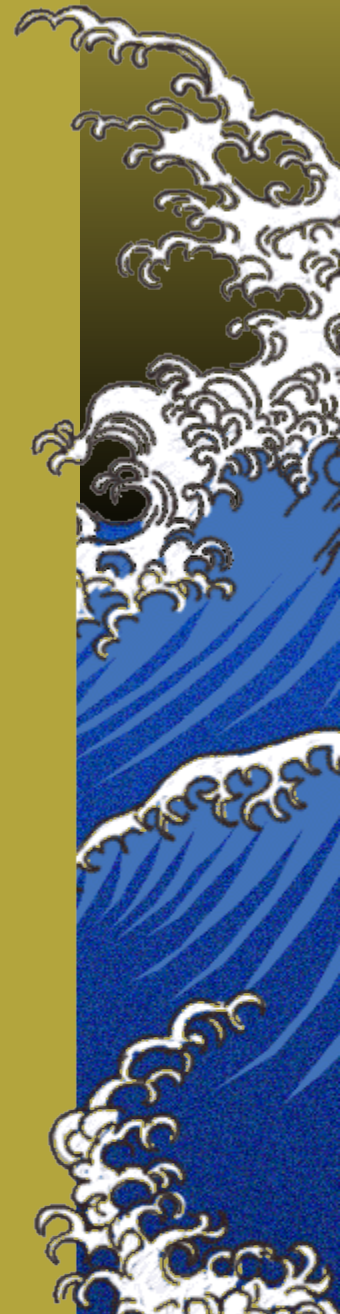




Together we LEAD!



# Purpose of Riverwatch Middle School

- ▶ *Our vision statement is “Together we **LEAD** – **L**earn, **E**xcel, **A**chieve and **D**ream.”*



# 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*





# ***ACADEMICS***

## ❖ **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Core Classes** (Math, Science, Language Arts, and Social Studies)

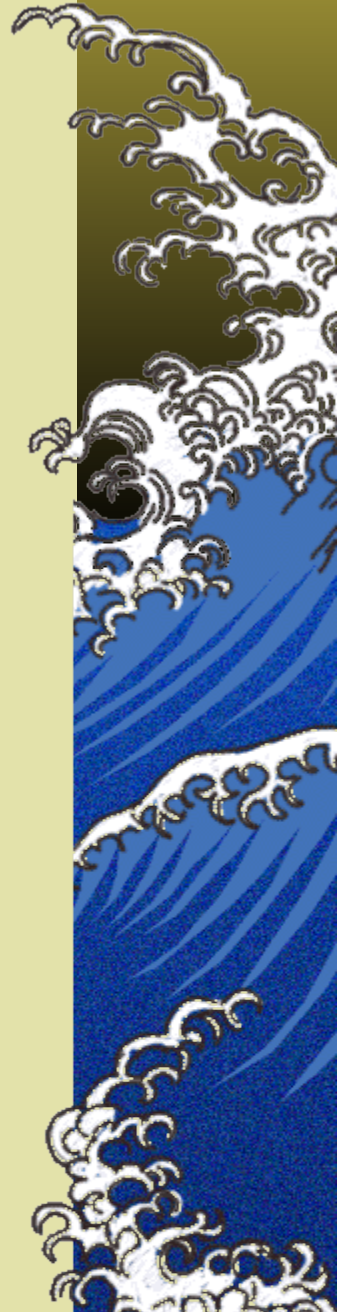
- ❖ Helpful hint – Look for significant changes in the content and structure of Language Arts, Social Studies , and Science classes. Higher expectations to study and remember vocabulary. Higher expectations regarding writing.

## ❖ **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Connections Classes**

- ❖ PE, Health, Art, Diversified Technology, Exploring Communications Technology, Newspaper, Chorus, and Band

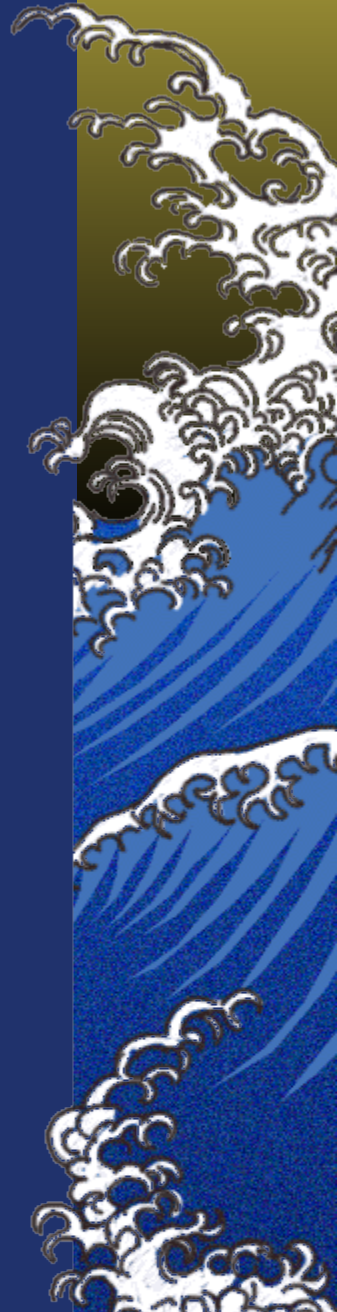
## ❖ **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Horizons Program**

- ❖ Language Arts



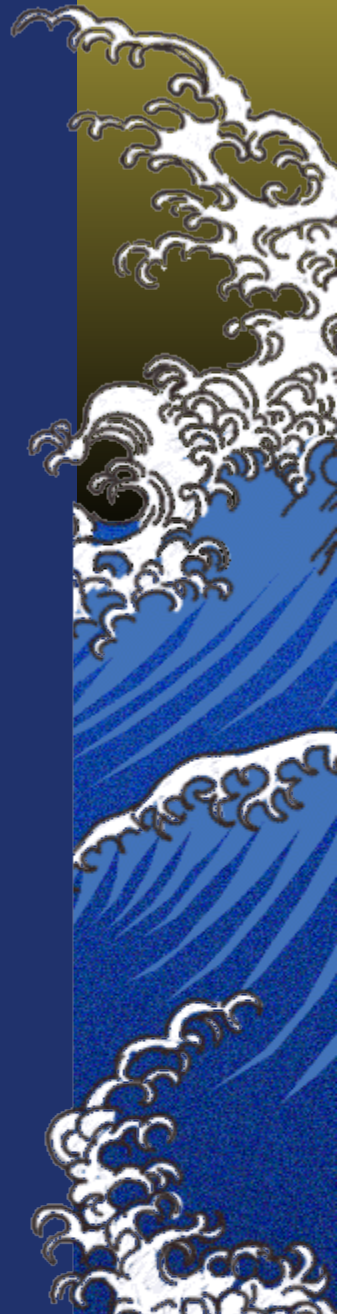
# Academics

- ▶ *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.*
- ▶ *18 week and 36 week grades are final. 9 and 27 week grades are mid term 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*



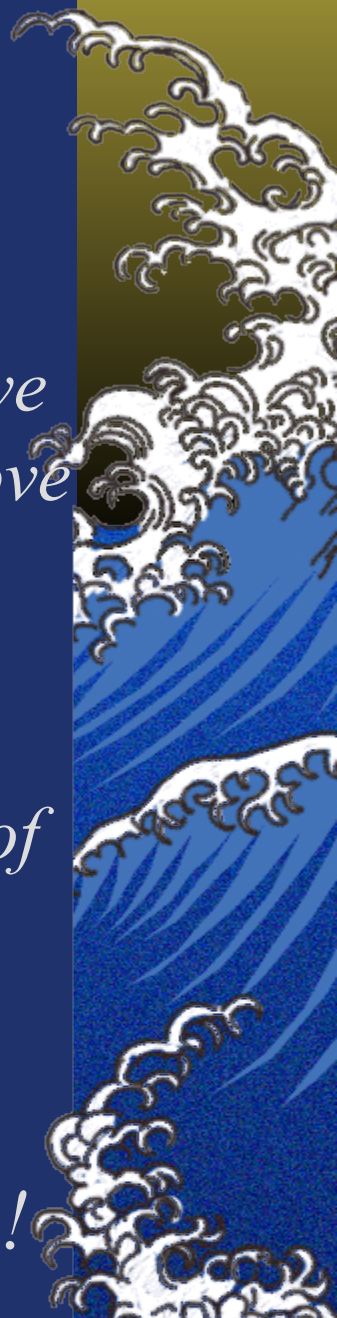
# Academic Supports and Interventions

## ★ *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.*

★ *Angel – try the tutorial on [www.angel.com](http://www.angel.com)!*





# *The Schedule*

★ *Six classes for approximately one hour periods and one 30 minute advisement class:*

*1<sup>st</sup> Period – Language Arts from 9:00 – 10:00*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Period – Math from 10:05 – 11:05*

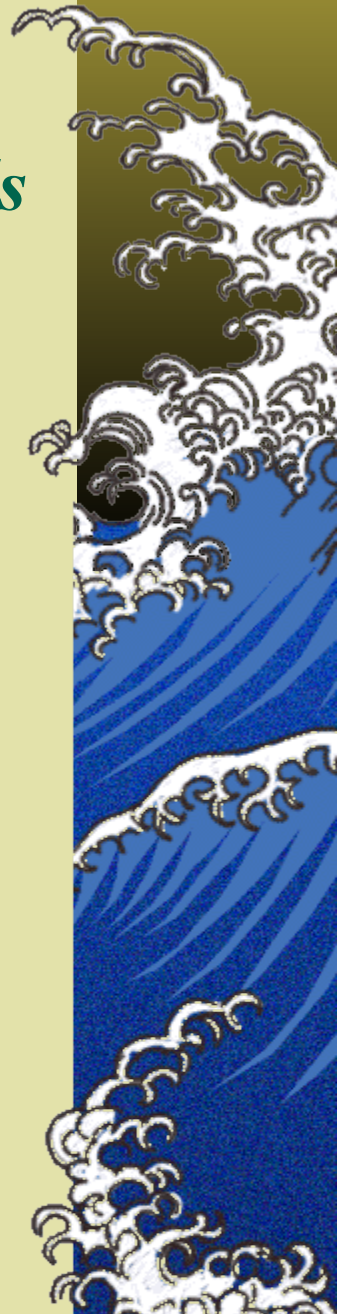
*3<sup>rd</sup> Period – Science from 11:10 – 12:15*

*4<sup>th</sup> Period – Social Studies from 12:20 – 1:50  
(includes 25 minute lunch)*

*5<sup>th</sup> Period – PRIDE from 1:55 – 2:25*

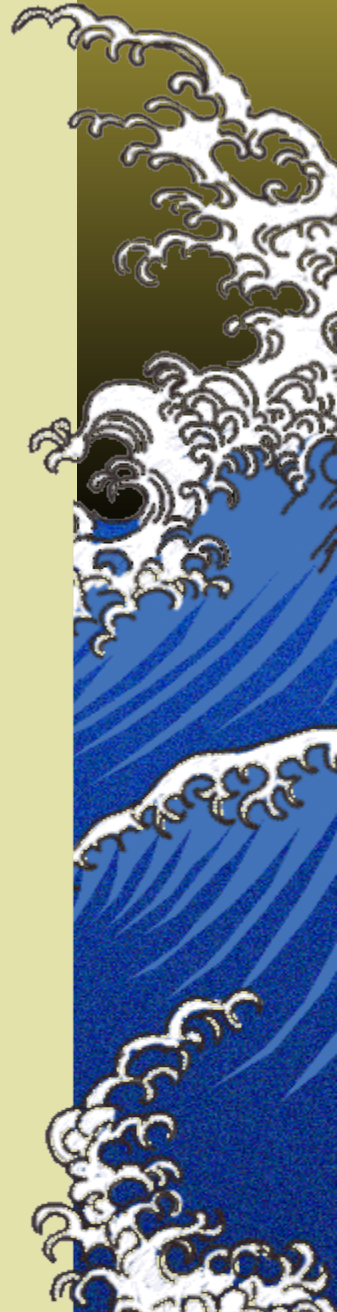
*6<sup>th</sup> Period – Connections from 2:30 – 3:20*

*7<sup>th</sup> Period – Connections from 3:25 – 4:15*



# ***ACTIVITIES***

- ❖ Clubs
- ❖ Intramurals
- ❖ Dances
- ❖ Spirit Days/Special Days
- ❖ Special Events
- ❖ RMS Ambassadors



**Riverwatch Middle  
School**

**Bus  
Ramp**

**Gym**

**Connectio  
ns**

**Media**

**Admin.**

**Rotund  
a**

**Cafeteri  
a**

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Wing**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Wing**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade Wing**

**Front of School – Car**

# Home-School Communication

## Traditional Methods:

- *Student Handbooks*
- *Class/Team Syllabi*
- *Voice Mail*
- *Student River Guides (Required)*
- *Open House*
- *Curriculum Night*
- *Parent Conferences (Fall & Spring)*
- *Panther Camp*

## Technology-based Methods:

- *Angel*
- *Group Email Flyer*
- *Parent Portal*
- *School Web Page*
- *E-mail*
- *“Panther Press”*





# CHARACTERISTICS of Middle School Students



*“P. I. E. S.”*

\*



\* “P.I.E.S.” is adapted from “If These Are the Kids, Who Should the Adults Be?” by Sharon Fowler



# **“P. I. E. S.”**

**P = Physical**

**I = Intellectual**

**E = Emotional**

**S = Social**



# **Riverwatch Counseling Program**

**Based on the American School Counseling Association**

**Group Counseling**

**Peer Mediation Programs**

**Special Events**

**Classroom Guidance Activities**

**Individual Counseling**

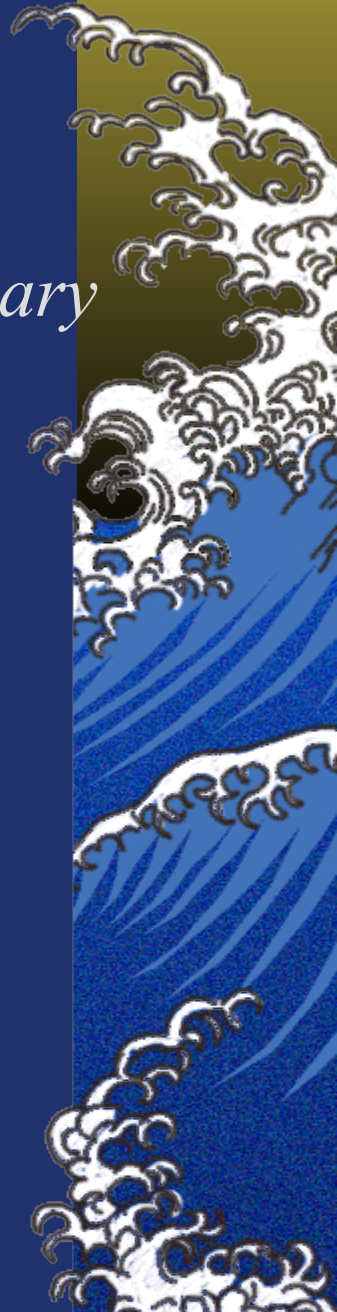
**Group Academic Advisement**

**System Support**



# Calendar of Middle School Transition Events

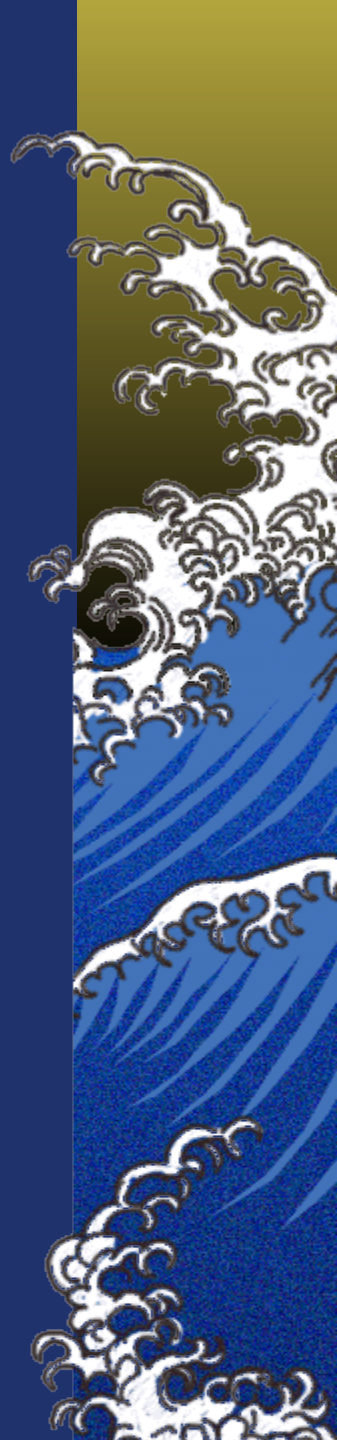
- ▶ *Navigating the River – April 28, 2011*
- ▶ *Middle School Student Ambassadors visit elementary schools:*
  - ▶ *May 3, 2011 at 12:45 PM for SBES*
  - ▶ *May 5, 2011 at 9:30 AM for Johns Creek*
  - ▶ *May 5, 2011 at 10:45 AM for Sharon*
- ▶ *Elementary Schools tour Riverwatch:*
  - ▶ *May 9, 2011 for Sharon at 9:30 AM*
  - ▶ *May 10, 2011 for Settles Bridge at 9:30 AM*
  - ▶ *May 12, 2011 for Johns Creek at 9:30 AM*





# Panther Camp and Open House

- ▶ *Saturday, August 6, 2011 from 9:00 – 12:00*
- ▶ *Here at Riverwatch*
- ▶ *Don't forget to sign up!*
- ▶ *Make sure to be on time. Students will rotate through teambuilding activities. Parents rotate through information sessions.*
- ▶ *Open House Activities will be from 10:00 to 12:00 . Purchase PE uniforms, student agendas, and lockers. Complete needed parent information and receive student schedules.*
- ▶ *Call RMS at 678-455-7311 extension 0.*
- ▶ *Once you attend Panther Camp there is no need to attend 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Open House on August 8, 2011.*



**RIVERWATCH**

