

# Moving to Middle School



Dear Parents;

Congratulations! You are now the parent of a middle school student. It is with great excitement, that we, the Concord Middle School staff, welcome you and your family! In order to ensure your child a successful transition to the middle school, please read and discuss the information detailed below with your student. We know that it may seem like a big adjustment. However, your child's elementary teachers have prepared them well, and we will be there to support you and your child every step of the way.

## From 1 to 7

The single biggest difference between elementary and middle school is the number of teachers your child will see each day. The curriculum at this level requires each teacher to specialize in the subject of the class they are teaching. Therefore, students will rotate hourly to 7 different classes. This may or may not mean that they have 7 different teachers.

## Transitions

The schedule allows students 4 minutes between classes. When the bell rings ending a class, students are to: get any materials for their next hour, use the bathroom, get a drink/fill up water bottles, and be ready in their seat by the time the bell rings. Please discuss with your child the importance of properly utilizing this time.

## Organization

Since students switch for each subject, a good organization system is needed. We believe the best systems are ones created by the student. In the past, some students have used binders or accordion file folders, while others have a matching folder and notebook for each hour. It is important to not only discuss this system with your child, but also to periodically check in with your child to see if the system is working. Some students may just need a reminder to put papers in the proper place; others may need reminders to clean out folders periodically. However, if a system is not working do not hesitate to find a new system. This will be evident by multiple missing or late assignments.

## Contacting a Teacher

Open communication between home and school is required for a successful school year. Please contact the school if you have a concern regarding your child academically, socially or behaviorally. Additionally, if there have been any significant changes at home that may impact your child at school, we would love to hear from you. The best way to get ahold of any staff member is through their school email. All emails are [firstname.lastname@concordschools.net](mailto:firstname.lastname@concordschools.net).

You can also reach us by phone through the front office. Should you need to speak to a staff member in person, please email or call to schedule a meeting.

### **Lockers and Locker Rooms**

All middle school students will receive their own locker. Students are encouraged, but not required to purchase a combination lock for their locker. If purchasing a lock, please assist your child in learning how to unlock it. Combinations may also be shared with your child's first hour teacher. Please discuss with your child the importance of keeping a clean (no food overnight) and organized locker. Teachers will schedule times throughout the year to do a major cleaning of the locker, but daily tidying up will be important. We also encourage students to brainstorm a list of hygiene items they might want to keep in their locker "just in case."

Students will be required to dress for gym class this year. Please discuss with your child the importance of personal hygiene. We do ask that all students in gym bring home their clothes at least once a week to be laundered. Some students may be tempted to use scented spray. However, due to asthma and allergies this is not allowed.

### **PowerSchool (Your new best friend)**

PowerSchool is an online program that allows students and parents to see up-to-date grades and attendance in each class. It is available through any web browser or through the app store on PowerSchool Mobile. You will receive a letter in the fall with instructions on how to create an account. We strongly encourage both parents and students to check this weekly.

In addition to the percentage and letter grade, teachers may also leave a comment or code. These will give further information about the assignment. The meaning of each code can be found at the bottom of the screen. If at any time you have a question or concern, please do not hesitate to email the class teacher.

We are confident that with open communication, we can make the transition to middle school not only successful but also fun. Have a great summer, and we will see you in the fall!

Sincerely,

The Concord Middle School Staff

