

# The Middle School Years

Upon entering 6th grade, all students will participate in a “crash course” on being a middle school student. Students are provided with tools and experiences in the upcoming school years including orientation to the library, computer network usage, school policies, information about activities and clubs, and time management/study skills.

## **Academics**

- Schedules for all middle school students will be posted to the parent portal in late August.
- Sign in to the parent portal every five weeks to review your child’s progress reports and report cards.
- Review the North Salem calendar together and note important dates and events.
- Attend Middle School Open house.
- Review after school extra help schedules.
- Establish a homework/study routine that works best for your child.
- Visit your child’s teachers’ websites.
- READ for fun! The more you read the better reader you will become.
- Study skills and time management are paramount for student success in school.
- The vast majority of middle school courses are heterogeneously mixed. In the spring, teachers make recommendations for courses for the following year. If you have any questions please contact classroom teacher or school counselor.
- Counselor will do classroom presentations in all 8th grade social studies classes about high school expectations.
- In the spring of 8th grade, all students and parents will be invited to meet with the school counselor to discuss high school courses.
- All 8th graders will have the opportunity to choose their humanities elective for 9th grade.
- Attend grade level parent events.

## **Social/Emotional**

- Get involved! Find clubs, activities and sports that match your interests.
- Being engaged in extracurricular activities helps students to feel more connected and positive towards school.
- 8th grade students participate in a cyberbullying/internet safety unit. Please speak to your child about safety on the internet.
- Students are asked to identify adults in the building they could turn in a time of need.
- Many groups are offered for middle school students based on their needs (changing families, bereavement, test anxiety, newcomers, and resiliency building).
- Middle school advisory groups meet throughout the school year on various topics.
- School Counselor and School Resource Officer conduct classroom presentations for all 6th graders to introduce themselves and speak about school safety and to go over all safety and emergency drills conducted in the middle/high school.
- In the spring, all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will reflect on their individual journey as a 6th grader and will write a personal letter to a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student emphasizing support and compassion.

## **College/Career**

- Each middle school student will be involved in a Home and Careers course for 10 weeks.
- All 8th grade students take a course called Careers where they are exposed to various options as well as personal interest inventories to match with possible college/career choices.
- School counselor works collaboratively with classroom teacher to support students within the home and careers curriculum.
- Students will be logging on to Family Connection to set a goal and begin their middle school resume.
- Parents encouraged to register for Family Connection. Contact counseling department for registration code.
- Encourage students to learn more about the careers of the adults in their lives as a way to start a college/career discussion.
- Plan for meaningful summer activities (community service, sports, camps)