

Welcome To Middle School



The journey begins, or what have you done with my elementary student?

- Most changes since birth to age two
- Challenge authority
- Movement from structure to independence
- Testing/Questioning
- Differences not appreciated
- Trying to find their place
- Exciting times emotionally

What's New

- Lockers and lunch
- Block schedule
- Teaming (several different teachers)
- Exploratory Classes
- Coursework tends to be more difficult
- More homework (60 min. a night)
- Supports provided for success

What's New

- Expected to be more independent and responsible
- Challenger Learning Model
- ALEC
- Infinite Campus (IC)
- 2oAlert/Cheetah Chat
- iPads
- Security

Typical 6th grade day

- Start day at 7:55
- Core classes 7:55-11:05
- Lunch from 11:10-11:30
- 11:35-12:25 Literacy
- First exploratory 12:30-1:15
- Second exploratory 1:20-2:05
- Home room 2:10-2:55
- School day ends at 2:55
- After school activities???

6th Grade Opportunities

- High Trails (Oct. 1-4, Oct. 9-12) \$280.00
- Cross Country
- Wrestling
- Softball
- Student Council
- Variety Show
- Spelling Bee
- Geography Bee
- Brain Bowl
- Forensics
- 6th Grade Sports Clinics
- Shutter Bugs
- Math Olympiad
- Drama

Exploratory and Elective Classes

- All students take two exploratory classes each day
- Most 6th and 7th grade students are scheduled each quarter into new exploratory classes. There are just a few classes that are elected—Band and TAG.
- 8th grade students have many opportunities to choose electives, which are semester-long

Exploratory Classes for 6th and 7th Grade Students

- Music classes – Band, Vocal Music
- Drama class
- Art classes
- World Languages and Culture
- Physical Education (Required)
- Technology/STEM
- TAG

Schedule

Period	Semester 1		Semester 2	
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
6	Band			
7	Physical Education (PE)		TAG ALM	Technology

How can you help your child succeed

- Provide a place to study
- Help set academic goals
- Insist on daily attendance
- Attend parent programs
- Monitor grades with your student
- Use rewards and consequences to encourage change
- Encourage a healthy lifestyle

How you can help your child succeed cont.

- Help improve organizational skills
- Help with time management
- Make homework your child's responsibility
- Encourage involvement in school activities
- Encourage independent problem solving
- Provide academic support
- Know that failure is part of learning

Challenger Learning Model

We expect children to make mistakes. They are, after all, children.

- We believe in a teaching model of discipline
- Issues of safety, bullying, and harassment are handled to ensure a safe environment for all children
- We cannot fix what we do not know. Encourage your students to report problems to counseling or administration.

Social Skills we teach:

Challenger Education Model



Following Instructions

1. Look at the person.
2. Say "Okay."
3. Do what you've been asked right away.
4. Check back.

Getting the Teachers Attention

1. Look at the teacher.
2. Raise your hand. Stay calm.
3. Wait until the teacher says your name.
4. Ask your question.

Accepting “No” for an Answer

1. Look at the person.
2. Say “Okay.”
3. Stay calm.
4. If you disagree, ask later.

Disagreeing Appropriately

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice.
3. Say "I understand how you feel."
4. Tell why you feel differently.
5. Give a reason.
6. Listen to the other person.

Resisting Peer Pressure

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a calm voice.
3. Say clearly that you do not want to participate.
4. Suggest something else to do.
5. If necessary, continue to say "No."
6. Leave the situation.

Focus

1. Face in your space.
2. Eyes on work.
3. No talking.
4. Continue to work.
5. Ignore distractions.

Greeting Others

1. Look at the person.
2. Use a pleasant voice.
3. Say "Hi" or "Hello."

Building a Mutually Rewarding Partnership

We are on the same team with the same goals



Communication

- Starts with empowering your child to handle their business
- When issues arise, address those issues directly with the person him/herself
- If issues remain unresolved, grade level administrator is your next step

Communication Guidelines

- Your child should make every attempt to work out issues with teachers or peers on their own. If they need support, let us help.
- Assume good intent. Every one of our teachers is working hard for your children every day
- Be sure you know the whole story before you send an emotionally charged email to a teacher—your child's version is only part of the picture.

Our Commitment

Our partnership with Parents will be driven by:

- Mutual trust and respect
- Clear and timely communication
- Understanding and quickly resolving challenges
- Recognizing challenges as opportunities for growth
- Making every decision in the best interest of children

Important Dates

- Challenger Lift Off (Aug. 7)
- First Day of School, 6th grade only (Aug. 15)
- Back to School Night (Aug. 16)
- High Trails (Oct. 1-4 and Oct. 9-12)
- www.asd20.org/cms