



# The Transition to Middle School

St. Charles Borromeo – May '25

# Teachers

Mrs. Vanessa Faulkner (English, Science)

Mr. Vinnie Smith (Social Studies)

Mrs. Mary Beth Hynes (Religion)

Mr. Robert Miller (Religion)

Mrs. Nancy Sharkey (Spanish)

Mrs. Christa Ishida (Science and Math)

*\*There are 3 Homeroom Teachers: Faulkner, Smith and Ishida*

# What's New

- Lockers!
- Personal Chromebooks
- Multiple Teachers and Moving Around throughout the day
- Less Recess
- Music moves to elective or before school choir
- Band will be an all year elective for 6th-8th grades
- Middle School Schedule that matches 7th and 8th grades
- Elective Opportunities
- Honors Awards
- Service Hours (5 per trimester)
- Bi-Weekly Progress Reporting (similar to 5th grade)
- Dances

# Core Classes

**All students in 6th grade will take 6 core classes:**

- English Language Arts
- World History and Social Studies (The Ancient World: Mesopotamia, China, Egypt, Greece, India, and the Israelites/Hebrews.). 7th grade continues with Ancient Rome on...
- Spanish 1 (Year 1 of a 3 year program)\*
- Science (Earth)
- Math (with an honors option)
- Religion

# Daily Schedule

8:30 Start Time

5 core class periods  
(50 min each)

Lunch and recess (40 min)

6th period core (50 min)

7th period elective (50 min)



# Electives

## Our elective offerings include:

- Physical Education (a requirement to take once from 6–8th grade)
- Civics
- Music/Performing Arts (Band – full year)
- Technology (Python Coding)
- Yearbook and Photography
- Videography
- Speech and Debate
- Art (with some woodshop)
- Knitting
- Advanced Drama and Novel (Shakespeare)
- Geography and Model UN
- Study Skills
- Study Hall
- Service

*\*\*All 6th graders will begin their first trimester with a Study Skills elective course to help them ease into Middle School*

# Homework and Policies

- Moving into Middle School requires new homework policies and load:
- It will seem like a lot of homework at first - but it will calm as they get used to the new expectations. **Trust the process, they will find their groove.**
- Larger projects and papers begin with multi-day assumptions on workload.
- Late work is accepted up to 5 school days, but grade is penalized. Teacher discretion is used.

# Special Events

- Stations of the Cross
- Sleepaway Camp at Camp Seymour



# Restorative Justice and Discipline

Middle School Discipline includes:

Detention after school (15 minutes)

Pink Slips

*Appropriate uniforms and  
Class Readiness are part of  
our expectations*



# Technology Use

**Technology in middle school can be a productivity tool, but also problematic:**

- Pros:
  - Learning to navigate Microsoft and Google Products
  - Efficiency in test taking and paper writing
  - Research
- Cons:
  - Group Chats (phones, watches and Ipads) can lead to hurt feelings and social issues
  - Social Media pitfalls
  - Consider: *Wait til 8th* pledge

# Things we are seeing in Middle School

- Impulse control and executive functioning is a work in progress
- Learning via screens is problematic for some students, due to focus and exposure of content. We balance the load with book learning vs. screens
- Social Challenges: Texting, Video Games and the impact in the classroom
- Class Absences tend to hinder success. It's much easier to get behind when not in class.

# Things to remember

6th grade is the most awkward, difficult year of all of Middle School.

Hormones, New Expectations, Social Pressures all come into play.

We spend a lot of time with 6th grade!

Many struggle for the first time academically, patience is key.

Give grace, love them and talk to us

**because we are here to help.**

Questions?

