



The Shipley School
Middle School Parent Coffee and Conversation 2025-2026
An Overview of Thematically Driven Conversations

Venue: Beechwood House (Lower Campus on 930 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr)

Time: 8:15 - 9:15

Lead Parent Coordinators: Rachel Duffy (G. 6); Jennifer Flannelly (G. 7); and Lauren Stienes (G. 8)

Link to Slide Show of Each Meeting
[Link to Microsoft Teams](#)

Date	Thematic Discussions	For Your Planning
September 25	An Orientation to MS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's new at Shipley and the Middle School? • What are our beloved traditions? • What is in your child's MS Guidebook? • The highlight of the morning: A Preview of "Navigating the Middle School with Your Child," presented by Academic Dean, Annie Griffin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convocation with Installation: September 5 (9:20 - 10:10 AM) • Back-to-School Night: September 11 (6:15 - 9:00 PM) • Gr. 6 Trip Virtual Info. Session: September 15 (7:00 PM) • Oaks to Acorns: September 19 (9:20 – 10:10) • Rosh Hashanah: No school on September 23 • Super Saturday: September 27 (All Day) • 7th Grade SEED Event: September 29 (7:00 PM) • Yom Kippur: No school October 2
October 30	The Middle School Child: from the perspective of academic and social-emotional support Join us in conversation with the Academic Support Coordinator and Counselor as we explore these transformative MS years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall Break - No School: October 13 • Inservice Day - No School: October 14 • Gr. 6 Overnight to VA: October 15 – 17

	<p>What lies behind what is seen? How can we support our children? How do we do this in partnership?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MS Service Day: October 11 ● Mini Fall Festival: October 31
November 19	<p>The Journey of a Math Student: from MS to US</p> <p>This conversation is led by a math teacher, who will explain the sequence of the math program at Shipley. Moreover, we will explore how the pedagogical approach of teaching mathematics develops a child's processing skills, critical thinking, and creativity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MS Event for 5th Grade Families: November 4 ● Student-led Conferences: November 13 – 14 ● (No classes on November 14 for conferences) ● MS Service Day: November 21 ● All School Thanksgiving Assembly: November 21 ● PD – Early Dismissal: November 21 ● Gr. 7 Trip to Holocaust Museum: November 25 ● Thanksgiving Break – No School: November 26, 27, and 28 <p>Looking Ahead to December:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PD – Early Dismissal: December 12 ● Winter Concert (December 18) ● Winter Break - No School: December 22 – January 2 ● Classes resume January 5
January 28	<p>Transitioning to Upper School</p> <p>This is a special session for 8th grade families and anyone who wants to look a bit ahead. While there will be formal presentations offered by the Upper School, this is a chance to hear from the teachers who know your child.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What are the top 3 differences between MS and US? ● What are some things to consider when making course selections? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● End of Fall Semester: January 16 ● MS Service Day: January 16 ● PD – Early Dismissal: January 16 ● MLK Day – No School: January 19 ● Swamp Night: January 23 ● ERB Testing: January 27, 28, and 29 ● Open House for Gr. 5: January 29 <p>Looking Ahead to February and March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All School Assembly – Black History Month: February 6 ● Presidents' Day – No School: February 16

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inservice Day – No Classes: February 17 ● 7th & 8th Gr. Drama Performance: February 18 (3:45) ● 6th Gr. Drama Performance: February 25 & 26 (3:45) ● Student-led Parent Teacher Conferences: March 5 & 6) ● (No classes on March 6 for conferences)
March 25	More than a “Goal!” What is the impact of movement and gross-motor coordination on learning? How does Shipley’s athletic program support the middle schooler’s development?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● MS Service Day: March 20 ● PD - Early Dismissal: March 20 ● Spring Break - No School: March 27 - April 3 ● Classes resume on April 6 ● Tentative Overnight Trip Gr. 7 & 8 on April 8 - 9
April 29	Let’s break bread and enjoy open conversation! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● What worries you? ● What do you wish to see next year? ● Share a story of great joy this year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Musical Tech. Rehearsal: April 13 - 17 ● Musical: April 17, 18, and 19 ● PD - Early Dismissal: April 17 ● Spring Fling, Gator Games, and Alumni Weekend: May 1 ● MS Arts and World Languages Festival: May 5 ● MS Book Fair: May 6, 7, and 8 <p>Looking Ahead to May and June:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PD - Early Dismissal: May 8 ● MS Spring Concert 1: May 14 ● MS Spring Concert 2: May 21 ● Gr. 8 Awards Ceremony: May 22 ● Memorial Day - No School: May 25 ● Last Day of Academic Classes: May 28 ● Capstone Projects and Generations Museum: June 5 ● Gr. 8 Closing Exercises Rehearsal: June 8 ● Gr. 6 to Medieval Times: June 8 ● Gr 7 Rafting at Jim Thorpe: June

		<p>8</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gr. 7 to Hershey Park: June 8● Gr. 6 and 7: Last Day of School Half Day on June 9● Gr. 8 Closing Ceremony on June 9 at 1:30 PM
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