

# Oak Hill Incoming Grade 6 Class of 2022

- Welcome!
- Meet Staff & Faculty
- Provide an overview of the 6<sup>th</sup> grade experience



# Oak Hill

GRADE  
6

GRADE  
7

GRADE  
8

MULTI  
GRADE





# Staff Introductions

Let us introduce ourselves!

Thank you for coming this evening!

# Current PTO Presidents

Lisa Halm

Amy Less

Matt Wilson

## ➤ Parent involvement is welcomed:

- Community-building events/activities
- Fundraising efforts

# Oak Hill Administrative Team

- John Harutunian, Principal
- Amy Geer, Assistant Principal of Student Services
- Dr. Jamin Bercaw, Assistant Principal
- Ken Yee, Assistant Principal

## ➤ Parent involvement is welcomed:

- Community-building events/activities
- Fundraising efforts



# OH Snapshot in 14-15

Welcoming, student-centered, committed to student achievement & development:

## 635 students:

- Grade 6—5 Teams - 209
- Grade 7—3 Teams - 211
- Grade 8—2 Teams - 215

# Diverse Student Body



- 34% racially/ethnically diverse
- 38% speak a language at home other than English
- 31 different languages spoken at home

# OH Snapshot



*Range of learning needs exist:*

All students included, strive to support every child's needs

*Core Values:*

*Excellence, Innovation, Respect, & Responsibility*

*School Structure:* principal, 2 assistant principals, 1 assistant principal for student services, team teachers, multi-team teachers, special education, guidance



# Goals for 15-16:



## Building a Supportive School Climate

- *Develop greater consistency for expected behavior and consequences.*
- *Engage students in conversations and experiences to address concepts such as intent v. impact, micro aggressions, and the impact of words toward others, in groups and out groups*
- *Enhance parent communication*

# Goals for 15-16:



## Instructional focus:

1. Refine consistency of instructional practices across teams including "make student thinking visible", questioning techniques, and student talk to increase student engagement.
2. *Enhance system for identifying and addressing needs of students who are struggling; develop effective supports*
  1. General education supports:
    - Literacy Lab
    - Student Study Team: teachers assisting teachers



## Social-Emotional Focus:

1. Enhance Community block to continue to foster 'student connectedness' w/at least 1 adult; reinforce Anti-bullying practices
  2. Continue to integrate effective classroom practices that help reduce student anxiety.
  3. Enhance opportunities for teaching students about strategies for stress management, relaxation and mindfulness.
- 
1. Continue to focus on ensuring the safety and security for all students in more unstructured environments like the cafeteria, hallways and before/after school times.



# Getting to Middle School



Oak Hill Middle School

# GETTING TO SCHOOL

## More Independence, More Choices

- Walk or Bike - alone or with friend
- Yellow Bus
- MBTA Bus #52
- Carpool
- Family rides



# School Hours

- **Start time: be in by 7:45 for 8:00**
- Tuesday is still early release: 1:45 p.m.
- **Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri: 2:30 p.m. release**
- Some after-school activities/clubs, but never on Tuesday
- **6<sup>th</sup> graders are not eligible for many of the teams (MIAA regulations). Exceptions: cross-country (fall) and track (spring)**



# Walking/Biking hints

- Start on Day 1
- Crosswalk FULL LIGHT at corner of Parker and Wheeler, safest spot to cross from the West
- Kids CAN ride bikes on sidewalks in Newton
- The lockers are large enough to hold helmets
- Several bike racks available; bring a lock

# Bus #52 hints

- Start on Day 1
- TEXT and Smart Phone services for updates or "bus finders" MBTA.com (cool!)
- Student Charlie Card available in office
- Fares offered at a reduced rate for students
- Monthly pass from Administration Building  
(at 100 Walnut Street)

# If you do drive, PLEASE

- Consider meeting your child /dropping your child one block away
- Less congestion down the street near baseball fields
- Or, use the **BLUE ZONES** in front of school for a one-minute pick-up/drop-off process; must stay in car
- No stopping allowed in YELLOW zones - school start and end times.



# LUNCH

- \$3.25/lunch, \$4.25/premium lunch, \$2.00/breakfast
- Newton Schools pre-paid card or cash
- Lunch line (can be long, esp. in September)
- No assigned seating, but no wandering
- Bringing your own is not "un-cool", because it avoids the lines and lunch is 25 min.
- Healthy snacks, milk, juice available for purchase

# Middle School Schedule



## ➤ Six day rotating schedule:

- Team classes meet daily (sample in packet)

WL - 4X/cycle

FAA- 2X (PE, Health, Tech Eng., Music, Drama, Art)

- *During Extension:* music ensembles, special education strategy & support classes, all other students in classrooms for independent reading, teacher support, homework help

# World Language in 6<sup>th</sup>

- Spanish, French, Chinese and Latin
- Meets 4X/every 6 days
- 3-year program
- Focus on interpersonal communication and deepening understanding of culture
- In 9<sup>th</sup> grade students are ready for Level 2
- Extra help is provided during extension.



# Middle School Schedule

## Student Schedule: Oak Hill Middle School

S [Redacted] Grade: 6 Homeroom: 251-3 Counselor: Ames, Jennifer

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	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6
P1	A (8:20 am-8:53 am) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251	G (8:30 am-9:03 am) Spanish 6-5 FYT Modica, J 105Mod	F (8:00 am-8:33 am) Health & Wellness 6-5 S1 Gibson, C 10  Art 6-6 S2 Trunk, S 146	D (8:30 am-9:03 am) Science 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	C (8:00 am-8:33 am) Math 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	B (8:30 am-9:03 am) English 6-6 FYT Simpson, E 251
P2	B (8:56 am-9:45 am) English 6-4 FYT Simpson, E 251	A (8:56 am-9:45 am) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251	G (8:56 am-9:45 am) Physical Education 6-6 FYT Drinan, K 116	F (8:56 am-9:45 am) Drama 6-1 S1 Price, R 108  Tech/Engineering 6-6 S2 French, J 199	D (8:56 am-9:45 am) Science 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249	C (8:56 am-9:45 am) Math 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249
P3	C (9:46 am-10:37 am) Math 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249	B (9:46 am-10:37 am) English 6-5 FYT Simpson, E 251	A (9:46 am-10:37 am) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251	D (9:46 am-10:37 am) Spanish 6-5 FYT Modica, J 105Mod	F (9:46 am-10:37 am) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214	D (9:46 am-10:37 am) Science 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249
P4	D (10:40 am-11:29 am) Science 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249	C (10:40 am-11:29 am) Math 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	B (10:40 am-11:29 am) English 6-5 FYT Simpson, E 251	A (10:40 am-11:29 am) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251	G (10:40 am-11:29 am) Spanish 6-4 FYT Modica, J 105Mod	F (10:40 am-11:29 am) Health & Wellness 6-5 S1 Gibson, C 10  Art 6-6 S2 Trunk, S 146
Extension	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)	E1 (11:31 am-11:56 am)
	← LUNCH →					
P5	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Team Extension 6D1-6 FYT Simpson, E 251	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Team Extension 6D2-6 FYT Simpson, E 251	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Team Extension 6D4-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Team Extension 6D5-6 FYT Simpson, E / Finagold, S 251	E2 (11:56 am-12:21 pm) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214
	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Team Extension 6D1-6 FYT Simpson, E 251	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Team Extension 6D2-6 FYT Simpson, E 251	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Team Extension 6D4-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Team Extension 6D5-6 FYT Simpson, E / Finagold, S 251	E3 (12:21 pm-12:46 pm) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214
P6	F (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) Drama 6-1 S1 Price, R 108  Tech/Engineering 6-6 S2 French, J 199	D (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) Science 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	C (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) Math 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	B (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) English 6-5 FYT Simpson, E 251	A (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251	G (12:49 pm-1:38 pm) Physical Education 6-6 FYT Drinan, K 116
	G (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) Spanish 6-5 FYT Modica, J 105Mod	F (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) Literacy Lab 6-2 FYT Herman Davis, B 214	D (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) Science 6-6 FYT Finagold, S 249	C (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) Math 6-4 FYT Finagold, S 249	B (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) English 6-5 FYT Simpson, E 251	A (1:41 pm-2:30 pm) History/Social Sci 6-3 FYT Simpson, E 251

# Middle Schoolers

- 'Who are middle schoolers?'
- What parents can do to ease the transition to middle school?



# Transitioning to Middle School



## ➤ For students:

- 4-8 weeks for a student to really transition
- Increased independence is fostered, supported & expected
  - ❖ **Time management:** assignment notebooks, class transitions/switching; 3 min. passing, deadlines for projects/assignments, first class starts promptly at 8:00 a.m.; must be on time - aim for 7:30-7:45
  - ❖ **Organizational management:** backpacks, lockers, website for homework assignments



# Transitioning to Middle School



## For Parents/Guardians:

- Parent involvement might feel a little different in middle school.
- Students benefit from knowing you are involved, attend school functions, ask about learning
- Email is the best way to communicate with teachers.

# Transitioning to Middle School



## Know that team teachers:

- Have 45+/- students & double the amount of parents,
- They don't see students at the end of the day and thus it is challenging to convey messages.
- Use teacher websites to post homework. This should be in addition to a student's assignment notebook.

# General Information



## For Parents/Guardians:

- **Forgotten** homework, supplies, instruments, lunches: drop off on table in front of office, tape child's name to object. Office will call students at the beginning of Extension.
- **Guidance** serves as a contact & liaison for most issues; when in doubt who to contact, call the guidance counselor.



# General Information



## Progress Reporting:

- **Conferences** 1x/year for 15 min. with both teachers
- **Report cards** 3x/yr online only.; mid-term progress reports 1st term & as needed, **Grades:** A-F; points,  $\checkmark$ 's on homework or some assignments.

# Social Emotional Learning

- Variety of programs that are conducted across all three grades.
- Program work takes place in many venues across the school including Health and Wellness, Guidance, Community block (30 minute weekly advisory).
- Please refer to the blue handout that helps summarize this work.

# English Language Learner Program

Currently 33 ELL Students at different proficiency levels.  
2 full-time ELL teachers, one teaching assistant and a .2 ELL Liaison

(Ms. Izrina, Ms. Myers, Ms. Starobinets & Ms. Brooks)

## Beginner's Program:

- ◆ Sheltered Instruction in English, Social Studies, Science
- ◆ ELLS join grade-level peers for Math (with in-class support), FAAs

## Intermediate/Advanced Students Program:

- ◆ Continued enrollment in ELL English & Social Studies
- ◆ Move into mainstream Science
- ◆ Some ELLs transition to mainstream English and/or Social Studies



# METCO Program

- Currently 26 students in our OH's program.
- Newton's METCO program is the largest in the state, with over four hundred students.
- METCO Counselor, Ms. Arzola, is scheduled at Oak Hill half time (3 out of 6 days).

# Student Services



Amy Geer, Assistant Principal of Student Services

Guidance Team in 15-16

Ariel Bernstein, Gr. 6

Katy Oliver, Gr. 7

Jennifer Ames, Gr. 8

Amanda Brooks, Gr. 6-8

Alyssa Arzola, METCO Counselor

School Psychologist

Dr. Jannon McKenna

# Student Services



- OH is an inclusive school;
- We strive to meet needs of every student.
- We aim to address a range of needs by putting in appropriate supports as needed.

All Students: Guidance, General Education

Some Students: Special Education & 504's



# Student Services



## Some Students: Special Education & 504's

### Special Education - OH's services/programs

- Students are grouped to meet their IEP needs.
- All teams are inclusive with a range of learning abilities.
- Teams are balanced as much as possible .

# Guidance Team

Ms. Ariel Bernstein will be the same guidance counselor for gr. 6-8.

- Meets with students individually, in groups & mediates between students
- Assists with social, emotional, academic & scheduling issues
- Supports parents and teachers
- Meets regularly w/teacher teams to share & support students
- Serves as liaison between home and school
- Facilitates IEP and 504 meetings
- Provides referrals to community resources (e.g. tutoring, outside agencies, therapists, etc.) AND consultation with outside resources.
- Assists with transitions (incoming 5th, to 9th grade/South)

# Placement Process



- *Gather information from feeder schools: 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, special education teams, parents*
- *Our primary goal is to create balanced heterogeneous classes*
- *Process: Counselors, asst. principals, & special education teachers group students by program, balance three feeder schools, students' strengths and needs. More random than elementary school.*



# Placement Process

Teams: *Similarities?* *Differences?*

## ❖ *Similarities:*

- *curricular content is same*
- *geared towards building classroom communities*
- *provide organizational & time management strategies*
- *all teams use technology - tool for teaching & learning*
- *overall, students experience success and enjoy their learning*
- *all teacher teams work as partners*

## ❖ *Differences:*

- 📖 *teaching is a craft thus teachers bring their personalities, skills, interests to their teaching and interactions w/students,*
- 📖 *all integrate tech tools; one team has Smart Boards,*
- 📖 *one team has a combined space; teachers co-teach*



# Music and Arts Programs

- Band Program: Led by Mr. Miller
- Choir Program: Led by Mr. Cutler  
[\(Click here!\)](#)
- Drama Program: Led by Rebecca Price  
[\(Click here!\)](#)



# During School Clubs & After School EEE & Athletics

- During school activities include:

[Click here!](#)

- After school EEE (Excellence, Enrichment, Explore)

[\(Click here!\)](#)

- Athletics:

[\(Click here!\)](#)





*'A Day in the Life  
of a  
Sixth Grader at Oak Hill'*