



Navigating the River
April 24, 2012

Riverwatch Middle School

- ▣ Our mission statement is
- ▣ Together we **LEAD** – Learn, Excel, Achieve and Dream.

Differences Between Elementary School and Middle School

- ▣ Operations/Structural
 - Self-contained classes vs. multiple teachers
 - Friday Folders vs. electronic communication
 - Specials vs. connections
 - Walking in lines vs. unaccompanied movement in building
 - Cubbies vs. lockers

Differences Between Elementary School and Middle School

▣ Expectations

- Dependence on adults vs. developing independence and self-advocacy
- Students are expected to keep up with their materials and bring the correct supplies to each class.
- Students are expected to learn how to balance studying for multiple tests in 1 day.

▣ Adolescents

- Gains in height, weight, and academic skills vs. physical, emotional and social developmental changes

Class Schedule

- Students go to 4 academic classes, 1 research and writing class or math remediation class, and 2 connections classes.
- Example Schedule:
 - 1st Period – Language Arts from 9:00 – 9:55
 - 2nd Period – Math from 10:00 – 10:55
 - 3rd Period – Science from 11:00 – 11:55
 - 4th Period – Social Studies from 12:00 – 1:25 (includes 25 minute lunch)
 - 5th Period – Academic Enrichment or Math Workshop 1:30 – 2:25
 - 6th Period – Connections from 2:30 – 3:20
 - 7th Period – Connections from 3:25 – 4:15

Academics

- ▣ Grading and Reporting:
- ▣ **Summative assignments** are assignments/assessments, such as unit tests and projects, that determine student mastery of standards after the unit or learning activity has been completed. Counts 80% toward class average.
- ▣ **Formative assignments** are tasks, such as homework, class work, and quizzes, that provide students with practice while learning. These assignments are used to inform both the teacher and student regarding the learning progress. This grade is reported separately. Counts 20% toward class average.
- ▣ **Work Habits** are student behaviors that have the potential to impact academic achievement.

Grading and Student Work

- ▣ Students are given numerical grades in all academic classes
- ▣ Grades are composed of 80% summative grades and 20% formative grades.
- ▣ Homework is expected to be complete. There is a strong correlation between student success in a class and their completion of practice work.
- ▣ Students' report cards also report against work habits.
 - A score of **2** is meeting standard
 - A score of 3 is rare for exceeding standard

Academic Supports and Interventions

- ▣ Morning Help Sessions
- ▣ Relearn and Recovery
 - Students who score below 79% on a summative assignment are offered 1 opportunity to improve the grade up to 79% by engaging in a teacher assigned learning activity and retaking a second/new summative. The relearn/recovery assignment must be completed within 1 week of the graded summative being returned to the student. Mid-terms, finals, and timed writing assignments are not eligible for R & R.

Extracurricular Activities

- ▣ Clubs
- ▣ Dances
- ▣ Sport Events
- ▣ Social Experiences
- ▣ Special Assemblies
- ▣ Student Life

Calendar of Middle School Transition Events

- ▣ Navigating the River – April 24, 2012

- ▣ Elementary Schools tour Riverwatch:
 - May 1, 2012 for Sharon at 9:30 AM
 - May 2, 2012 for Settles Bridge at 9:30 AM
 - May 3, 2012 for Johns Creek at 9:30 AM

- ▣ Panther Camp – August 6, 2012 from 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Go Panthers!

