

Welcome to St. Rose Middle School!

It is our goal to make the middle school an inviting, safe, supportive, and joyful community that promotes in-depth learning for your child. There are a few changes when going from fifth to sixth grade. We hope this explains some of them.

Homeroom Teachers

One change is the number of teachers your child will see every day. To ensure that your student has at least one advocate (if not many) who knows him or her very well, we like to use the homeroom teacher as your child's base. This teacher is there to support your child's academic and personal development. We want your child to feel that the homeroom teacher is the one to go to throughout the day if he or she has questions, concerns, or problems. The homeroom teacher will also be the one that all the teachers will go to if there are issues or concerns about your child. The homeroom teacher will then contact you if the need arises. The middle school teachers see 90 or more students a day, and the homeroom teacher will make sure that every child has a person in the building who is keeping tabs on the total well being of your child all day long. We all know that if children feel safe and cared for, great learning can begin! Please contact the homeroom teacher if you have any questions or concerns.

Birthdays

In middle school, the students celebrate birthdays during lunch. Treats are optional. Pop seems to be the treat of choice, but it is not the rule. Please be mindful of sending no peanut or nut products. We ask that if you choose to send a treat, you send enough for the **GRADE** since they sit together (27 students). Summer birthdays are usually celebrated on the half birthday.

Service Hours

Ten hours of service are required per year. More information will be given to your child during Religion class. There are three categories. The categories are community/church family/friends, and school.

Homework Partners

Each student will have a partner who will keep track of daily work and homework that the student missed while absent. If you leave the homeroom teacher a message or send an email **before lunch period**, the partner will deliver the homework to the office for pick up or to a sibling at the end of the day.

Test/Project Schedule

There is a calendar posted in the hallway on third floor that all the teachers use to mark the dates of tests. We do this so students have access to the dates, but more importantly, so that we try not to schedule too many test at the same time. Please remember that at mid-trimester and end of the trimester, this is sometimes unavoidable. It will start preparing the students for high school too.

Study Hall

Your child will have study hall every day. Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Graders have study hall together, and it might not be in the student's homeroom. This time is given for the students to get some of their work done or to read. It is also time for them to meet with teachers if they have questions or need help. Lastly, it is also the time when Student Council meets and tutoring occurs. It is not a time for socializing or playing with cell phones and games. (Cell phones are not allowed during school hours and will be taken away.) Please encourage your child to use this time wisely.

School Planners

One of the biggest changes is how many teachers each student will see every day. We strongly suggest that your child carries and uses his/her daily planner to every class. It is difficult to remember what homework is given from so many teachers.

Have your child tape their schedule and locker combination in the planner for these first few weeks.

Friday Folders

Sixth Grade will be using Friday Folders to bring any correspondence from the school office home. Middle School does not do weekly updates. There is no need to sign the folder. We only ask that the folder be sent back on Monday. If you are finding that you are not getting the information, please ask your child if it's in his/her backpack! Contact the homeroom teacher and we will make sure your child is putting it in the backpack, or we can work out a better system for your child.

We hope that this answers a few of the questions that you may have concerning middle school. Once again, we are very excited to start the new school year with your child. Communication is vital to a good year, please call or email if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Theresa Ray and Abby Misukanis

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651-646-3832

Please sign, date, and return the bottom portion of this letter by Friday, September 9th to indicate that you and your child have read and understand the information stated in this letter.

Student's Name _____ Date _____

Homeroom _____

Parent's Signature _____

