

5th Grade Parent Orientation

Our Team	Notes / Questions
• Mrs. Register – ELA • Mr. Gilbert – Social Studies • Mrs. Lawent – Math • Mrs. Boznos – Science • Ms. McGuinn – 5th Grade Social Studies / 6th Grade ELA Student Teacher • We work as a team — your child's homeroom does not limit who can help.	
What Makes Middle School Different? • Students switch classes and work with different teachers. • Students are expected to develop more independence. • Science and social studies have dedicated class periods.	
The Middle School Schedule • Core classes: ELA, Math, Science, and Social Studies. • Studios: Art, Theatre, FACS, and Makerspace — one per quarter. • Music: Band or Orchestra. • Library: about twice a month or as needed. • Flex: smaller groups for homework, organization, Second Step/SEL, and other needs. • Passing periods are short; students should prioritize getting to class on time. • Friday has a different schedule with Workshop/Intramurals/Music.	
Organization • Red folder travels to each class and stores paper materials by subject. • Assignment notebook is filled out daily during Flex. • Parents sign the assignment notebook to promote communication. • Students are encouraged to use planned locker times to reduce extra trips. • Locks are new for many students — we know and will support them!	
Homework • Homework should be student-created work and reflect academic honesty. • Using class time wisely helps limit homework; ELA and Math may require more work outside class. • Students may receive feedback and opportunities to revise. • We will discuss expectations for missing and late assignments. • Students will need to learn to balance academics with activities and responsibilities.	
Assessments & Retakes • Assessments may include tests, projects, and book club conversations. • Feedback and revision are part of the learning process. • Families should monitor Infinite Campus for scores. • Reteaches/retakes are at teacher discretion; scores of 1 or 2 are encouraged to be revisited. • Students are responsible for initiating the process and confirming retake times in advance.	

Chromebooks • Chromebooks will stay in the classroom this year. • This supports appropriate use and helps reduce damage and repair/loaner costs. • Devices are organized by class number. • A survey will be sent home about technology access. • Email usernames and passwords should be written in the planner.	Notes / Questions
Classroom Expectations • Be respectful — toward teachers, peers, and property. • Be responsible — come prepared and complete work on time. • Be safe — use materials appropriately and move safely. • Be engaged — participate and listen attentively. • Work collaboratively — share ideas, listen respectfully, and do your part.	
Communication & Other Topics • Absences: use PikMyKid and communicate with the team. • Academic question: contact the specific teacher. • Logistics/team question: contact the whole team. • Administrative question: Carmen Bergmann or Jon Haws. • Social struggles: teachers, Haws/Tanaka, or the Wildcat Hotline Report. • Fidgets are used at teacher discretion. • Parent-teacher conferences and teacher email communication will be discussed.	
Outdoor Education • 5th Grade attends in the spring. • The trip is 3 days and 2 nights at East Bay Camp in Hudson, IL. • Students stay in cabins and participate in outdoor learning and team-building. • The experience focuses on independence, cooperation, problem-solving, and outdoor learning. • A separate parent information meeting will be held about one month before the trip. • More details will be shared later this year.	