



The Transition to Middle School

St. Charles Borromeo – May '26

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 or textiles
- Guided study hall
- Geography and Model UN
- Study Skills
- 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.
- Student accommodation plans from 5th grade move up with your student from the resource room. Ms. Adams will reach out in August to support the transition.

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
- Uniform policy gets gray for some students - we have a lot of engagement here.
- 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?

