

# Middle School Parent Orientation



# Middle School Team

Mr John Worrell ELA & Social Studies ([john.worrell@fcps.org](mailto:john.worrell@fcps.org))

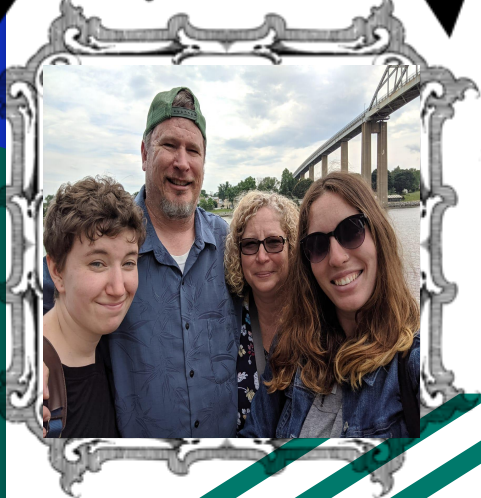
Ms. TamMara Peer, Math & Science ([tammara.peer@fcps.org](mailto:tammara.peer@fcps.org))

Ms. Sandy Bostick, Instructional Assistant ([sandra.bostick@fcps.org](mailto:sandra.bostick@fcps.org))

Ms. Stacy Birckner, Special Education ([stacy.birckner@fcps.org](mailto:stacy.birckner@fcps.org))

# All About ME

Add your picture here



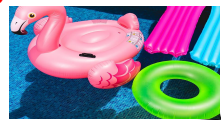
Favorite subject  
*Science...hmm  
...math...uhm  
...history...*

My name is:  
*Tamara Peer*



*I love* →

Something I love to do is...  
*Read a good book while floating on the waves*



Something I love about school is...  
→ ☺ →  
...that I'm always learning something new!

A place I love to be is...  
*The beach!!!*



# All About ME

Add your picture here



Favorite subject  
**Social Studies and Music!**

My name is:  
**John Worrell**



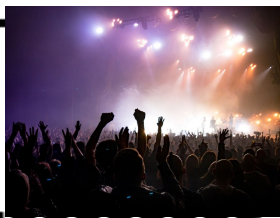
I love →

Something I love to do is...  
**Work on home improvement projects and write music**

Something I love about school is...  
Fostering a community full of unique students!



A place I love to be is...  
**Any concert!**



# All About ME

Add your picture here




Favorite subject  
**MATH AND ART**

My name is:  
**Sandy Bostick**



love →

Something I love to do is...  
**Sit on my deck reading a good book.**

Something I love about school is...  
 →  
**Watching all the students smiling faces and excitement as they walk through the door every morning.**

A place I love to be is...  
**Playing with my grand babies in the backyard**



# All About ME

Add your picture here



Favorite  
subject

Science  
and Art

My name is:

Stacy Birckner



love →

Something I love to do is...

**I love working in my  
garden. I also enjoy arts  
and crafts.**

Something I love  
about school is...



***I love helping the  
students learn, grow, and  
find their special talents  
and strengths.***

A place I love to be is...



# Montessori Philosophy



- Aim of Montessori education is to foster competent, responsible, adaptive citizens who are lifelong learners and problem solvers
- Learning occurs in an inquisitive, cooperative, and nurturing atmosphere. Students increase their own knowledge through self- and teacher-initiated experiences.
- The physical, emotional, social, aesthetic, spiritual, and cognitive needs and interests are inseparable and equally important.
- Learning takes place through the senses. Students learn through manipulation of materials and by interacting with others. These meaningful experiences are precursors to the abstract understanding of ideas.
- Respect for oneself, others, the environment and life is necessary to develop a caring attitude toward all people and the planet.

# Components of a Montessori Adolescent Program informed by current research

- multi-aged groupings of 12-15 year-olds
- large blocks of uninterrupted learning time
- peer and cross-age teaching
- trans-disciplinary themes
- long-term cooperative learning projects
- a strong sense of community and social interaction with peers
- meaningful and challenging work
- activities for self-expression, self-knowledge, and self-assessment
- activities that value all nine intelligences and a variety of learning styles
- activities to foster interdependence
- school and community service projects
- activities that allow work on and with the land





# Students are expected to:

- Schedule time for their work and use class time efficiently
- Review lessons and readings
- Keep up with their planner & work graph
- Participate in lessons and class activities
- Collaborate with their assigned groups for group projects
- Submit or review assigned work according to guidelines
- Curate work and create portfolios
- Come to school prepared to learn
- Per FCPS Policy, come to school dressed appropriately



# Parents are invited to:

- Maintain daily conversations about work progress
- Review their child's work graph each week and sign
- Volunteer as chaperone for field trips (must complete training)
- Help their child to pack their own lunch and snacks
- Assist with perspective-taking about conflicts and coaching about proactive problem-solving
- Celebrate accomplishments and help their child keep a positive outlook!



## Middle School Teachers will:

- Provide cycle guidelines to students at the beginning of each cycle (six-week period)
- Give rigorous lessons and learning opportunities
- Review assignments due
- Regard your children with respect and care
- Answer student or parent emails within 48 hours (does not include weekends)

# Middle School Program

## **Math:**

- Students will receive math work based on their level that is designed to help them scaffold and build a progressively higher understanding of mathematics.

## **Language:**

- Students will receive lessons and language work on their study guides. Vocabulary study, literary analysis, reading, and writing work will be assigned. Students will also be asked to participate in discussions.

## **Natural World:**

- Students will receive science lessons and assignments on their study guides. They will have individual and small group assignments, some of which will lead to presentations to the larger group.

## **Social World:**

- Students will receive lessons and social studies work on their study guides. They will have individual and small group assignments, some of which will lead to presentations to the larger group.

# Middle School Program, continued

## **Health & Wellbeing:**

- Students will receive lessons and have weekly time to do personal reflection activities to enhance their social-emotional growth and their understanding of themselves as integral parts of their community.

## **Project Work:**

- Students will be involved in individual and group projects as assigned in their study guides. They will follow a normal rhythm of project work with readings, research, and discussion groups.

## **Practical Life:**

- Middle School students are encouraged to be active participants in their classroom. This includes activities like cooking, cleaning, and running a business. Also included will be community service work. Students will be expected to keep up with all work.

## **Immersion Weeks:**

- During this time, electives, workshops, personal projects, or community service projects may be offered. Some of these will be designed by the students themselves, and some will be curricular areas not covered in the traditional cycles, such as health or personal finance.

# Absences

**Lawful Absence** - Students shall be considered lawfully absent when absent from instruction with proper documentation approved by the principal/designee.

**Unlawful Absence** - Students shall be considered unlawfully absent when absent from instruction without submitting an absence note to the principal/designee.

# Grading

Grading follows FCPS regulation 500-05. Students will receive letter grades.

The purpose of grades is to provide feedback to students, parents, and educators about student performance and achievement in school courses of study. Grades (letter or number) are assigned during the report card term for assignments, projects, quizzes, and tests. They are also assigned at the end of the report card term as a formal grade on the report card to represent achievement for the entire marking term.

90-100 A   80-89 B   70-79 C   60-69 D   0-59 F

Grades will be found online in Schoology.



# CYCLE 0: ORIENTATION

	20. Revise & Polish	10. List glued in WNB	12. Lesson: Timeline of Light		
	19. Draft Apprentice Sentence				
	18. Analyze Apprentice Sentence	9. Reading/Writing Strategies	11. Share Rubric		
7. Lesson: Hero's Journey	17. Lesson: Apprentice Sentences		10. Rubric for Presentations		
	16. Polish and Publish	8. Lesson: Read/Write Strategies 2	9. Presentation: Group Work		
	15. Edit partner's draft				
6. Three activities: A)	14. Edit own draft	7. Issues Web	8. Lesson: Effective Presentations		
B)	13. Lesson - Polishing				
□	11. Feedback to writing partner	6. Lesson: Finding Issues	7. Procedure Poster		
5. Lesson: 16 Habits of Mind	10. A/P/I/G at top of draft				
	9. Second Draft w/ revisions	5. Reading/Writing Strategies	6. Classroom Procedure		
	8. Two Revision Strategies				
4. Three activities: A)	7. Lesson: Audience/Purpose/Genre	4. Lesson: Read/Write Strategies 1	5. Organize Binder		
B)	6. Feedback to writing partner				
□	5. Revise: descriptive words	3. Make Vocabulary and Etymology Cards	4. Lesson: Group Work		☐
3. Find Cycle 0 PW spot	4. Draft Writing Piece				
	4. Three writing strategies in WNB		3. Name stick for Universe Jar		
2. Lesson: Personal Reflection	3. Three territory & seeds lists in WNB	2. Lesson: Vocab & Etymology			
	2. Lesson: WNB/Seeds/Territories		2. Lesson: Parts of the Agenda		
PERSONAL WORLD	WRITING	READING	SOCIAL WORLD	MATH	NATURAL WORLD
Week One I finished on time. I finished over the weekend. I did not finish, but I have a plan to complete within the next week.	Week Two I finished on time. I finished over the weekend. I did not finish, but I have a plan to complete within the next week.	Week Three I finished on time. I finished over the weekend. I did not finish, but I have a plan to complete within the next week.			
Parent: Student:	Parent: Student:	Parent: Student:			

## Each week, look for:

- Filled in or hashmarked squares
- Teacher initials in each box (means teacher has seen it)
- All work outlined in one color finished

Then go over your child's plan for any make up work and sign!

<p><b>Week One</b> I finished on time. I finished over the weekend. I did not finish, but I have a plan to complete within the next week.</p> <p>Parent: Student:</p>	<p><b>Week Two</b> I finished on time. I finished over the weekend. I did not finish, but I have a plan to complete within the next week.</p> <p>Parent: Student:</p>
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# Schedule



9:00- Morning meeting with the entire middle school

9:15-12:00 - Rotating groups have Math, English Language Arts, Natural World, and Social World lessons and activities.

12:00-1:00 - Lunch and Recess with the entire middle school

1:15 - 3:30 Rotating groups have Specials, Spanish, Learning Lab, Individual Work Time, and Health and Well Being

3:40 Dismissal

On Fridays, the schedule is similar but curtailed to allow for early release.

# Handbook

Let's talk field trips and volunteering.....



