

# Welcome to Middle School

Making the Transition from  
Elementary School to Middle School

School Name: Centerville Elem.

Date: February 22, 2011

"Education is not the answer to the question. Education is the means to the answer to all questions."

-- William Allin

# Differences Between Elementary and Middle School

- School Hours
- Teacher vs. Team of Teachers
- School Size
- Communication
- Promotion Requirements
- Specials vs. Connections
- Transition Between Classes
- Extra-Curricular Activities

# School Hours

- Middle Schools have a late start compared to the elementary and high schools. In most middle schools, students are considered late after 9:20 AM.
- Our feeder middle school is Shiloh Middle and the normal school hours are from 8:55 a.m.to 4:00.

# Teacher vs. Team of Teachers

- In Elementary School, students are assigned one teacher each year to work with students in the four core content areas: Reading/Language Arts/Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies.
- In Middle School, students are assigned to a team of teachers.
  - Two Man Team: 2 Contents Each
  - Three Man Team: 2 Contents Each
  - Four Man Team: 1 Content Each

# School Size

- Normally, elementary schools have fewer students than the middle school.  
*Shiloh Middle: approx. 1600 students*
- Our feeder middle school receives students from the following elementary schools:
  - Annistown Elementary
  - Anderson-Livsey Elementary
  - Centerville Elementary
  - Partee Elementary
  - Shiloh Elementary

# Communication

Elementary School	Middle School
Weekly Folders (Friday or Monday Folders)	Agenda Books
Weekly Newsletters	Monthly /Quarterly Newsletters
Room Parent/Flyers	Flyers
Progress Reports and Parent Portal (2 <sup>nd</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Grades)	Progress Reports and Parent Portal
Website / Calling System / Marquis	Website / Calling System / Marquis
Phone Calls and Conferences	Phone Calls and Conferences

# Promotion Requirements

- Middle School promotion requirements vary by grade level.
- Printed promotion documents are for the 2010-2011 school year
  - 5th grade – Students must meet standards on the Reading and Math CRCT and pass the Grade 5 Writing Assessment
  - 6th grade – Students must pass 4/5 classes each semester with 2/4 being language arts and math

# Specials vs. Connections

- In Elementary School, classes outside of the core content areas are called specials. These classes might include music, PE, art, and computer lab.
- In Middle School, classes outside of the core content areas are called connections. Middle school often has additional classes for students which might include Family and Consumer Science, PE, art, technology, foreign language, reading, math, band, orchestra, health, and chorus.

# Transition Between Classes

- Elementary school students transition by class. Classes walk together to their specials, to lunch, and to other school activities.
- Middle school students change classes according to a grade level bell schedule. There is often movement between classrooms as students transition from one subject area to another.

# Extra-Curricular Activities

Opportunities for extra-curricular activities increase from elementary school to middle school. Extra-curricular activities in middle school may include clubs within the school, dance team, and intramural sports.

# Similarities

- Differentiated Instruction
- Discipline
- Clinic
- Grading Scale
- Attendance Policies
- Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS)
- Parent Involvement Opportunities

# Differentiated Instruction

All children have different learning styles. One child may learn by doing while another child learns through hearing and/or seeing. Gwinnett County Public School teachers focus on the individual child and differentiate classroom instruction based on specific student needs.

# Discipline

- Gwinnett County Public Schools publishes a Student Discipline Handbook each school year.
- The GCPS Rules and Guidelines for discipline are clear and consistent across grade levels and schools.

# Clinic

- As in elementary school, middle schools have a clinic for students. The clinic is used to aid students when they get sick at school until a parent or guardian can be contacted to pick up the child.
- Students should be fever free for at least 24 hours before returning to school for the health and safety of other students.

# Attendance Policies

- Gwinnett County Public Schools follows a rigorous attendance policy at all grade levels.
- Attendance is taken daily and monitored. If a student has a series of unexcused absences, letters are sent home to parents.
- If your child misses school, a note must be sent to school explaining the absence.

# Grading Scale

- 90-100 = A
- 80-89 = B
- 74-79 = C
- 70-73 = D
- 0-69 = U

Note - U is not a passing grade in any class.

# Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS)

- Gwinnett County Public Schools has a set of objectives for each grade level and each content area called the AKS.
- The AKS is aligned with the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) for each grade level.
- The Gwinnett County AKS has additional objectives that provide additional rigor to the curriculum at each grade level.

# Parent Involvement Opportunities

- Parent Events / Workshops
- Media Center
- Mentoring Programs
- Extra-Curricular Activities
- Student Events

If nothing ever  
changed, there'd be no  
butterflies.

~Author Unknown

