Everything a Parent Needs to Know About Middle School

Agenda:

- Jericho Middle School Introduction – Donald F. Gately
- Wise Start – Donald Gately
- Middle School Counseling – Meredith Richman
- Middle School PTSA – Randi Marcus, President and Jennifer Gross, V.P.
- The Role of the Student Team Advisor – Mary Beth Schisgall
- Student Scheduling and Course Registration – Joseph Wiener
- World Languages – Elaine Margarita
- Special Education Department – John Castronova
- Middle School Essentials – Donald F. Gately
- Questions and Answers
Middle School

I’m looking forward to going to Middle School.
I’m excited and a little nervous.
Somehow all the kids seem to like it, but they love telling horror stories about what goes on there.
My parents are the ones who are really nervous. If they ask me once more if I’m scared, I think they’ll convince me that I am.

- Author Unknown
Counseling Services

- Transition to Middle School
  - Articulation meetings with faculty at elementary schools in February.
  - Counselor visitation with elementary students in April.
  - 5th grade visitation to the middle school in May.
  - High School Project AIM, the first week of school.
Counseling Services

- Individual Counseling
- Group Counseling
The role of the Counselor is to advise/coordinate/guide...

- Social/Personal Development
- Educational Growth
- Career Exploration

A Counselor is a:

- Student Advocate
- Parent Advocate
- Staff Advocate
“Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Middle School”
What were you worried about most when you moved from the elementary school to the middle school?
What aspect of Middle School do you enjoy the most?
The Role of the Student Team Advisor (STA)

- Liaisons to other staff
- Student advocates
- Coordinators of team activities
- Support and promote SEL programs
- Attendance at CST, CSE and 504 meetings
- Weekly meetings with administration
6th Grade WISE START Health Program

Content areas include:
- AIDS - HIV
- Refusal Skills
- Risk Factors
- Decisions & Actions
- Self Concept
- Stress
- Responsibility
- Peer Pressure
- Wellness
- Health Enhancing Behavior
## Clubs Offered Could Include:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>Games Club</td>
<td>Student Council</td>
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<td>Cartoon Club</td>
<td>Homework Club</td>
<td>Web Team</td>
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<td>Community Service</td>
<td>Italian Club</td>
<td>Wing Chun Kung Fu</td>
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<td>Computer Repair</td>
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<td>Craft Club</td>
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<td>Create-a-Game</td>
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<td>Desk Top Magic</td>
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<td>Diversity Club</td>
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<td>First Lego Robotics</td>
<td>Set and Scenery Design</td>
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<td>French Club</td>
<td>Spanish Club</td>
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*Contingent upon the budget process*
JERICHO MIDDLE SCHOOL
PTSA
Jericcho Middle School Administration

For any questions or concerns you may have:

Mr. Donald Gately  Mr. Joseph Wiener
Principal       Assistant Principal
Teamwork Makes the Difference

- Team Design
  - 2 teachers
  - Social Studies/ELA and Math/Science
- Team Focus
- Teaming advantages in middle school
Scheduling
Creating a Student Schedule

Mathematics
Science
English Language Arts
Social Studies
Interdisciplinary
Music
Lunch
World Language
Home & Careers/Art

(Alternating Semesters)

Physical Education
Elective Exploratory

(depending on other courses)
World Languages
Presented by: Dr. Elaine Margarita

* French    * Italian    * Chinese    * Spanish

The focus is on Communication, Culture, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities reflecting the New York State and National Standards for World Languages). The students will also be prepared for the New York State Proficiency Exam at the end of the eighth grade.

Topics include:
Community & Neighborhood
Current Events & Culture
Earning a Living
Education
Family Life
House & Home
Health & Welfare
Leisure
Meal-taking
Personal Identification
Physical Environment
Public & Private Services
Shopping
Travel
The Middle School
Special Education Department

Integrated Co-Teaching: Four Core Classes – ELA/SS, Math/Science + Guided Study

• Methods:
  1. Team Teaching (Both teachers teach the lesson together)
  2. Parallel Teaching (Each teacher teaches the same lesson to separate groups simultaneously)
  3. Station Teaching (Chunking lessons into smaller activities; classroom centers)
  4. Alternative Teaching (Specialized instruction for smaller groups)
The Middle School
Special Education Department

Resource Room: The Learning Center Program
- Organizational Skills
- Study Skills
- Writing Skills
- Test-taking Strategies
- Homework Strategies
- English as Second Language
The Middle School
Special Education Department

Other Programs / Related Services

- Consultant Teacher
- Reading
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Counseling
The Middle School Special Education Department

Related Services

- Reading Services
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational and Physical Therapy
- Assistive Technology
- Counseling
Charting a Course of Excellence

A Professional Vision

Social/Emotional Literacy

Professional Learning Communities and Reflective Practice

Academic Excellence
Characteristics of Young Adolescents

- rebellious
- loyal to friends
- need frequent affirmation from adults
- moody, restless, self-conscious
- confused
- seek acceptance from peers (identity)
- egocentric
- highly curious
- seek relevance
- sensitive to criticism
- strong sense of fairness
- mature at varying rates of speed
Middle-Level Policy Statements

• This We Believe (1982, 1995)
  - National Middle School Association

• Turning Points (1989, 1998)
  - Carnegie Corporation for Adolescent Development

• Essential Elements of a Standards Focused Middle School (1999, 2004)
  New York State Education Department
Developmentally Appropriate Transition

• Grade 6:
  - Interdisciplinary Teams
  - 2 teachers
  - Instructional Teams
  - Move as a class

• Grade 7
  - Instructional Teams
  - Re-group for all subjects
  - Individual programs

• Grade 8
  - Instructional Teams
  - Greater specialization
  - High school credit
Social and Emotional Literacy is ...

- Self awareness
- Self management
- Social awareness
- Relationship skills
- Responsible decision-making
Jericho Middle School

Social and Emotional Learning (SEL)

SEL is the process whereby children and adults develop essential social and emotional skills, knowledge, and attitudes related to:

- Identifying emotions
- Accurate self-perception/self-confidence
- Recognizing strengths, needs and values
- Impulse control and stress management
- Motivation / discipline
- Goal setting / organizational skills
- Perspective-taking
- Respect for others
- Appreciating diversity
- Using family, school, and community resources
- Problem solving
- Evaluation/ Reflection
- Personal/ ethical responsibility
- Resisting peer pressure
- Working cooperatively
- Conflict management
- Communication
- Building relationships
- Seeking help

From C.A.S.E.L.: Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning
SEL Programs

- BRAVE
- Quality Circles
- Voices of Love and Freedom
- Project Wisdom K-12
- Facing History and Ourselves
- Life Lessons through Literature
- Personal Best Initiative
SEL Programs

- Community Service
- Mentoring
- Interdisciplinary Teaming
- Monthly Themes
- Partnership with CSEE & CASEL
- Social and Emotional Learning Resources
LEADERS

- leave no one out
- empower yourself
- muse with humor
- distract the bully
- enlist help
- rumors stop with you
- support the victim
Building Partnerships...

Jericcho Middle School invites you to:

Actively participate in your child’s education
Developing Relationships:

- Administrators
- Teachers
- STA
- School Nurse
- Counselors
- Social Worker
- School Psychologist
- Support Staff
- PTSA
- SEPTA
Communication is the Name of the Game!
Communication

*Who ya gonna call...?*

- Classroom teacher
- Student team advisor
- Guidance counselor
- Curriculum Associates
- Social worker/School Psychologist/Nurse
- Middle School Administrators
JERICHO MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION
STRIVING TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS IN OUR SCHOOL

Students: We encourage all students to express their questions and concerns directly to the teacher.

Parents: If you are concerned about an issue involving your child’s education, classroom experience, or teacher, go directly to the teacher.

Contact the Teacher

Teachers are available to communicate with students and parents. You can leave a message for the teacher at 203-3600, ext. 3502 between 7:15 am and 3:15 pm, or e-mail at jdaly@jerichoschools.org. In order to respond in a timely manner, indicate times when you can be reached. Please be patient...the teachers will try to contact you as soon as possible.

In the event that additional clarification is necessary, or if you haven’t heard from the teacher in a reasonable amount of time, please contact the Guidance Counselor or the Curriculum Associate at 203-2600.

GUIDANCE COUNSELORS 203-3600
If you need to find out about an assignment or need an update on your child’s progress, contact the guidance counselor by grade.

6th Gr. - Ms. J. York (x3271) jyork@jerichoschools.org
7th Gr. - Ms. K. Schmitt (x3274) kschmitt@jerichoschools.org
8th Gr. Ms. M. Richman (x3557) mprichman@jerichoschools.org

STUDENT TEAM ADVISORS 203-3600, Ext. 3502

Team 6A - Ms. D. Gilbert
Team 6B - Ms. B. Ricciuti
Team 6C - Ms. L. Diehl
Team 6D - Ms. B. Schissigall
Team 7A - Ms. M. Vevante
Team 7B - Ms. M. Sommartano
Team 7C - Ms. C. LaMelza
Team 8A - Ms. T. Cantwell
Team 8B - Ms. K. Kovoros
Team 8C - Ms. C. LaMelza

CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES
Curriculum Associates are responsible for the K-12 curriculum. If your concern stems from a classroom practice, grade, or a particular book or assignment, contact the department’s Curriculum Associate.

CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES 203-3600
Mr. F. DiMartino - Science & Technology (x3238)
Mr. J. Mankowich - Physical Education (x3248)
Ms. H. Kriegstein - Mathematics (x3426)
Dr. E. Sundberg - Social Studies (x3229)
Dr. E. Margarita - World Languages & Home & Careers (x3428)
Mr. K. Pollitt - Music & Fine Arts (x3246)
Dr. D. Salzman - English Language Arts (x3427)
Dr. J. Castronova - Special Education (x3247)

LEARNING CENTER - 203-3600
Ms. Lynn McDonnell - Special Ed. Facilitator (x3460)
Mr. E. Friedlander - Executive Director Pupil Personnel Services (x3410)

continued...
JERICHO MIDDLE SCHOOL
CHAIN OF COMMUNICATION
(CONTINUED)

PERSONNEL SERVICES- 203-3600
Dr. J. Barnes, Psychologist (x3212)
jbarnes@jerichoschools.org
Ms. J. Verdino, Social Worker (x3266)
jverdino@jerichoschools.org

ATHLETICS - 203-3600
Intramurals (x3502), Coaching Staff (x-3249)
Interscholastic Sports (x-3249)

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
If questions or concerns exist after following the above Chain of Communication, contact the
Assistant Principal.
Mr. Joseph Wiener
at 203-3600, Ext. 3270

PRINCIPAL
If further discussion is necessary, contact the principal. Mr. Donald Gately, at 203-3600, Ext. 3552,
or the direct line 2033630. All calls directed to the Building Administrators or Curriculum
Associates are maintained in a telephone log.

If your problem has not been resolved through the Principal’s Office, contact the appropriate Assistant
Superintendent, then the Superintendent, and ultimately, the Board of Education
What’s on your mind?

Is it hard to get to class on time?
What’s on your mind?

Is there a lot of homework?
What’s on your mind?

How much time should my child spend on homework each night?
What's on your mind?

How can I make sure my child gets Mrs. (fill in the blank)?
What’s on your child’s mind?

• How will I find my way around?
• How long are the periods?
• How much time is there between classes?
• How do the late buses work?
What’s on your child’s mind?

• What is lunch like?
What’s on your child’s mind?

- How many teachers will I have next year?
- What if I forget my locker combination?
- How does extra help work?
- What if I’m late for a class?
What’s on your child’s mind?

- How many tests will I take?
- How many kids in each class?
- What if I forget my lunch money?
- Where do we go when we get to school?
- When do we get to use the library?
What’s on your child’s mind?

- Do I keep my backpack in my classroom or in my locker?

- What should you do if an older kid bullies you?
What’s on your child’s mind?

• Are we allowed to wear hats?
• When will we find out our homeroom?
• Do we switch classes for every subject?
• Do we have recess?
Do Your Personal Best!

- Middle School Goals
  - Academic
  - Social/Emotional Development
- High Expectations
  - Academics
  - Behavior
  - Character
Parents

- Communicate with school
- Stay involved
- Join PTSA
- Open door policy
- Support your child
Jericcho School District Website

Please visit our school district website. It contains some of the following information:

• Middle School Chain of Communication
• Club Calendars
• Parent Newsletters
• PTSA Information
• Lunch Menus
• Progress Reports
• Report Cards
• E-mail: A vehicle for communication
• Updates on School Closings

www.jerichoschools.org
QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Reflection and Feedback