

Welcome to 7th Grade Parent Orientation



April 7, 2016

Introductions

- Louis Melchor, Principal
- Jon Heitmann, Assistant Principal
- Tim Liddy, Director of Student Activities
- Jill Landgraber, Middle School Counselor
- Heather Kobylinski, Student Assistance Counselor
- Carol Tudor, ESS
- Kathy Weissenberger, GRHS H&S President
- 8th Grade Middle School Mentors

GR HS & Middle School Home & School Association

Same

Board – Pres, VPs (2), Treas, Sec, Ways & Means

Monthly Meetings – 3rd Thursday 830am GRTS

Part of Executive Council – All H&S

Address the needs of the school

Great way to keep informed about all aspects of what's happening in school

Different

Much fewer programs & fundraisers

2nd to clubs, arts, GRAMPA & sports teams

GR HS & Middle School Home & School Association

Events - Programs

- **June:** Summer Reading, Locker Shelf & Magnet Sale, distrib on Move Up Day
- **August:** set up your locker day
- **Nov & April:** Teacher Appreciation
- **Holiday** Fundraiser – Jingle & Mingle
- **8th Grade Dinner Dance** – Dessert & Decorations
- **Project Graduation**
- **Projects & Fundraisers** – Library Media Center, Alumni Networking online tool
- Coordinate **scholarships** for seniors

GR HS & Middle School Home & School Association

The greatest gift you can give your child

Stop Drop & Roll

- Promoting Independence through student problem solving
- Throw away the keys to the helicopter or lawnmower
- It's a process that takes lots of practice by both the student and the parent
- Now is the time – your students are in good hands and you have great partners at Glen Ridge High School & Middle School

Transition Process



Sixth Grade
to
Seventh Grade

Our Common Middle School Philosophy

Belief in developing the “Whole Child.”

Pre-adolescence and early adolescence is a special time for exploration and discovery.

Children should have a variety of outlets to explore their talents and interests.

Children need balance in their lives.

The school is one aspect of a child's life, working in partnership with family and community.

Intellectual Development

Are in a transition period from concrete thinking to abstract thinking

Are intensely curious and have a wide range on intellectual pursuits

Prefer active over passive learning

Respond positively to opportunities to participate in real life situations

Have a strong need of approval/may be easily discouraged

Are inquisitive/often challenge authority

Physical Development

Experience rapid, irregular growth

Undergo bodily changes that may cause awkward, uncoordinated movements

Varying maturity rates

Restlessness/fatigue

Need daily physical activity

Often lack physical fitness

Poor eating habits

Develop sexual awareness

Emotional Development

Experience mood swings

Need to release energy

Seek to become increasingly independent

Increasingly concerned about peer
acceptance

Tend to be self-conscious

Believe personal problems, feelings, and
experience are unique to them

Exhibit intense concern about physical
growth and maturity

Social Development

Have a strong need to belong to a group

Exhibit immature behavior because their social skills frequently lag behind their mental and physical maturity

In search of self

Desire recognition for their efforts and achievements

Like Fads

Overact to ridicule, embarrassment and rejection

Socially vulnerable

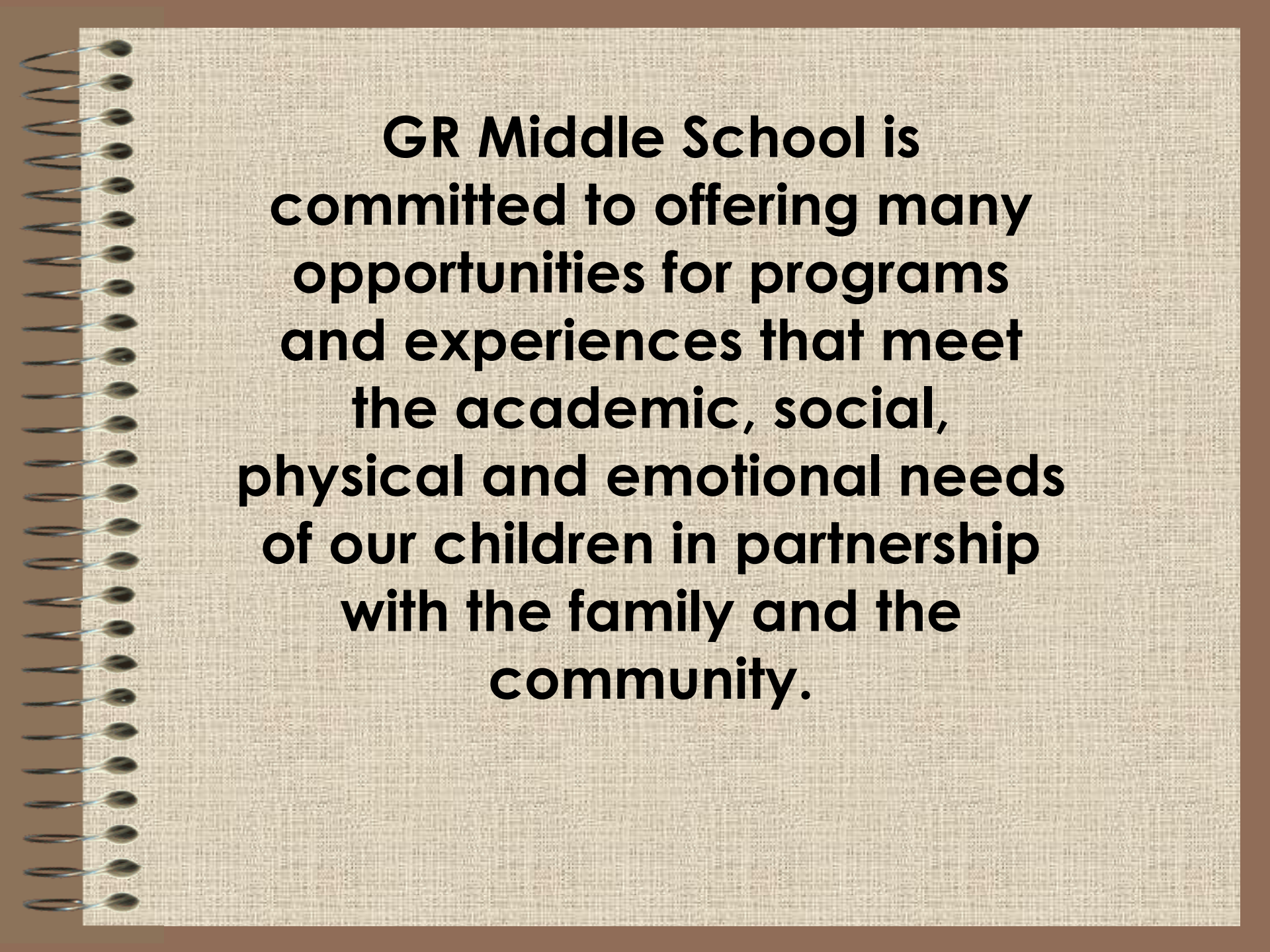
The Trap of Academic Enabling

Caring adults assume responsibility for all materials.

Rescuing

Doing the actual work, i.e. write the essay, solve the math problems, design the poster.....

Do not allow student to blame others/teachers/circumstances when they do not perform.

A spiral-bound notebook with a light-colored, textured cover. The spiral binding is on the left side. The text is centered on the page.

GR Middle School is committed to offering many opportunities for programs and experiences that meet the academic, social, physical and emotional needs of our children in partnership with the family and the community.

This commitment includes...

Rigorous academic curriculum

Proactive programs to address the social and emotional needs of the whole child

Varied experiences in the fine arts

Opportunities in a variety of athletic opportunities

Opportunities for participation in clubs

Variety of experiences to develop the leadership capacity of children

Transition

- **Class Meeting, Mentor Breakfast**
 - March 29, 2016
- **Orientation for Parents**
 - April 7, 2016
- **Course Selection**
 - During homeroom, students will select the following courses using Family Access :
 - Period 8 Cycle Electives or Band/Instrumental lessons
 - Language choice – Chinese, French or Spanish (two-year commitment)

Transition

- **Math Placement Test**
 - April 21, 2016
- **Tours of GRHS**
 - Weeks of May 16 and 23, with homeroom
- **Move-up Day**
 - June 23 (Due to unused snow day)
 - Students receive and follow 7th grade schedule

Transition

- School Orientation / Study Skills Course
 - First week of 16-17 school year
- MS Parents' Guidance Breakfast
 - September, 2016
- MS Mentors / 7th graders meetings
 - Fall, 2016

Middle School Events

- Movie Night– September
- Monthly
 - Middle School Activity Night
 - Middle School Dance

Class Trips

7th Grade: Camp Mason

8th Grade: NYC, Scavenger Hunt of Grand Central Station, lunch AT Grand Central Station and then see a Broadway show, Aladdin.

Middle School Clubs

- Builders Club (Community Service)
- Chorus/Madrigals
- Feminism/Girls Learn International Club
- Jazz Band
- Math Counts
- MS Mentors (8th Grade only)
- Newspaper (*Journalist*)
- Student Council
- Yearbook

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|--------------------|--|
| Per. 1 | <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Cycle Classes</u> Art Computers Nutrition Research Study Skills Writing Workshop</p> |
| Per. 2 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang Or Physical Education</p> |
| Per. 3 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang</p> |
| Per. 4 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang Or Physical Education</p> |
| 11:13-11:43 | LUNCH |
| Per. 5 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang</p> |
| Per. 6 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang</p> |
| Per. 7 | <p style="text-align: center;">Core Academics: English, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Lang</p> |
| Per. 8 | <u>Electives or Band, Study Hall</u> |

Mathematics

- Math
 - Pre-Algebra or Advanced Pre-algebra
- Criteria for Advanced Pre-Algebra
(3 out of 4)
 - Math Grades: An A average
 - Teacher Recommendation
 - Standardized Testing
 - Placement Test: A score of 75+
- Letter will be sent home to parents indicating math placement

World Language

- 2 year commitment
 - Spanish
 - French
 - Chinese
- Selection will be made on Skyward

Cycle Classes

Art

Computers

Nutrition

Research

Study Skills

Writing Workshop

Elective Classes

Contemporary Issues

Graphic Novels

History of Sports

Intro. to Italian Language/Culture

Stage Performance/Singing

S.T.E.M.

Sustaining the Environment

OR

Band

Study Hall

- 2 times per week during period 8 elective cycle period.
- Great opportunity to get homework done.
- Great time to visit academic teachers and ask questions.

Resources

- **Block 9:** Every day, 2:47-3:15. Chance for students to talk to teachers, ask questions and get extra help.
- **Homework Club:** Every Thursday after school. High School students available to tutor in all subjects
- **Media Center:** Open every day until 4:00. Great place to get homework done before going home.

Middle School Counselor

- Individual Meetings
 - Social/Emotional
 - Academic
- Small Group Meetings
 - Based on a common need
- Classroom visits
 - Common middle school themes

Tips from Current 7th graders

- “Stay organized – use folders or binders.” Find a system that works for you.
- “Always, always, always keep your locker organized!”
- “Pay attention in class.”
- “Do homework.”
- “Eat your lunch.”

Top 10 Changes for 7th Graders

10. Bell System
9. World Language; 5 days a week and get to choose language
8. Choose Electives, first step towards developing own high school schedule
7. Every class is a different group of students
6. After school assistance, Period 9 and Library
5. Summer Assignments
4. Quarterly Exams
3. Change for PE classes (and wash your gym clothes!)
2. No recess
1. No assign seating during lunch

Questions and Answers

