

Mount Vernon Middle School

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Mount Vernon, OH 43050

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Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Today, we met with your child's 5th grade class about attending Mount Vernon Middle School next year! This is an exciting time in your child's life and we want to help all students prepare for next year as a 6th grader. Hopefully, today answered some of your child's questions about the transition. This general informational packet consists of information about the school and details about our daily activities; much of this was also shared with your child today. We realize the transition from elementary to middle school is a big step in a child's life, not only for the child, but for parents too! We want to make this change as easy as possible and a positive experience for everyone.

Starting the afternoon of August 14, you will have the opportunity to view your child's schedule on ProgressBook through your parent or student account. Please log into your parent account now to make sure your password is current. The same parent account you use in 5th grade will transfer to middle school and is a great way to keep up with grades and assignments throughout the year. You may also pick up a schedule at **Parent's First Flight (Open House) for 6th Grade on August 16 from 6:00-7:30**. During this event, students can also practice their locker combination, meet teachers, and see classrooms.

In August, you will also be able to submit yearly paperwork, such as the Computer Use Agreement and Emergency Medical Form (both are required to receive a chromebook), through the Parent Portal as well as any other required beginning of the year paperwork. It's very important you follow the directions from the notifications and you complete this paperwork before school starts!

On the first day of school, August 17, your child will participate in Jacket's First Flight. On this day, 6th grade students are the only students in the building with all middle school staff available to help. It will be a regular school day, bussing will run this day, and you will bring all school supplies, but it will also serve as an orientation day.

Throughout the school year, feel free to contact your child's teachers by email or phone to keep communication open to ensure a successful year! We are looking forward to meeting and working with you and your child! Please contact us if you have questions about your child attending Mount Vernon Middle School next year.

Sincerely,

Robin Elliott
MVMS Assistant Principal

LeeAnne Jurkowitz
MVMS School Counselor, Class of 2030

More about your schedule...

There are many new words in middle school when it comes to reading your schedule. Some of them may include:

Period: Our day is made up of eight class periods – one period is for lunch, two are for Unified Arts (specials or electives), four are for your core classes, and one period is for Flex (your teachers will explain Flex to you once the year starts).

RTI Classes: Some students will have two periods of math or ELA. One is traditional math class and the second is to help better understand either subject. If you have RTI, you will only have RTI for one of the subjects.

Full-Year Classes: You will take the following year-long classes, where you will be mixed in with all the 6th graders in different periods. These classes include: science, math, language arts, and social studies.

Quarters and Semesters: A quarter class is a class that lasts for only one 9-weeks (or one quarter). Most students will have quarter Unified Arts classes like Art, Work and Family Life, STEM, Foreign Language Exploration, Music, and Wellness. A Semester is a half a year course (Physical Education).

Locker: Your locker will be located in one of the 6th grade hallways and will be Tan in color. Your locker number and locker combination will be printed on your schedule. PLEASE practice a combination lock over the summer if you choose to use your locker to get the feel for how a lock works. It is one of the most difficult transitions for 5th grade students but it doesn't have to be! Lockers are not required to be used by students and you can carry a backpack if needed. Your teachers will also help you with your locker if you need help.

Classroom Locations: Classrooms that start with a 200 are located upstairs. Classrooms that start with a 100 are located on the first floor. Most of your classes will be in two hallways that are in one wing of the building.

You will get a copy of our **bell schedule** and a **Chromebook** when school starts in August. The bell schedule will tell you what times the classes change, but your teachers will dismiss you at the end of the period. This schedule will also have class information for 2-hour delays and other alternative schedules. You will use your chromebook (Google Classroom) for many classroom assignments, but not all. You will have a student **email address** as well but you may only communicate with teachers.

LUNCH!

When you go to the commons, you will get in line to buy your lunch or take a seat at a table if you packed. You may pack or buy your lunch each day. We do not take a lunch count each morning. All 6th grade students eat lunch at the same time in the commons.

Parents can write a check/provide cash to the school to give to the lunch staff for credit on a student's account or add funds online at PayForIt - just like in elementary school. If you pay with cash, change will not be given, rather it will be put towards credit on your account for future use.

Each time you buy your lunch, you will be asked to enter your student number. This number will be printed on your schedule as well and is the same number you've used in the past to get lunch.

The lunch schedule changes each day, so be sure to check the latest monthly calendar in the office or online, it sometimes changes frequently! A student lunch consists of the following items: main dish, side of vegetable, side of fruit, and milk. Cold sack lunches are also available each day. Tuesdays we usually have Dominos Pizza as a main dish option! Students may also occasionally purchase salads or sandwiches for a lunch well. There may also be additional side items (such as chips and drinks), for an additional fee, and there are overall more items to choose from at the middle school.



What you need to know for the first day of school...

Jacket's First Flight is the first day of school! 6th grade students are the only students in the building with all middle school staff to help. It will be a regular school day, bussing will run this day, and you will bring all school supplies, but it will also serve as an orientation day. When you arrive in the morning you will get important information for the day!

We have three "teams" of teachers in 6th grade. Each has four core teachers (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies) and each team has a team name. You will do many activities within your team throughout the year, including the first day.

Have a printed copy of your schedule! Either pick it up at Open House or print it online through ProgressBook before school starts, or you can pick it up on the first day of school when you arrive.

If you ride a bus, your bus schedule will be available to you on the OneView Parent Portal over the summer. If you have questions, please call the Bus Garage at 740.393.5995. Make sure you are aware of your bus information so you are ready to go!

Some items you may need for the first day of school are general school supplies (see the attached supply list at the end of this packet) and money if you are buying lunch.

Don't forget to bring a smile and positive attitude with you as well! It is going to be a great year! Welcome! 😊

What makes a middle school a middle school?

Here are some ways a middle school may be different from an elementary school or junior high...

- You wake up early and school starts at 7:40
- You go home early and school ends at 2:36.
- You have a locker and a lock combination - if you choose to use it.
- We have three “teams” of core teachers in 6th grade which each have four teachers (ELA, Math, Science and Social Studies). You will be assigned to one team of teachers.
- Each student has two Unified Arts class periods - This could include Choir, Band, Orchestra, RTI, Art, Work and Family Life, Foreign Language Exploration, STEM, Music, and Wellness. You can pick if you'd like Choir, Band and Orchestra, however the rest are assigned.
- We have a few more choices at lunch.
- We switch classes each period and go see a different teacher.
- You will use your locker to store your coat, supplies and personal items instead of your desk or cubby.
- You take more personal responsibility and are responsible for keeping track of more things during the day and with your work.
- We use PBIS Rewards to give points when students have good behavior to be recognized! Each student will have their own account. You can ‘buy’ things from our school store with your points.
- We have dances! A couple of times a year, different student groups sponsor a school-wide dance for all grades.
- You can play school sports starting in 7th grade.

Advice for New Students...

- Stay organized and turn in your homework on time.
- Don't wait until the last minute to start projects.
- Get up early enough before school to allow time to get ready and have a few extra minutes so you are not rushed. This will put you in a better mood!
- Go to bed early and eat a nutritious breakfast every morning!
- Write down assignments or keep track of assignments in Google Classroom when they are assigned to you so you don't forget. Make sure you note all the details of the assignment!
- Take good notes in class! Plan to be successful!
- If you come in after the morning tardy bell, please report to the office for a tardy slip and check in with the office.
- Ask questions if you don't understand something! Be an advocate for yourself and let us know if you need something!
- The second person to swing, swear, or talk back gets to see the principal too! Think before you act!
- Be on time for class and come to school every day! Attendance issues can lead to legal issues and we don't want that for any of our students. If you are not here, you are not learning!
- Follow the dress code! Check out the school handbook online for more information.

