

PENNRIDGE SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL



STUDENT GUIDE

**Respect for Self, Respect for Others, &
take Responsibility for all your Actions.**

Revised 5/21/25

PENNRIDGE SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

To our newest 6th Grade South Rams,

As you enter middle school, you will soon begin a new phase of your educational journey. With entrance into Pennridge South Middle School, you will notice changes to the expectations for students and the opportunities that will exist for you, including more freedoms and responsibilities.

One of our major goals for you as a South student is to develop greater independence in your learning. In 6th grade, you will travel the hallways for up to eight different class periods throughout the day and can use a locker (assigned to you) for all your personal and school items. Your teachers will work with you to recommend the best times to go to your locker so that you have everything you need for your class(es). In addition to your classes, there will be opportunities for intramural athletics, music programs, theater arts, and clubs, which are all part of our extra-curricular program.

With increased freedom and choice comes great responsibility. You will learn to manage your time and create work habits that work for YOU. As part of your regular school-issued resources, you will be issued a computer that will be used in all of your classes. Your computer:

1. Should be fully charged each night and ready for use each day
2. Should be carried to every class
3. Is to be used for educational reasons only
4. It is a great tool to help you stay organized, and help you be better prepared in the evening for homework.

Your job as a middle school student will be to challenge yourself academically, explore various extracurricular activities, grow as a valued member of our school community, and meet/develop relationships with new classmates. We hope you enjoy your time at Penn South, your experience will be created by the attitude and motivation you bring to school daily. The information in this booklet will give you some information, and things to look forward to next year at South!

We hope you enjoy your visit to Pennridge South today and that your visit today will help you to feel welcome and confident as you begin thinking about middle school. We look forward to you joining our school community. Have a great summer!

Sincerely,

Mr. Duane R. Renner
Principal

Mr. Glenn K. Donaldson
Assistant Principal

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Courses and Typical Schedules	4-5
General Information	6-11
Music	11
Chorus	
String Ensemble	
Band	
Jazz Band	
Theatre	12
Academic Extensions	12
Yearbook	
Competitions	13
Geography Bee	
Spelling Bee	
Reading Olympics	
Special Events/Unique Opportunities	13
Ski and Snowboard Club	
School/Community Service	13
Student Council	
National Junior Honor Society	
Student Recognition	14
Dressing for Success	15
Helpful Hints	16
An Organized Student	18
Your Time	19
Some Hints on Becoming An Organized Student	20

6th Grade Middle School Curriculum

Core Courses:

Curriculum

Math 6: Ratios and Proportional Relationships, The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

Accelerated Math 6 Study of the same content of Math 6 with an emphasis on project-based learning enriched with additional topics in computer science, data science, and other related concepts.

Math Support time: In addition to Math 6, this additional time is used to support students who demonstrate below grade level achievement as evidenced by scores on classwork, benchmark assessments, and PSSA's. Benchmark assessments will be administered a few times throughout the school year and are intended to give teachers insights into how well students are progressing against the standards for 6th grade math. Students who demonstrate a lack of understanding of content will be encouraged to meet with their math teacher during period 11 in order to help the student gain deeper understanding of the concepts and standards in Math 6

Language Arts: Study of writing and grammar through a variety of literature sources. Students will focus on developing skills in Argumentative, Informative, and Narrative writing. Students will also explore the analysis of poetry.

Analysis of Fiction and Non-Fiction Texts: All 6th grade students will participate in a full year Reading course entitled Analysis of Fiction and Non-Fiction. . The curriculum will focus on the analysis of fiction and non-fiction text through thematic units. Some students will also qualify for participation in READ 180.

Science: Life Science: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures, Processes and Heredity; Earth & Space Science: Weather and Climate, Earth Processes, Earth and Human Activity; Physical Science: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer; Engineering and Design: Making Models, Developing Possible Solutions to Real World Problems, Evaluating Designs.

Social Studies: Study of past and present world archeology including the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Greece, and Rome.

Library: While this is not a scheduled course, students are exposed to various skills including research, analyzing sources, effective and efficient search methods, tracking sources. Students will also learn the importance of evaluating information, including learning how to choose credible resources, responsible use of resources; and literature appreciation using Reader Advisory tools on the internet.

<u>Encore Courses:</u> <u>(3 days in each 6 day cycle)</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>
Art (One Marking period (45 days):	Study is based on 4 units: Aesthetics of Art, Art Criticism, Art History, and Art Reproduction.
Family & Consumer Science: (One Marking Period-45 days)	Study is based on three units: Childcare and Human Development, Foods and Nutrition, and Experience in Textiles.
General Music (One Marking Period-45 days):	Study is based on developing skills in singing, playing instruments, composing, listening, and interpreting.
Wellness: Physical Education (One Semester) Health (One Marking Period)	Study of physical fitness through independent and collaborative gross motor activities. Study of health issues containing 3 units: Drugs, Alcohol, and Tobacco; Human Sexuality; and Relationships and Self-Esteem.
Digital Literacy (One Marking Period - 45 days):	Focus is on extending skills and processes and transitioning to advanced levels in computer use across content areas. Topics include: networking, keyboarding, peripherals, file management and applications such as multimedia presentation, graphics, spreadsheets, graphing and safe and ethical use of electronic resources.
Exploring Language Connections (One Marking Period 45 days):	Focus is on basic language concepts, knowledge of the Roman world, understanding of Latin roots (linguistic and cultural), links to language arts and social studies (ancient civilizations), and general language knowledge, skills and concepts in vocabulary, grammar, word analysis and cultural context.
Gifted Seminar (One Semester - 90 days):	The focus of the course is to have students develop and expand their understanding and ability to demonstrate various skills of the research process. This course replaces Art and Family & Consumer Science.
<u>Music Opportunities: Students may choose any of the following music programs as outlined below:</u>	
Band:	Each student will have one small group pull-out lesson on a rotating basis each week. All band students meet during 11th period.
Jazz Band:	One day per week during activity period.
Orchestra:	Each student will have one small group pull-out lesson on a rotating basis each week. All string students meet during 11th period.
Chorus (Semester Course):	Open to all students who are interested in singing. Included is a wide variety of classic choral music of a popular nature.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

On your first day of middle school, you will be given a schedule of classes. The schedule lists the classes you will attend and where they are held. A sample schedule is shown below. In Middle School, we have 8 forty-four-minute class periods per day. You will have Core Classes (math, English, Language Arts (ELA), Science, Social Studies, Analysis of Fiction & Non-Fiction (AFNF), AND (Encore subjects) $\frac{1}{4}$ of the school year, or $\frac{1}{2}$ the school year. This may sound confusing, but you will adjust very quickly.

Typical 6th Grade Schedule

Period	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
1	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)	Chorus (semester) Wellness (semester)
2	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)	Exp. Lang. Connection (1Q)) Digital Literacy (1Q) Art (1Q) F & CS (1Q) Health (1Q) General Music (1Q)
3	Lang. Arts	Lang. Arts	Lang. Arts	Lang. Arts	Lang. Arts	Lang. Arts
4	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction	Analysis Fiction and Non Fiction
5-6	Soc. Studies	Soc. Studies	Soc. Studies	Soc. Studies	Soc. Studies	Soc. Studies
7	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
8-9	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
10	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science	Science
11 th	Activity/HR – Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council	Activity/HR– Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council	Activity/HR – Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council	Activity/HR – Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council	Activity/HR – Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council	Activity/HR – Assemblies, clubs, music groups, intervention time, student council

GENERAL INFORMATION

ABSENCES

If you are absent from school, you must bring in an "Absence Note" signed by your parent or guardian giving the reason for your absence. You must submit this note to the main office **within three days of the absence**. If you fail to do so, your absence will be recorded as unlawful, even though you may have been home sick. ***Each student is allotted 10 “cumulative” days of absence excused with a parental note. Once a student is absent 11 days, a doctor's note will be required to excuse the absence. A doctor's note may be given with any absence to categorize the absence as a “non-cumulative” absence.***

ACADEMIC RESPONSIBILITIES

An important part of success in each subject is completing and handing in homework on time. Homework will be assigned nearly every day. You will be given a School Agenda and will be responsible for recording and understanding each assignment. Students will also learn how to use Canvas, and the Canvas Calendar as a tool for reviewing homework assignments. If students have any questions, they should discuss it with their teacher.

Most teachers will require you to keep a notebook that includes your homework, class notes, and tests.

Major tests or projects will be given at the end of each unit of study. You will need to review for two or three nights before each test. You will probably have eight to ten quizzes in each subject per quarter. Some may be announced, but others may not. It will be important for you to review your notes and worksheets nightly so you are prepared.

When you are absent, it is your responsibility to gather your assignments and to have them completed when you return. You should check Canvas, as teachers will post all work in each of their Canvas Courses, and you may contact a friend. Finally, you or your parents may contact your teachers directly by call or email. If there are materials that are not accessible on the computer, please notify your teacher, who will leave those materials in the main office. Materials/HW will be available for your parents to pick up at school between 3:15 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

If a student is absent from school, a parent/guardian has three ways to report the absence. Parents should use the SafeArrival App, but can e-mail the attendance office when needed.

**Email: SMSattendance@pennridge.org
SafeArrival (download the app. on your phone)**

The message must contain the student's name, the reason for absence, the date of the absence, and the name of the person calling/emailing and their relationship to the student. A telephone call or email is the same as a written absence note. A telephone call/email to report your child's absence will avoid a 10:30AM notification call informing the parent/guardian of the absence. If a call or email is not possible, a note signed from the parent must be handed into the office within three days of the absence. All absences are automatically documented as unexcused until the parent note is received within the three-day timeframe.

Regular and punctual attendance is critical to success in school. **A doctor's note will be required of students with absences over 10 days. Once this notice is issued, failure to provide a doctor's note will result in**

absences being declared "unlawful." Repeated offenses will result in referral to the magisterial district justice having jurisdiction in the region.

If a student is absent from school on a particular day and/or arrives at school later than 12:00 PM, then he/she is not permitted to attend/participate in any after-school activity. After-school activities include (but are not limited to): sports, dances, school play practice, concerts, ski/snowboard club, etc. This practice encourages our students to be present for their academic day so they can enjoy the fun of our after-school activities. We appreciate the support of parents/guardians with this policy.

Cumulative Absences: A maximum of ten days of cumulative lawful absence verified by parental or guardian notification may be permitted during a school year. All absences beyond ten cumulative days, verified by parental or guardian notification, require an excuse from a physician. Absence reasons qualify as cumulative: illness covered by parental or guardian contact, family vacations while school is in session, and other absences not classified as non-cumulative. A signed parental/guardian note explaining the reason for absence must be submitted to the attendance office upon return to school or a phone call/email on the day of the absence.

Non-Cumulative Absences: The following reasons for absence qualify as non-cumulative: illness verified by a doctor's note, death in the family, religious holidays as designated by the Department of Education, student court appearance documentation, and out-of-school suspensions. A signed parental/guardian note explaining the reason for absence (or an official note from a medical professional's office) must be submitted to the attendance office upon return to school.

Extended Absence (Excused): Instructional continuity is critical to academic success; therefore, the school strongly discourages family vacations while school is in session. If a student needs to be absent from school for an extended period of time (three days or more), completion of a special form is required. This form is available in the main office or on the school's website. It must be signed by all teachers the student has and submitted to the main office five (5) school days before the absence begins. This procedure must be completed to have these days classified as "excused," yet cumulative, absences.

Unlawful Absence: An unlawful absence is defined by Pennsylvania law as truancy or a cumulative absence beyond 10 total days. After three unlawful absences, a letter will be sent home informing the parent/guardian of the importance of school attendance and the ramifications of failing to attend school. If a fourth unlawful absence or 15 cumulative absences occurs, a Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) meeting will be called to develop a truancy plan. If this plan is not followed and three additional unlawful absences occur, the parent(s) will be referred to the magisterial district judge having jurisdiction in the region. The following penalties will be enforced among students who neglect to return a signed parent/guardian excuse within three days of any absence:

ABSENCE #	School Action Taken
1 – 6 Cumulative Absence	Ensure all absence notes are returned within three (3) days of student absences.
7 th -9 th Cumulative Absence	Parents are notified by mail.
10 th Cumulative Absence	All absences beyond ten (10) cumulative days require an excuse from a physician indicating illness, or legitimate medical reason for absence. Parent will be notified by mail.
3 rd Unexcused	Parent/Guardian notified by mail. Phone call from school personnel.
4 th Unexcused	Phone call from school personnel & notification by mail. Student Attendance Improvement Plan (SAIP) meeting.
6 th Unexcused	Referral may occur to community attendance improvement program, Bucks County Children & Youth Services and/or citation issued at District Magistrate.
15 Days Total Absence	Student Attendance Improvement Plan meeting letter sent. If warranted, SAIP meeting held.

Tardiness to School: Students must be in Daily Attendance/first period by 7:55 AM unless school transportation is late. Students who arrive late to school should report immediately to the main office to sign in. Students will record their name, arrival time, and the reason for the tardiness. Students should always bring a note from a parent/guardian stating the date and reason for the tardiness. Any time a student visits a doctor, dentist, etc., ask the medical office for “a note for school” and be sure to submit it to the school main office upon your arrival. The attendance officer or secretary will give the student a yellow pass to class. A student will be considered tardy until 9:55 AM. Arriving at school between 9:56 AM - 11:55 AM will be recorded as a half-day absence and after 11:56 AM will be considered a full-day absence. For both a half-day and full-day absences a signed parent/guardian excuse is required. The only legal tardy is an appointment with a dentist or doctor. School personnel will try to work cooperatively with parents or guardians to rectify causes for tardiness. Excessive unexcused tardiness to school, on a quarterly basis, will result in following actions:

- 3 Unexcused late to school - no consequence
- 4th to 8th Unexcused late - Lunch Detention(s)
- 9th to 11th Unexcused late - After-School Detention
- Excessive late to school (16+) - Suspension (parent/guardian contact) SAIP meeting occurs

Truancy: Truancy is the absence of a student from school without parental or guardian knowledge. This absence will result in three after-school detentions and is considered an unlawful absence.

BEHAVIOR ADJUSTMENT PERIOD/IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION

If your behavior disrupts the normal classroom instructional process, your teacher will contact the office to have you escorted to the Behavior Adjustment/In-School Suspension Room. Upon arrival, you will complete a reflection form and then meet with Mr. Donaldson, our assistant principal, to discuss the incident. Afterward, a call will be made to your parent(s) to notify them of the situation. The assistant principal will then work to discuss replacement behaviors/choices that can be employed in future situations and possibly assign further consequences.

BUS PASSES

Should a parent desire their student to accompany a peer on a bus that they are not typically assigned to ride, they must provide written notification by/no later than 8:15 am on the morning of the request. Approvals will be made by the Principal or Assistant Principal only. Please note that the reason must be related to a supervision concern (i.e., parents away or not home to receive the student).

CANVAS

This tool is utilized for all classes in middle school. Teachers will post announcements, class work, homework, and maintain a calendar. This is the main source of information for and communication with students. Every student will be issued a Canvas username/password. Parents can also access by creating a [Parent Observer Account](#).

CELL PHONES

Cell phones, etc., are not permitted to be used by students during the school day. Cell phones must be turned off and kept OUT OF SIGHT - in the student's locker, or backpack, during the school day. Cell phones are to be turned off upon entry into the building.

DANCES, SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

School dances are generally 6:00pm - 8:00pm unless otherwise announced. You are encouraged to come to these events and enjoy yourself with your classmates. School rules are in effect at all school-sponsored

activities. **Only South Middle School students may attend these activities.** Students must listen carefully to school announcements for ticket purchase times.

Once at the dance, students are not permitted to leave the building or location of the dance/event unless a parent makes an arrangement with an administrator to personally pick up a child earlier than the end time for the dance. **We appreciate our students being picked up promptly at the end of the dance. by a parent/guardian.** Students may not walk home after a dance unless they are accompanied by a responsible adult. We are very concerned about the safety of our students.

DETENTION

There are three types of detentions in Middle School: lunch, club, and after school. Detention can be assigned for misbehavior in the classroom and for a variety of offenses. Included among these are chronic tardiness to school/classes; hallway, cafeteria, and assembly misconduct, cutting classes, cheating, forgery, defiance, disrespect, vulgarity, throwing objects, etc. Repeated offenses will result in progressive consequences (i.e., multiple detentions, in-school or out-of-school suspension).

After-school detention is held on Tuesdays or Thursdays until 4:00 p.m.; attendance is required and monitored. Failure to report to detention will be considered an act of defiance and will result in two after-school detentions. Students serving detention will also have access to the 4:15 p.m. late bus. Detention is a time for the student to engage in worthwhile schoolwork. Monitors can also assign work. Students who are tardy to detention or refuse to do worthwhile work for the entire time can be assigned another detention. Students will be given a day's notice when detention is to be served. No exceptions are made for extracurricular activities or work obligations. Students who fail to serve detention obligations will be given additional hours to serve. Repeated failure to meet detention obligations will result in suspension. Students who miss detention because of school closing(s) or absence are expected to report to the next scheduled detention. Students serving detention may take the 4:15 pm (late) bus home.

The important message is this: respect both adults and peers, be responsible in using our facility, and demonstrate good character. If you do make a bad decision, be responsible by following through with your consequence (i.e., serving your detention).

EARLY DISMISSAL

If you need to be dismissed during the school day for a scheduled appointment (doctor, dentist, etc.), bring a note from a parent/guardian stating the reason for the early dismissal and the time they will be picking you up. ***You must present this note to the main office before 7:55 A.M. on the morning of your early dismissal. After turning in the note, the main office secretary will provide an early dismissal pass.*** Following this procedure will ensure that your name is placed on the daily attendance/early dismissal sheet for teacher notification. At the beginning of the class period of your early dismissal, inform the teacher of the time that you will be exiting his/her class. ***DO NOT wait for the office to call you down for your early dismissal.*** Parents/Guardians must come into the main office to sign out the student at the time of the early dismissal. If you are returning to school after your appointment, stop in the main office and sign in at the time of your return. The office secretary will give you a pass to go to class.

GYM UNIFORM/ATTIRE

Students are required to change for gym class. Shorts, t-shirts, sweat pants, and sweatshirts must be appropriate. Jewelry must be removed for safety reasons. The school will issue gym lockers for student use. Please do not share the combination with other students. The school will not be responsible for lost valuables.

HOMEROOM

This will occur as the last period of the school day, and is otherwise referred to as period 11. Students must report to their period 11/Homeroom class just as they would any other class throughout the day. During this time school announcements are made and teachers may make other announcements specific to the grade level. Unless a student has a pass to see a different teacher or take part in a school activity, 11th period is QUIET TIME, and should be used to start homework, or read silently. 11th period IS NOT time for students to play video games on their school-issued computers. Make the most of this time by listening closely to announcements, organizing your work for the evening, reviewing your academic subjects and completing as much homework as possible.

11th period is also the time when many school activities such as assemblies, performance groups, clubs, intramurals, and academic interventions or tutorials are offered. It should be understood that many of these activities are offered as a privilege to students and that class work comes first. Students in need of additional support to complete work will use this time in place of one of the various activities that are offered during period 11.

LIBRARY

A great resource at your middle school is the library. It is open before school and during homeroom periods. Your teachers may issue a "subject pass" to allow you to go to the library to do research, to work in small groups, and/or to get support from our librarian. Your cooperation with library regulations will make it a pleasant place for all.

LOCKERS--GYM

In addition to your hall locker, you will also have a gym locker assigned to you. This locker will be used during gym class for your clothes, shoes, and books. Please keep your combination confidential and in a place where only you can find it.

LOCKERS--HALL

Hall lockers will be issued to all students and may be used based on your individual levels of need. Minimally, we recommend keeping your coat, lunch and personal cell phone in your locker. Please keep your locker neat and clean and do not share it with other students.

It is noted that lockers are school property and may be inspected at any time. Please keep your combination confidential, and in a location where only you can find it.

MEDICINE

If you are required to take prescription drugs while in school, a parent/guardian must bring these items to the health office with dosage requirements specified by your physician. ***Do not carry any medicines (including over-the-counter products) with you, as this is a violation of the district Drug and Alcohol Policy!***

NURSE

Each of our middle schools has a school-based nurse to support students who are ill. Should the nurse determine that your child is too ill to stay in school, you will receive a phone call.

*****If your child calls/texts you from their personal cell phone, asking to come home, the request will not then be listed as a nurse dismissal, but rather as an early dismissal, which will count against your child's**

cumulative absences. We strongly encourage you to direct your child to the nurse and NOT to contact you via their cell phones.

SMOKING/VAPING

In accordance with Act 145, which prohibits students from possessing any type or form of tobacco on school property (or at any school-sponsored activity), a student found in possession will be cited and required to pay a fine and court costs and may receive additional disciplinary consequences to include in school and/or out of school suspension. In addition, a student caught smoking/vaping on school property or at a school-sponsored event will be found in violation of the District's Drug and Alcohol policy that is contained in the handbook. All tobacco products and lighters will be confiscated, and parents/guardians will be notified. This policy includes vapor/e-cigarettes.

SPORTS

Students in sixth grade are allowed to take part in intramural sports only. Per PIAA guidelines, Interscholastic sports begin in seventh grade.

TARDY TO CLASS/LATE TO SCHOOL

You are expected to be in your first-period class on time (7:55 a.m.) unless your bus is late. If you are not on time to school, you **must** report to the main office with a note signed by a parent/guardian, sign in, and get a pass to class. Beginning with a third unexcused tardy (per marking period), **all other tardies will result in progressive disciplinary action.** Make every effort to be in each class on time. Persistent tardiness to class will have disciplinary consequences and/or loss of school privileges.

If a student is tardy to class without a pass, he/she will automatically receive a "late to class" notice from the teacher. If repeated tardiness occurs, individual teachers will call parents/guardians, assign detention(s), or revoke 11th period privileges. In addition, a team of teachers may restrict a student's use of passes during the day. **Continued disregard for the tardy policy will result in referral to administration, administrative detention, and/or revocation of extra-curricular activities including dances, etc.**

MUSIC

Middle school offers many opportunities to use your musical and dramatic talent. Instrumental lessons are offered as many students participate in the band, choir, orchestra, and other special instrumental performance groups. These music groups could rehearse before school, after-school, or during the 11th period. Students rehearse for and demonstrate their talents in winter (December) and spring (May) concerts. There is also a spring musical for which students can audition or volunteer to help behind the scenes on the stage crew. Auditions for the play will occur in the fall and will be announced in our morning/afternoon announcements.

Chorus

All sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students may choose to participate in chorus. They rehearse one day each week during 11th period.

String Ensemble

The students participate in a small group lesson one period per week, and all string students meet together for orchestra one period each week. The students perform at the winter concert and a spring string festival.

Band

Sixth, seventh, and eighth-grade students engage in small group lessons during the school day one time each cycle and in ensembles during the 11th period. The students exhibit their talents during winter and spring concerts and in the Pennridge Community Memorial Day Parade.

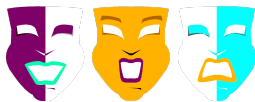


Jazz Band

Students audition to perform in this select group that rehearses during morning homeroom and eleventh period. In addition to performing in the winter and spring concerts, the Jazz Band plays at special school events such as pep rallies and parent/community nights. The Jazz Band also participates in several evening competitions at area schools.

THEATRE

Middle school students (6th-8th) can participate in a theatre arts production in the spring. Along with acting in the productions and designing the sets, students also coordinate the sound and lighting for the productions. Students who participate in drama may not participate in the athletic program due to practice conflicts.



ACADEMIC EXTENSIONS

Student Publications



Yearbook

Students may participate in this club that creates and publishes the middle school yearbook. Students write, edit, and photograph for the yearbook that creatively documents the school year.

ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS

Spelling Bee

Middle School students compete in a Spelling Bee to determine which student will advance to county, region, and state competitions.

Reading Olympics

This academic challenge encourages students of all reading levels to share the excitement of reading good books with their friends. At a countywide competition, teams of eight to twelve students participate in three rounds during which they answer questions about the books selected for the middle school level.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SERVICE

Student Council

Middle school students are selected and serve on the Student Council, under the direction of a teacher, for one year. The students organize school spirit and service activities such as school dances, spirit days, and various other fundraising events. Students may “run” for student council in the fall of each school year. 6th graders will have a second chance to run for student council in the spring of their 6th grade year.

National Junior Honor Society:

Pennridge South Middle School is proud to be a part of the National Junior Honor Society.

The National Junior Honor Society is a nationally recognized organization that recognizes outstanding middle school students. In addition to academic excellence, the National Junior Honor Society honors students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, leadership, service, character, and citizenship.

To qualify, students must earn a minimum grade point average of 3.75 throughout their middle school career. Students meeting this GPA requirement will be invited to apply for NJHS. The application includes a community service component that must be met outside of school hours, for a minimum of 5 hours. Additionally, students will be required to complete and submit the application on time.

Students who meet all of the requirements above will receive a formal invitation to the NJHS Induction Ceremony, which generally takes place at the end of their 8th-grade year.

STUDENT RECOGNITION

One of the missions of middle school is to promote student success and self-esteem by celebrating students' accomplishments in as many areas as possible. Students, parents, and faculty celebrate students' success through academic team assemblies, all-school assemblies, and ice-cream socials.

Team Awards

Each grade-level team conducts an awards ceremony following the end of each marking period. The awards include:

Academic Awards

The teachers present awards for outstanding achievement and effort in each of the subject areas.

Citizenship Awards

Each team selects several students who have exhibited exemplary citizenship throughout the marking period.

Pride Recognition

Middle school teams hold a special recognition for students who exemplify the qualities in their school's motto or the Pennridge TAKES PRIDE theme of the month.

School-wide Awards (PBIS)

This recognition is given to students who demonstrate our motto: **Respect for Self, Respect for Others, & take Responsibility for all your Actions**. An electronic point system is maintained throughout the school year where students are issued points based on their demonstration(s) of these values during the school day. Points can be given at any time by any staff member. Students can "cash in" their points at any time for prize items or into raffles for field trips.

National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Eligible students will have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 3.75 through the end of the third marking period of their 8th-grade school year.

Perfect Attendance

Students who have attended school every day during the school year are recognized.

Eighth Grade Honors Night

Those eighth-grade students who have achieved straight "A's", Distinguished Honors, or Honor Roll in the first three marking periods are invited with their parents for an evening celebration honoring students and their accomplishments. A reception is held for all guests.

Sixth and Seventh Grade Ice Cream Social

Students who have achieved straight “A’s”, Distinguished Honors, or Honor Roll in the first three marking periods are invited during an 11th period to a social gathering where they will be recognized for this academic achievement and enjoy an ice cream treat with peers and our staff.

DESSING FOR SUCCESS

“So, what can I wear to South Middle School?”

This is a question we often receive from parents and students who are new to our school community. We have assembled the guidelines below to assist your family’s “back-to-school shopping” and serve as reminders to all of our students.

Dress code issues can be very sensitive, particularly with secondary school students. The guidelines below are NOT new. They are based upon existing Pennridge School District Policy #221, and are intended to promote student welfare and safety, a wholesome learning environment, and sensitivity to our diverse public.

To establish the best possible educational environment, all students in Pennridge schools are expected to be neat, clean, and well-groomed at all times.

Specifically, students are not permitted to wear:

- Hats (School “spirit days” will be exceptions)
- Bandannas and hoodies (having the hood on a hooded sweatshirt up)
- Sunglasses or goggles
- Destructive or unsafe clothing, jewelry, or footwear (i.e., spikes, chains, rivets, cleats, etc.)
- Shorts or skirts which expose private parts of the anatomy
- Tank tops or muscle shirts. Girls are permitted to wear sleeveless shirts that reflect modesty however, no spaghetti straps, or strapless tops are permitted.
- Any clothing which exposes undergarments (including bra straps or boxer shorts)
- Clothing which exposes the belly or cleavage as well as lace up pants that expose skin
- Clothes with slogans, expressions, pictures, words, and symbols that either state or imply racial and ethnic epithets, topics related to drugs, alcohol, tobacco, sex, violence, death, or messages that a “reasonable person” would find offensive.

These guidelines intend to minimize distractions in the educational environment. Students wearing any of the above attire will not be permitted to attend class until they have changed into more acceptable clothing.

HELPFUL HINTS

Helpful Hints for Middle School Students

- ✓ Be on time for class.
- ✓ Use your agenda and/or Canvas.
- ✓ Ensure you have a routine to ensure your device is fully charged before you leave for school
- ✓ Do your homework.
- ✓ Stay organized and use your time wisely.
- ✓ Keep your locker clean.
- ✓ Make a schedule for yourself.
- ✓ Pay attention to morning and afternoon announcements.
- ✓ Have a positive attitude.
- ✓ Get enough sleep; eat breakfast.
- ✓ Don't worry about getting lost.

Helpful Hints for Parents

- ✓ In order to be successful in middle school, students must complete homework on a daily basis. Please monitor your child's completion of daily homework. Homework is posted on Canvas pages, and should be written in the agenda as well.
- ✓ Expect to have up to 1 hour of homework every night.
- ✓ Help your child to develop a routine for school work, including charging their computer on a nightly basis.
- ✓ Encourage your child to use his/her agenda every day.
- ✓ Check your child's Canvas pages and/or agenda daily.
- ✓ Keep extra school supplies on hand (i.e., pens, pencils, notebook paper, and poster board).
- ✓ If your child is absent, remember to provide a written note within 3 school days which your child should turn in to the office.
- ✓ If your child is absent, encourage him/her to check Canvas for missed work, to call a buddy, and/or to send an e-mail to the teacher (especially if your child will be out for 3 or more days).
- ✓ Know your child's friends.

Suggested Supplies

Lists can be found on the school's webpage, under the *Families* tab - *Supplies Lists*

Organizing Notebooks

Use your team's guidelines for notebook organization.

- ✓ All papers must be placed in the notebook.
- ✓ Keep handouts in the appropriate place with your notes.
- ✓ Date and number each handout.
- ✓ Subdivide into sections for each subject.
- ✓ Color-code notebooks, file folders, etc., for each course.
- ✓ Use 3-ring binders and college-ruled paper.
- ✓ Write the subject on the front cover and along the binder spine with a permanent marker.
- ✓ Check with your teacher if you accumulate large amounts of papers.

Chunking Assignments – Managing Long-Term Assignments

- ✓ Mark the final due dates in your agenda.
- ✓ Plan well enough in advance to avoid unplanned situations that could delay meeting the due date.
- ✓ Decide how many steps will be needed to complete the assignment.
- ✓ List the steps and decide on a date to have each step completed.
- ✓ Enter short-term due dates in your agenda.
- ✓ Plan extra time in your weekly schedule to meet these due dates.

Home Study Organization

- ✓ Have a specific place at home for you to do your homework.
- ✓ Make sure all resources needed are there (i.e., paper, pencils, etc.).
- ✓ The study place should be away from most distractions, such as TV, radio, telephone, etc.
- ✓ Study location should be well lit, comfortable, but not a place where you will fall-asleep, and should be free from the distraction of social media.

AN ORGANIZED STUDENT

Write the number that describes you best.

4=Always 3=Most of the time 2=Some of the time 1=Never

Organized students:

- ____ 1. Get themselves up in the morning.
- ____ 2. Get to breakfast when it is ready, or even have time to prepare or help make it if necessary.
- ____ 3. Get dressed in plenty of time for school.
- ____ 4. Remember the books and materials needed that day.
- ____ 5. Get to the bus stop before the bus arrives.
- ____ 6. Get to class on time.
- ____ 7. Keep their locker clean and junk free.
- ____ 8. Remember to take the correct books and materials to class.
- ____ 9. Do their homework assignments and submit them on time.
- ____ 10. Try not to daydream or talk, thus missing important information being taught in class.
- ____ 11. Remember their lunch money or their lunch each day.
- ____ 12. Copy their homework assignments down and put the needed books and materials where they can find them when they are ready to leave for school.
- ____ 13. Check Canvas
- ____ 14. Get ready for the bus in the time allowed.
- ____ 15. Have a place to hang up their coat and to put their books when they arrive home.
- ____ 16. Do their chores at home without being reminded.
- ____ 17. Put their books and homework in a place where they can quickly find them in the morning.
- ____ 18. Get to bed at a reasonable hour. Proper rest is important.

YOUR TIME

Since there are only a limited number of hours in a day, it is helpful to make a schedule for yourself in order to find time to get all your work and important jobs completed. Remember to use your study time wisely. You may even find that you can take fewer books home if you do.

Directions: Try scheduling your activities for an afternoon and evening. List schoolwork, recreation, chores, meals, bedtime--whatever you have on your "MUST" and "WANT" lists.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30pm					
4:00					
4:30					
5:00					
5:30					
6:00					
6:30					
7:00					
7:30					
8:00					
8:30					
9:00pm					

SOME HINTS ON BECOMING AN ORGANIZED STUDENT

You are able to choose how you spend your time. The effectiveness of your time schedule will depend on the care with which you plan it. Middle school students have many new challenges and responsibilities. Using these simple tips, and with careful planning, you can be a successful student and still have time for fun.

1. PLAN (USE AN AGENDA and/or CANVAS!)

Some of your time is fixed (You must do certain things). Some of your time is flexible (You choose what to do during this time).

FIXED: eating, sleeping, lessons, classes, chores

FLEXIBLE: personal, recreation, and relaxation

2. LIST PRIORITIES

List all the things you must do today. List all the things you want to do today. Number the most important “musts” in the order that you have to get them done. Number all the “wants” in the order that puts the things you really want first. Now do the #1 thing on your “must” list and complete all the “musts” in the order that you numbered them. After that list is done, you can begin with your “wants” list.

3. AVOID CLUTTER

Clutter can distract you. Clean off your work area. This will reduce stress and allow you to concentrate better. Since you can only think of one thing at a time, keep only one subject book open at a time.

4. DEVELOP A ROUTINE FOR SUCCESS

Often you may develop the habit of putting off the things you do not like to do or those that are very hard for you to do. In the long run, this will catch up with you and cause more problems. To avoid this problem, you must decide to get the job done and get started on it. You may have to force yourself to stick with it the first few times you do this. Although you may have to delay some “fun” with friends, the rewards are great and will last a lifetime if you develop this habit now.

ABOVE ALL ELSE, GOOD TIME MANAGEMENT INVOLVES AN AWARENESS THAT TODAY IS ALL WE EVER HAVE TO WORK WITH. THE PAST IS GONE, THE FUTURE IS ONLY AN IDEA.