

*Moving to*  
**MIDDLE SCHOOL**

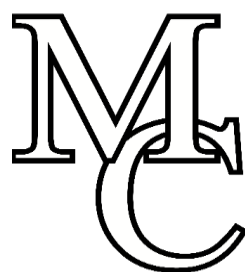


A GUIDEBOOK FOR STUDENTS

DAWNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL

SELDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

2023-2024



# MIDDLE COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Middle School is Different!

Middle School will mean many exciting and new experiences for you. Remember that everyone around you is experiencing all of the same things that you are!

Which of the following experiences will be new for you? Place a check mark in the box in front of each statement that represents a new experience for you.

- Go to school with a much larger group of classmates;
- Be part of a teaching team\*;
- Participate in physical education class every other day;
- Have several academic and special area teachers and a guidance counselor;
- Have an opportunity to participate in intramurals\* in 6<sup>th</sup> grade and in interscholastic sports in grades 7 and 8;
- Have the opportunity to play in the band, orchestra, or sing in the chorus;
- Have a hall locker and a small locker for physical education class;
- Use an agenda book/organizer\*;
- Be required to keep a notebook for many different subjects;
- Be responsible for promptly making up work that you may miss when you are absent from school or from a particular class;
- Have four minutes to change classrooms;
- Have the opportunity to join a club and get involved in student government, the school newspaper or yearbook;
- Have a schedule that includes some classes that stay the same and others that change each day.

\* See Glossary

*"If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you're determined to learn, no one can stop you"*  
- unknown

## Am I Ready for Middle School?

See how you rate! Answer the following questions about yourself. Try to be honest with yourself. Remember, you do not have to share your answers with anyone.

Put a **#1** in front of the sentence if it describes something that you **"HARDLY EVER DO."**

Put a **#2** in front of the sentence if it describes something that you do **"SOME OF THE TIME."**

Put a **#3** in front of the sentence if it describes something you do **"MOST OF THE TIME."**

- 
- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I get myself up in the morning.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I cooperate with others.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I eat breakfast in the morning.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I respect the rights of others.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I get myself dressed for school in plenty of time.  | <input type="checkbox"/> I accept the consequences of my actions.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I remember my books, lunch or lunch money & materials needed for the day.                 | <input type="checkbox"/> I take home my gym clothes for laundering every week.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I arrive at school on time.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I copy my homework assignments in my agenda book/organizer and prepare my books to take home with me. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I keep my desk and the area around clean.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I hang my coat and put away my books when I arrive home.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I keep my locker free from clutter.   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have regular study time at home to do my homework.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I remember to do my homework assignments and turn them in on time without being reminded. | <input type="checkbox"/> I do my homework without my parents reminding me.   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I complete my classroom assignments during the day.                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> I remember to do my jobs and chores at home.  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am careful not to disturb my friends while they are studying.                           | <input type="checkbox"/> I get myself to bed at my bedtime without being reminded.   |
- 

*So, how did you do? Add up the numbers to get your score.*

**My score:** \_\_\_\_\_

- 40 - 60**      **I'm ready**  
**20 - 39**      **I probably need to work a little harder.**  
**1 - 19**        **Help!!!**

*I need to work harder at* \_\_\_\_\_.

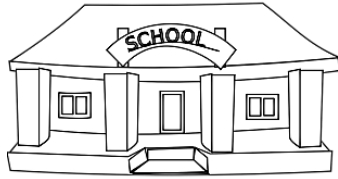
*"It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are." -E.E. Cummings*

# Getting It Together

## TIPS ON BEING A SUCCESSFUL STUDENT

### At School:

- Keep all your papers in a notebook. Use a book bag/backpack to carry all of your notebooks and textbooks back and forth from school to home.
- Use colored pocket folders or notebooks that have dividers with tabs to keep each of your subjects separated.
- Use a pencil holder to organize pencils, pens and rulers.
- Use your student agenda book/organizer to write down your assignments as they are given.



### At Your Locker:

- DO NOT share your locker or lock combination with anyone.
- Always lock your lock and spin the dial. Do not leave your lock closed but unlocked.
- Plan your trips to your locker. Go when you have a class that is close by, or when it's on your way to class. Do not try to go between every period.
- Clean out your locker once a week.
- Organize your locker. Put books in the same order as your schedule or line them up according to size so you can find them quickly. Put books that you have to take home in the top portion of your locker.
- When you have an organized plan for your locker, always put things back in the same place. It's a good habit to keep.

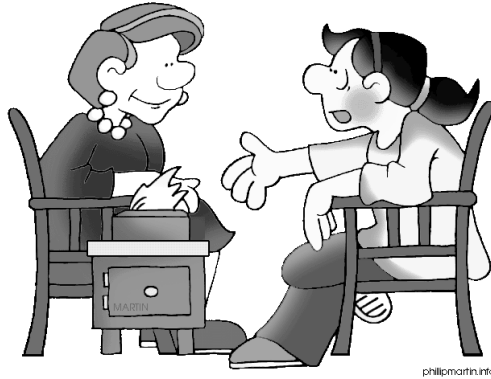
### At Home:

- Before studying, always have your supplies ready at your study spot; paper, pencils, pens, erasers and books.
- Set aside a regular time to study every night.
- Choose a quiet, well-lit spot - somewhere away from loud noises and the television.
- Make a habit of bringing your notebook and student agenda book/organizer home every night.
- When you finish with homework and studying, make sure your homework and books are organized for the next day. You will be ready to go in the morning and won't have to rush or be unprepared for school the following day.



*“Though no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending.” – Anonymous*

# Meet Your Guidance Counselor



Your **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** is available to talk to you about either school or personal matters. It is a good idea to stop by to see your guidance counselor when...

- You are having difficulty in any of your classes.
- You need help talking to one of your teachers.
- You need help making up your mind about something.
- You need assistance working on a problem with a friend or family member.
- Your school subjects are too easy or too hard.
- You are not sure where to find help for a serious problem.
- You need assistance explaining something to your parents.
- You would like to review your school record.
- You want to solve a problem with a classmate.
- You want to learn more about different kinds of careers.
- You want to know more about your own interests and abilities.
- You just need to talk to someone who understands.

*“Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don’t matter, and those who matter, don’t mind.” – Dr. Seuss*

## SIXTH GRADE "A" DAY / "B" DAY SAMPLE SCHEDULE

<u>Period</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Days</u>
01	Physical Education	A
01	Chorus/Band/Orchestra or General Music	B
02	English Language Arts	AB
03	English Language Arts	B
03	Math	A
04	Math	AB
05	Lunch	AB
06	Health	AB
06	FACS	AB
06	Art	AB
07	Science	AB
08	Social Studies	AB
09	Flex	AB

\*\*\* School days in middle school are either "A" days or "B" days. The first day of school will be an "A" day and you will follow your class schedule marked with an "A", the second day will be a "B" day. "A" days and "B" days will alternate each day.

\*\*\* The 1<sup>st</sup> semester covers the first half of the school year, from September to January, while the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester covers the second part of the school year from January to June.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Your middle school schedule offers many experiences that will challenge your interests and abilities. This schedule also includes certain programs that are required by the New York State Department of Education.

### Program of Study:

During the course of three years in middle school, students will complete study in the following areas:

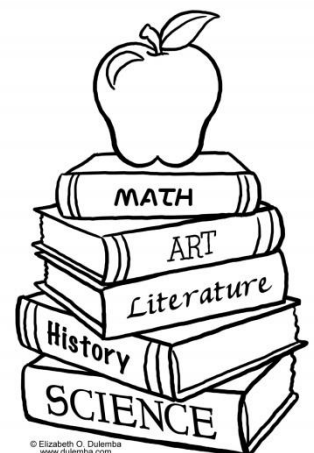
Art	Home and Careers	Science
English Language Arts	Math	Social Studies
World Languages	Music	Technology
English	Physical Education	
Health		

### Additional programs for some middle school students include:

Advisory	English as a New Language (ENL)
Band/Chorus/Orchestra	Academic Intervention Services
Reading	Academic Development Services

### Each middle school has a resource staff that includes:

Assistant Principals	Nurse	Social Worker
Guidance Counselors	School Psychologist	



# GLOSSARY OF MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCABULARY WORDS

**Advisory** - An opportunity for students to complete homework and receive assistance from staff.

**Common Time** - A block of time where teachers and students participate in planned classes or activities, such as band, orchestra, chorus, academic intervention services, academic development or advisory.

**Computer Lab** - Students will spend time in the computer lab during their subject areas. There are also times set aside for programs in career awareness and other special activities.

**Encore/Related Arts Areas** - Classes that may meet either on alternate days or daily on a quarterly/semester basis that may include Family and Consumer Science, Technology, Art, Health, Music and Physical Education.

**Guidance Counselor** - These staff members assist and guide students in making good choices about school, your feelings, your family and your future.

**Intramurals** - Sport activities held either before or after school under teacher supervision. A variety of sports are offered - all students may participate - you do not need to try out.

**Level/Wing** - An administrative office that is responsible for a specific group of students.

**Lockers** - Every student is assigned a hall locker and a small physical education locker. Each student will be given a lock with a combination to use for the school year. Students are reminded to keep this combination to themselves. Students must use the lock which is assigned to them. Never leave items on the locker room benches during your physical education classes - all items must be properly secured in your locker.

**Pass** - A note issued by school staff giving a student permission to be out of class.

**Pass Room** - "Positive Alternative for Student Success" a room set aside to which students may be temporarily assigned for infractions of school rules.

**Passing Time** - The time allotted for students to move between classes.

**Special Area / Encore** - Students explore the components of art, music, health, physical education, technology, home and careers and world languages.

**Student Agenda Book** - A calendar book which students will use to organize their academic assignments and homework as well as extra-curricular activities.

**Teaching Team (6<sup>th</sup> Grade Only)** - A group of academic teachers who teach the same group of students. A team consists of three to five academic teachers who have a common planning period which can be used to schedule parent conferences.

*"Vocabulary words are the building blocks of the internal learning structure. Vocabulary is also the tool to better define a problem, seek more accurate solutions, etc." - Ruby K. Payne*

# Rules for Student Behavior

## YOUR GUIDE FOR SUCCESS

Your attitude toward middle school will influence how you feel about learning. Students who have a positive attitude towards middle school will find it exciting and fun. Students with a positive attitude can be great role models for everyone. Unfortunately, some students do not have good attitudes. The behavior of these students creates problems for everyone and may require disciplinary action.

When you are at school, you are entitled to the same basic rights and responsibilities as anyone in a democratic society. This also means that you are expected to follow certain standards as well.

### **We expect you to:**

- Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times. This means treating your classmates, teachers and others with the same respect you would expect to receive.
- Apply yourself as a student to the best of your ability so you can fulfill your right to an education. This includes coming to class each day prepared and on time with your assignments completed.
- Accept the consequences of your actions.
- Speak and dress in a manner that shows a sense of pride in yourself and in your school.

### **You are entitled to:**

- Be treated with dignity and respect in everyday relationships.
- Be educated to the best of your ability.
- Attend school functions in a secure environment and to safely participate in intramural activities.
- Be assured of fair treatment in all school matters.



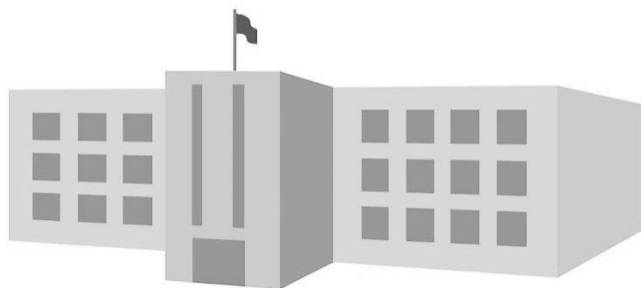
## **MIDDLE SCHOOL CLUBS**

*(this list may vary from year to year)*

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Art Club              | Science Club          |
| Chamber Orchestra     | Select Vocal Ensemble |
| Drama                 | Service Club          |
| FLL Robotics Club     | Spelling Bee          |
| Foreign Language Club | Student Government    |
| Jazz/Stage Band       | Technology Club       |
| Instrumental Chorus   | Yearbook Club         |
| Literary Magazine     | Yorker Club           |

*“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” – Nelson Mandela*





### DAWNWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal	Mr. Katchihtes
Assistant Principal - Wing 1	Mr. Bernardino
Assistant Principal - Wing 2	Ms. Diaz
Guidance Counselors	Ms. Fuentes Ms. Lindstadt Ms. Morgan
School Psychologist	Mrs. Dandrea
School Social Worker	Ms. Lohmann

### SELDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

Principal	Mr. Bennett
Assistant Principal - Red House	Ms. Houlihan
Assistant Principal - White House	Mr. Silkowitz
Guidance Counselors	Dr. Kaye Mr. Matvya Mr. Russo
School Psychologist	Ms. Varley
School Social Worker	Mrs. O'Leary