band and/or Chorus if selected by a student. Students will generally have a Study Time to work independently or to get extra help unless scheduling does not allow because they are enrolled in extra support.

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade the students are beginning the traveling-from-class-to-class process by switching classes each period and going between two teachers for their core instruction. One teacher teaches ELA and social studies while the other teaches math and science. When students reach 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they have a separate teacher for each course. All middle school students follow an A/B day schedule. This means that some classes such as ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies meet on both A and

B days while a special such as PE or music would only meet every other day. All 6<sup>th</sup> graders have lunch at the same time with just their grade in the cafeteria at that time.

**3. *How much time do the students have between classes?***

Students remain in classes until the end of the period bell rings. Students travel to and from classes between periods. Students are given 3 minutes in between each period to stop at their lockers and move to their next class. The bell rings again at the end of the 3 minutes to signify that class is beginning.

**4. *My child has a locker in 5th grade, is it any different in 6<sup>th</sup> grade? Are locks allowed?***

Lockers for 6<sup>th</sup> graders are basically the same as in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Students are assigned a locker where they store their coats, lunches, and any other items. Middle school students (grades 6–8) use lockers to store both their personal items and their instructional materials. They cannot leave anything on the desk that they use in a class because they change classes throughout the day and others students use the desks as well. Although it is not required, we do encourage students to have a lock on their locker (preferably combination not key). If an item is valuable or cannot be replaced it is probably best not to bring it to school. Students are also allowed to store items in a PE locker while in PE class. Again, we recommend a lock to avoid any possible problems.

**5. *What happens if my child has to stay after school for a club, extra help, or detention? How does he/she get home? What about parent pick up?***

Students will often stay after school for various reasons, including clubs, make-up work from an absence, extra help, or detention. The after school period is from 2:22 to 3:00. After receiving a bus pass from the teacher or club advisor they stayed with, the middle school students immediately report to the bus circle where they wait for their bus to pick them up for the late bus which is the elementary school bus run. Your child will then return home at approximately the same time he/she did while in elementary school. Students do not need a note to stay after school. Students in grades 6 – 8 can make arrangements to meet parents outside of the school building at dismissal time when a parent picks up. A note does not need to be sent in unless a student is leaving early for the day.

**6. *Is there anything else about the middle school that differs from the elementary school?***

The middle school has 4 marking periods throughout the school year however, a progress report is issued at approximately the halfway point of the quarter so parents and students can monitor academic progress. Progress report envelopes need to be signed by a parent and returned to the student's homeroom teacher.

**7. *How do I monitor my child's progress between report cards and progress reports?***

Our school offers a Parent Portal in which you can see a student's individual grades for assignments and overall in each individual class. To sign up for the Parent Portal you can go to the school website- [scsd.org](http://scsd.org) and click on the quick link to the right for Parent Portal. Once you provide the necessary information and it is verified you will be able to access your student's information.

**8. *What is the role of the school counselor?***

The middle school counselor is involved with the academic aspect of school which includes scheduling, course selections, monitoring of academic progress, academic advisement and parent-teacher meetings. The school counselor is available for individual and small group counseling to support the social/emotional needs of students. The school counselor also presents/coordinates various programs, such as personal safety and career awareness.

**9. *How is discipline handled in the middle school?***

Any student who is witnessed to be breaking the rules is given a discipline referral by a teacher/staff member. The discipline referral is dealt with by the Assistant Principal or Principal. Depending upon the infraction, students may receive a warning, 3:15 detention, 4:15 late detention, In School Suspension, Out of School Suspension or Youth Court. Again with the 3:15 or 4:15 detentions, students will ride the late busses home.

## **COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **1. BAND AND CHORUS:**

Students have the option to take Band and/or Chorus in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If a student took Band and/or Chorus in Grade 5 they have automatically been scheduled for it for 6<sup>th</sup> grade as well. If a student who took either Band or Chorus in Grade 5 is not interested in continuing in Grade 6, a parent note or call should be made to the guidance office (373-6100 x30003) by July 1st. Forms were provided for students who did not take Band or Chorus in 5<sup>th</sup> grade but are interested in joining for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. If your student did not bring the form home and they are interested, please contact the guidance office. Band and Chorus are held every other day. Additionally, students in Band are scheduled for a lesson once per week. This schedule rotates on a monthly basis so a student is not continuously missing the same subject. Students are responsible for any missed work while at their lesson.

### **2. LANGUAGE ARTS, MATH, SCIENCE and SOCIAL STUDIES:**

Specific information regarding each individual course will be provided by the individual teacher at the beginning of the school year.

### **3. SPECIALS:**

All students in 6<sup>th</sup> grade will have the following specials at various intervals throughout the school year in most instances. They will take General Music (unless they take band or chorus then they do not need to), Computer Tech, Art and Physical Education.

### **4. STUDY TIME:**

Most 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will have a study time period every other day or perhaps daily for ½ of the year. This period can be used to complete homework and/or get extra assistance.

## **CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS**

There are various clubs and organizations available to Middle School students (6–8). The clubs usually begin in the fall, within the first month of school. At the beginning of the year students will be provided with a brochure listing the clubs that will be offered for the school year. Students become aware of the specific meetings through the morning announcements, posters hung around the school and the Middle School newsletter. The clubs typically meet twice per month during the after school period from 2:22 – 3:00. Students can either be picked up by a parent, or will receive a bus pass from the club advisor to take the late bus (elementary bus run) home. The elementary busses stop at the middle school after picking up the elementary students. Most of the clubs do a fundraising project, a community service project, and various other activities related to the nature of the club.

The Middle School also has activities that occur during different times of the year, for shorter periods of time. Listed below you will find a list and a brief description of the clubs and activities available during the 2012 – 2013 school year. (These may change for the 2013 – 2014 school year). Clubs and activities are a great way to develop friendships and even keep friendships when students are not in the same classes. Additionally, it allows students to learn how to prioritize work and manage their time because they have a commitment to work around. Many skills are developed through club activities including, leadership, time management, and collaboration.

### **CLUBS:**

**ART CLUB** – Students will work on monthly projects focusing on drawing. Students will need to bring a sketch pad, pencils, colored pencils and erasers.

**DRAMA CLUB** – Students will take part in all aspects of theater production. Students may participate as actors, set design, lighting, music, etc. Culmination of the club will involve a yearly production.

**FOR- FRIENDS OF RACHEL-** created by the family of the first victim of Columbine, Rachel Scott. This program was inspired by Rachel's journal entries. This club strives to create a chain reaction bringing students together, breaking down barriers and influencing students to make positive changes.

**H2O-HOMEWORK HOTLINE OPPORTUNITY** – Provides a quiet place to independently work on homework after school. Some teacher support will be given if needed. Program generally meets 2-3 times each week with a limit of 15 seats each day. Reserved spot required.

NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY – Students are individually invited to join this club, if they meet certain requirements including academic excellence, community leadership and volunteerism. Students are chosen by an extensive process to become part of this organization.

BOOK CLUB - Students will be reading, discussing, sharing thoughts on various books. This club is open to grades 6-12.

STUDENT COUNCIL – Student Council is a student run government with officers and duties to provide members with experience, leadership roles and community involvement. Many of the activities for this past year’s student council community service activities.

STUDENTS AGAINST DESTRUCTIVE DECISIONS (SADD) – A peer leadership organization that supports one another in making positive choices in our lives. We provide information to the student body stressing the impact of tobacco use, underage drinking, drug abuse and other destructive decisions.

### **SEASONAL SPORTS & ACTIVITIES:**

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTRAMURALS- For students in grades 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> who do not play modified sports. You can participate in soccer, basketball, flag football, cross country, track and field and volleyball.

WARRIOR WALK- sponsored by Friends of Rachel. This day long walk raises money for various charities. Past charities include the Stillwater Food Pantry and the Women and Children’s Fund for the Families of 9-11.

READING BUDDIES - A club run by the National Junior Honor Society.

WARRIOR DAY – A day of fun, that all participate in. The day consists of physical activities, competition and sportsmanship.

WARRIOR CITY- Students stay after school and for a nominal fee participate in the activities planned which have included crafts, wii sports, open gym, dancing and watching a movie.