Everything a Parent Needs to Know About Middle School

Agenda:

- Jericho Middle School Introduction – Donald Gately
- Middle School Counseling – Kerri Schmitt
- Middle School PTSA – Jennifer Gross, President and Jennifer Stoler, Vice President
- The Role of the Student Team Advisor – Suzanne Aubrey
- Wise Start/Intramurals – Will Martinez
- Student Scheduling and Course Registration – Joseph Wiener
- World Languages – Elaine Margarita
- Special Education Department – Jeffrey Baum
- Middle School Essentials – Donald 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
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:

Advertising  Games Club  Student Council
Cartoon Club  Homework Club  Web Team
Community Service  Italian Club  Wing Chun Kung Fu
Computer Repair  Jazz Club  Yearbook
Craft Club  Mathletes  Young Inventors
Create-a-Game  Newspaper
Decorating Club  SADD
Desk Top Magic  Science Club
Diversity Club  Scrabble
First Lego Robotics  Set and Scenery Design
French Club  Spanish Club  Stock Market

*Contingent upon the budget process*
Jericcho Middle School
PTSA
Jericcho Middle School Administration

For any questions or concerns you may have:

Mr. Donald Gately
Principal

Mr. Joseph Wiener
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
Exploratory Elective

(depending on other courses)
## Creating a Student Schedule--Grade 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>DAY 1</strong></th>
<th><strong>DAY 2</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>1. Interdisciplinary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Home &amp; Careers/Art</td>
<td>2. World Language</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Physical Education</td>
<td>5. Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Music</td>
<td>7. Music or Exploratory</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. English Language Arts</td>
<td>8. English Language Arts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please complete the registration form online with your child by the due date indicated on the letter you receive.
Course Selection / Schedule Information

- Important decisions are based on information we get from students and parents:
  - District budget
    - The community votes on this budget
  - Staffing
  - Room assignments
  - Individual student schedules
  - Materials and resources
Schedule/Placement: 
FYI's 
• Parents may **not** request a certain team or teacher 
• There are **many good** reasons for this
Schedule/Placement: FYI’s

- Equity and Fairness
- Don’t believe what you hear at Whole Foods (or the gym, or the beach, etc.)
- Every child’s experience is different
  - My least favorite teacher may be your favorite teacher
Schedule/Placement: FYI’s

• Information is good...let us know

  - If your child or a sibling had a negative/unresolved experience
  - If there is some other reason your child should not have a certain teacher
Schedule/Placement:
FYI's

BUT you MUST let us know by the March deadline!
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
Students will take the FLACS Checkpoint A Exam at the end of the eighth grade which gives them one high school credit.

*Students must select their language carefully as they are unable to change once they have begun the language sequence. The sequence starts in the sixth grade and continues through high school.*
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
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

  - 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

Self-awareness

Self-management

Social awareness

Responsible decision-making

Relationship skills

-Problem solving
-Evaluation/ Reflection
-Personal/ ethical responsibility

-Identifying emotions
-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

-Identifying emotions
-Resisting peer pressure
-Working cooperatively
-Conflict management
-Communication
-Using family, school, and community resources

-Problem solving
-Evaluation/ Reflection
-Personal/ ethical responsibility

-Perspective-taking
-Respect for others
-Appreciating diversity
-Using family, school, and community resources

-Identifying emotions
-Resisting peer pressure
-Working cooperatively
-Conflict management
-Communication
-Using family, school, and community resources

-Problem solving
-Evaluation/ Reflection
-Personal/ ethical responsibility

-Perspective-taking
-Respect for others
-Appreciating diversity
-Using family, school, and community resources
SEL Programs

- OLWEUS
- BRAVE
- Quality Circles
- Personal Best Initiative
- V.A.L.U.E.
- Community Service
- Mentoring
- Monthly Themes
- Partnership with CSEE & CASEL
- Social and Emotional Learning Resources
Jericcho Middle School has adopted the following rules against bullying:

• We will not bully others.
• We will try to help students who are bullied.
• We will try to include students who are left out.
• We will tell an adult at school and at home if we know that somebody is being bullied.
LEADERS

leave no one out

empower yourself

muse with humor

instruct the bully

enlist help

rumors stop with you

support the victim
Building Partnerships...

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

STUDENT TEAM ADVISORS 203-3600, Ext. 3502
Team 6A - Ms. D. Gilbert       Team 6B - Ms. B. Ricciuti
Team 6C - Ms. M. Clemente      Team 6D - Ms. S. Aubrey
Team 7A - Ms. M. Vevante      Team 7B - Ms. M. Sammartano
Team 7C - Ms. C. LaMelza      Team 8A - Ms. T. Cantwell
Team 8B - Ms. K. Kvoros       Team 8C - Ms. C. LaMelza

CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES 203-3600
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. B. Cummings - Science & Technology (x-3238)
Mr. J. Mankovich - 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)
Mr. J. Baum - Special Education (x3247)

LEARNING CENTER - 203-3600
Ms. L. McDonnell - Special Ed. Facilitator (x3460)
Dr. J. Castronova-Exec. 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