

# WELCOME TO E.T. BOOTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

2020 Rising  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Parent Night

# WHO ARE WE?

TODD SHARROCK, PRINCIPAL

## FOUR ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS:

GORDON SWORDSMA (6<sup>TH</sup>)

STEVEN PAYNE (7<sup>TH</sup>)

LEIGH ROGERS (8<sup>TH</sup>)

TIA BRYLLER (STUDENT  
SUPPORT)

## FOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

NANCY KELLY (6<sup>TH</sup>)

RACHEL MCEWEN (7<sup>TH</sup>)

DONNA RATLIFF (8<sup>TH</sup>)

JENNIFER HEFLIN (8<sup>TH</sup>)

OVER 150 TEACHERS AND  
SUPPORT STAFF

AROUND 1750 STUDENTS



# WHAT DOES YOUR STUDENT DO ALL DAY?

- SIX PERIODS IN A DAY
- FOUR CORE ACADEMIC COURSES
  - MATH
  - ENGLISH LIT/COMP (ELA)
  - SCIENCE
  - SOCIAL STUDIES
- TWO CONNECTIONS COURSES BACK TO BACK
- LUNCH BUILT INTO AN ACADEMIC COURSE

## WHAT ARE CONNECTIONS?

- STUDENTS TYPICALLY ROTATE THROUGH DIFFERENT CONNECTIONS COURSES EACH QUARTER THROUGHOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL
  - GIVE STUDENTS EXPOSURE TO A VARIETY OF EXPERIENCES
  - FACILITATE IDENTIFICATION OF INTERESTS
  - PREPARE STUDENTS TO SELECT SUBJECTS IN HIGH SCHOOL
  - PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OR ENRICHMENT
- MOST CONNECTIONS ARE RANDOMLY GENERATED
- STUDENTS TYPICALLY TAKE P.E. EACH QUARTER AS ONE CONNECTIONS COURSE
- STUDENTS TYPICALLY ROTATE THROUGH OTHER CONNECTIONS COURSES

# CONNECTIONS COURSES AT BOOTH

- CAREERS
  - ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY
  - FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCES
  - COMPUTER SCIENCE
  - DRAMA
  - JOURNALISM
  - ART
  - PE
  - SPANISH CULTURE
  - STEM EXPLORATORY
  - STUDY SKILLS
  - \*BAND
  - \*CHORUS
  - \*STEM SCIENCE RESEARCH
  - \*\*MATH SUCCESS
  - \*\*READING SUCCESS
  - \*\*STUDY SKILLS
- \* COURSES THAT CAN BE REQUESTED
- \*\* COURSES THAT SELECT STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN

# MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHEDULING CHANGES

- MOVE TO A 6 PERIOD UNBALANCED HYBRID SCHEDULE
- 4 CORE ACADEMIC COURSES – TIME FLEXES FROM APPROXIMATELY 52 MINUTES TO 65 MINUTES PER COURSE (MINUS TRANSITION TIME)
- 2 CONNECTIONS – TIME REMAINS THE SAME AT APPROXIMATELY 50 MINUTES PER COURSE
- STUDENTS MEET WITH ALL CORE ACADEMIC CLASSES ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND FRIDAY
- STUDENTS MEET IN AN EXTENDED INSTRUCTIONAL TIME FOR CORE CLASSES ON WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY (A DAY AND B DAY)
- DAILY EXTENDED LEARNING TIME (ELT) APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES PER DAY AND ENCOMPASSES VARYING ACTIVITIES SUCH AS SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING AND CAREER EXPLORATION

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Period 1	Core 1	Core 1	Core 1	Core 2	Core 1
Period 2	Core 2	Core 2			Core 2
Period 3	Core 3	Core 3	Core 3	Core 4	Core 3
Period 4	Core 4	Core 4			Core 4
Period 5	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1	Connections 1
Period 6	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2	Connections 2

# EXAMPLE OF A 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE DAY (MONDAY, TUESDAY, FRIDAY)

- 8:15-8:50 ARRIVE AT SCHOOL, GO TO CAFE
- 8:50 - HEAD TO TEAM AREA
- **9:00** – SCHOOL STARTS; EXTENDED LEARNING TIME BEGINS
- 9:30 – 1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD CLASS
- 10:40 – 2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD CLASS
- 11:40 – 3<sup>RD</sup> PERIOD CLASS AND LUNCH
- 1:15 – 4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD CLASS
- 2:16 – 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD CLASSES--CONNECTIONS
- **4:03** – CAR RIDER BELL

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- 9:30 – 1<sup>ST</sup>/2<sup>ND</sup> PERIOD BLOCK
- 11:40 – 3<sup>RD</sup>/4<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD BLOCK AND LUNCH
- 2:16 – 5<sup>TH</sup> & 6<sup>TH</sup> PERIOD CLASSES--CONNECTIONS
- **4:03** – CAR RIDER BELL



# COURSE PLACEMENTS

- EACH ACADEMIC COURSE HAS MULTIPLE LEVELS
  - ON-LEVEL
  - ADVANCED
  - ACCELERATED (MATH ONLY)
- COURSE PLACEMENTS ARE DATA DRIVEN
- PLACEMENTS HAVE BEEN EMAILED
- STUDENT SCHEDULES WILL BE RELEASED IN CANVAS SHORTLY BEFORE THE 2020-21 WALKTHROUGH IN JULY
- WE DO NOT HONOR REQUESTS FOR SPECIFIC TEAMS OR TEACHERS

# TESTING AND GRADES

- STUDENT GRADES ARE ISSUED QUARTERLY
- STUDENTS RECEIVE A FIRST SEMESTER AND YEARLONG AVERAGE
- EXAMS – ATTENDANCE IS IMPORTANT
  - MIDTERM EXAMS AFTER THE FIRST SEMESTER
  - FINAL EXAMS AT THE END OF THE YEAR
- MILESTONES
  - 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – MATH AND ELA ONLY
  - 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – MATH AND ELA ONLY
  - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE – MATH, ELA, SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL STUDIES



# COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

- INDIVIDUAL AND GROUP COUNSELING
- CLASSROOM GUIDANCE
- PARENT/TEACHER CONSULTATION
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- COORDINATION OF SPECIAL EVENTS
- RAINBOWS
  - RESEARCH-BASED PROGRAM FOR GRIEF AND LOSS
  - FACILITATED BY TRAINED STAFF
  - DIVORCE, SEPARATION OF FAMILY, LOSS OF CLOSE FAMILY MEMBER

# HOW DO WE COMMUNICATE?

- CANVAS
- EMAIL
  - TEACHER
  - COUNSELOR
  - ADMINISTRATOR
- SOCIAL MEDIA
  - LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
  - FOLLOW @ETBoothMS
- PTSA
- EMAIL BLASTS
- [WEBSITE – SPECIAL SECTION FOR RISING 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FAMILIES](#)



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- DRESS CODE
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- SHOULD MY STUDENT HAVE A PHONE AT SCHOOL?
- ATTENDANCE
- PE DRESS OUT AND OPTIONAL UNIFORM
- CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, AND SPORTS
- LOCKERS AND BOOK BAGS
- TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

# DRESS CODE

- DRESS CODE IS DESCRIBED IN THE STUDENT HANDBOOK. PLEASE READ THOROUGHLY TO INSURE THAT YOUR CHILDREN'S SCHOOL CLOTHES ARE SCHOOL APPROPRIATE.
- SOME HIGHLIGHTS:
  - NO HOLES IN PANTS (JEANS) ABOVE THE KNEE
  - SHIRTS MUST BE AT LEAST 3" AT THE SHOULDERS (NO SPAGHETTI STRAPS OR LARGE ARM HOLES)
  - LEGGINGS ARE ALLOWED WITH LONG SHIRTS ONLY. SHIRT LENGTH IS TO FINGER TIPS AND MUST COVER BOTH FRONT AND BACK
  - HATS AND HOODS ARE NOT ALLOWED UNLESS IT IS A CHARITABLE "HAT DAY"

# SOCIAL MEDIA

- EVIDENCE REVEALS THAT MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS HAVE DIFFICULTY MANAGING SOCIAL MEDIA. PARENTS SHOULD MONITOR CAREFULLY IF THEY ALLOW.
  - [HTTPS://WWW.BARK.US/](https://www.bark.us/)
  - [HTTPS://WWW.COMMONSENSEMEDIA.ORG/](https://www.common SenseMedia.org/)
  - [HTTPS://NATIONALONLINESAFETY.COM/GUIDES](https://nationalonlinesafety.com/guides)

# MOBILE PHONES AND DEVICES

- YOUR STUDENT WILL BE ASSIGNED A LAPTOP TO USE DURING THE SCHOOL DAY, SO PERSONAL DEVICES ARE RARELY USED IN THE CLASSROOM. STUDENTS MAY HAVE A DEVICE AT SCHOOL BUT IT SHOULD BE TURNED OFF AND STORED IN A LOCKER DURING SCHOOL HOURS.
- IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT PARENTS MONITOR ALL DEVICES IN THE EVENINGS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN GET ENOUGH SLEEP.





# ATTENDANCE

- RESEARCH SHOWS THAT STUDENTS WHO ARE AT SCHOOL EVERY DAY PERFORM BETTER!
- IF YOUR CHILD IS SICK, PLEASE PROVIDE A DOCTOR'S NOTE SO THAT WE CAN EXCUSE THE ABSENCE
  - SOMETIMES A DOCTOR VISIT IS NOT NECESSARY. WE CAN ACCEPT A PARENT NOTE FOR THE FIRST 7 ABSENCES. AFTER THAT, A DOCTOR'S NOTE IS REQUIRED.
  - IF A STUDENT IS ABSENT FOR 3 CONSECUTIVE DAYS, A DOCTOR'S NOTE IS NEEDED
- SCHEDULE VACATIONS DURING SCHOOL BREAKS. CHEROKEE COUNTY SCHOOLS PUBLISHES THE SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR SEVERAL YEARS IN ADVANCE. YOU MAY ACCESS CALENDARS HERE:
  - [HTTPS://WWW.CHEROKEEK12.NET/CONTENT2/CALENDAR](https://www.cherokeek12.net/content2/calendar)

# PE UNIFORMS AND CLUBS

- STUDENTS WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE P.E. UNIFORMS AND P.E. LOCKERS DURING THE WALK THROUGH IN JULY.
- P.E. UNIFORMS ARE NOT REQUIRED. STUDENTS MAY WEAR SOLID SHORTS AND TEES IN SCHOOL COLORS
- THERE ARE MANY CLUBS AT E.T. BOOTH! STUDENTS WHO GET INVOLVED IN A CLUB OR ACTIVITY TEND TO ENJOY SCHOOL MORE AND THE TRANSITION TO A NEW SCHOOL IS ACCOMPLISHED MORE EASILY.
- A LIST OF ALL CURRENT CLUBS AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS IS ON THE SCHOOL WEB PAGE. \*\*CLUBS AND THE MEETING TIMES CHANGE EVERY YEAR\*\*

# LOCKERS AND BOOK BAGS

- LOCKERS ARE ASSIGNED THROUGH HOMEROOM
- SOME 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS WILL HAVE TO SHARE LOCKERS.
- LOCKER SHELVES ARE USEFUL, AS ARE THE MAGNETIC CONTAINERS FOR PENS/PENCILS.
- LARGE BOOK BAGS MAY NOT FIT IN LOCKERS.
- STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED FROM BUS DUTY TO GO TO LOCKERS AND BATHROOMS BEFORE 1<sup>ST</sup> PERIOD. THEY WILL HAVE SCHEDULED LOCKER BREAKS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.
- STUDENTS MAY USE STRING BAGS TO HELP CARRY THEIR BELONGINGS BETWEEN CLASSES. THEY MAY NOT CARRY A BOOK BAG.
- ROLLING BACKPACKS ARE NOT ALLOWED

# TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

It is normal for your child to be nervous about starting middle school.

It is also perfectly normal for you to be nervous about your child's transition to middle school.

The transition to middle school may be one of the toughest transitions during childhood, for both parents and kids.



# PROCEDURAL CONCERNS

- GETTING LOST OR FINDING CLASSES
- FINDING AND OPENING THE LOCKER
- FINDING THE BATHROOM
- NOT KNOWING THE SCHOOL RULES
- CARRYING AROUND ALL THOSE BOOKS
- GOING FROM CLASS TO CLASS WITHOUT BEING LATE
- BRINGING THE RIGHT MATERIALS TO THE RIGHT CLASS AT THE RIGHT TIME
- TRAVELING LONGER DISTANCES TO SCHOOL
- EATING IN A LARGER CAFETERIA



# PROCEDURAL CONCERNS: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- BUY A COMBINATION LOCK BEFORE SCHOOL AND HAVE YOUR CHILD SPEND TIME TRYING TO OPEN THE LOCK.
- GO TO THE WALK THROUGH BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS WITH A COPY OF YOUR CHILD'S SCHEDULE. TAKE A FEW MINUTES TO WALK FROM ROOM TO ROOM WITH YOUR CHILD.
- DON'T BUY BACKPACKS THAT CAN STORE 50 LBS. OF MATERIALS. THEY WON'T FIT IN THE LOCKER, AND SMALLER BACKPACKS ALLOW FOR BETTER ORGANIZATION.



# ACADEMIC CONCERNS

- GETTING GOOD GRADES
- COMPETITION FOR GRADES
- HAVING MORE THAN ONE TEACHER
- MORE HOMEWORK
- MORE LONG-TERM PROJECTS
- WORK THAT IS MORE CHALLENGING AND REQUIRES MORE EFFORT
- EXPECTATIONS OF TEACHERS IN DIFFERENT SUBJECT AREAS
- BASIC TASKS SUCH AS STUDYING, TAKING NOTES, AND TAKING TESTS



# ACADEMIC CONCERNS: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- BE THE EXAMPLE ... SHOW THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION
- ASK YOUR CHILD ABOUT THEIR DAY (USE SPECIFIC, OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS)
- SET ASIDE A QUIET SPACE AND TIME FOR YOUR CHILD TO STUDY/COMPLETE HOMEWORK
- BALANCE SCHOOL WORK AND PLAY TIME
- ENCOURAGE READING
- ASSIST YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR HOMEWORK AND/OR CHECK THEIR HOMEWORK DAILY
- SET HIGH BUT REACHABLE EXPECTATIONS FOR YOUR CHILD
- ENCOURAGEMENT!





# SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CONCERNS

- BULLIES AND/OR BEING TEASED
- MAKING NEW FRIENDS/FINDING AND CONNECTING WITH A PEER GROUP
- FEELING STUPID COMPARED TO OTHER KIDS
- SUCCESS IN SPORTS
- POPULARITY
- BEING EMBARRASSED BY PARENTS IN FRONT OF OTHER KIDS
- PUBERTY (PIMPLES, BODY CHANGES)
- CHANGING BEFORE AND AFTER P.E. IN FRONT OF OTHER KIDS
- HAVING GIRLFRIENDS AND BOYFRIENDS
- HAVING SOMEONE TO SIT WITH AT LUNCH
- PRESSURE TO BREAK THE RULES

Jackson, McKinnon, and Wilson  
(2006)



# SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL CONCERNS: WHAT PARENTS CAN DO

- INCREASE YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF ADOLESCENT DEVELOPMENT
- BE UPBEAT ABOUT WHAT LIES AHEAD
- RECOGNIZE THEIR FEARS
- OFFER SUPPORT
- HOLD YOUR CHILD ACCOUNTABLE
- GIVE YOUR CHILD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE DECISIONS ON HIS/HER OWN
- PICK YOUR BATTLES
- GIVE THEM TOOLS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED
- ALLOW THEM THE FREEDOM TO MAKE MISTAKES



# WHAT PARENTS CAN DO AT SCHOOL

- MAINTAIN A GOOD WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD' S TEACHERS
- VISIT THE SCHOOL: OPEN HOUSE, CURRICULUM NIGHT
- KNOW AND UNDERSTAND SCHOOL RULES
- ATTEND MEETINGS (PTSA, CONFERENCES, ETC.) AND CHILD' S ACTIVITIES
- MAKE SURE YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL DAILY
- VOLUNTEER IN ANY WAY YOU CAN \*PTSA, MEDIA CENTER, FRONT OFFICE, FIELD TRIPS\*
- MAKE A CONTRACT WITH YOUR CHILD AND/OR TEACHER
- IF YOU HAVE RAISED ADOLESCENTS, BE WILLING TO SHARE ADVICE AND INFORMATION WITH OTHER PARENTS



# REFERENCES

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