



**Peters Township Middle School**  
625 East McMurray Road  
McMurray, PA 15317

February 3, 2020

Dear 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent(s) or Guardian(s),

We would like to share some important information with you as your child begins their transition to the middle school. First, we would like to invite you to attend two important upcoming events, the first is the middle school PTA meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> at 9:15am. The middle school PTA will host a Brunch with the Principals meeting and this will include a brief scheduling overview.

The second event is on the evening of March 5<sup>th</sup>, the middle school counselors will be hosting the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Orientation in the middle school LGI from 6:00-8:00 p.m. We strongly encourage parents to attend the orientation as the presentation is geared toward helping students make a successful transition to the middle school. This night is for parents only, as the middle school counselors will be presenting this same general information to all 6<sup>th</sup> grade students on February 18<sup>th</sup>.

On March 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, the counselors will assist 6<sup>th</sup> grade students with their online preliminary course requests. A preliminary course request sheet and course description packet will come home for your review at that time. Starting on March 11<sup>th</sup>, if you want make changes to your child's requests, log on to PowerSchool, choose the *Class Registration* tab and make any available changes. Examples of available changes are: adding or dropping a performance music class (band, chorus or orchestra) or adjusting a world language choice (if your child is recommended for one). After submitting any changes, please print and sign the new request sheet. If you are not making any changes, please sign the preliminary course request sheet that comes home with your child. All request sheets should be signed and are due back to your child's homeroom teacher by no later than **Friday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**.

Prior to the students making online preliminary course requests, 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers make recommendations based on the criteria for math, reading and world language outlined below.

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**Math:** *All students will take a grade level math course: either Pre-Algebra Academic or Pre-Algebra Enriched. The criteria to be recommended for Enriched are as follows:*

**Pre-Algebra Enriched:** Students must meet at least 3 out of the 4 criteria below:

- Earn an "A" (90% or better) overall average for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade math course at the end of the year.  
*\*Please note that at the time of preliminary course selection during March, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter math grades will be used to determine eligibility. Students must earn an "A" in each of the first and second marking periods. At the conclusion of the school year, the middle school counselors and administrators will review year end math grades and change placements accordingly to either Regular Pre-Algebra or Enriched Pre-Algebra.*
- Score Advanced on the Math PSSA's.  
*\*Please note that at the time of preliminary course selection, the 5th grade math PSSA scores will be used to determine eligibility. When the 6th grade math PSSA scores become available mid-summer, the middle school counselors and administrators will review them and change placements accordingly to either Regular Pre-Algebra or Enriched Pre-Algebra. (continued...)*

- Receive teacher recommendation from the 6th grade math teacher. *\*The first two criteria must be met to be eligible to receive the preliminary teacher recommendation. At the end of the school year, teachers will make a final recommendation.*
- A qualifying score on the year end math competency exam administered at McMurray.

**Reading:** The following criteria are used to determine placement in Reading:

- All students who have scored Below Basic or Basic on the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA ELA assessment will be preliminarily placed in Reading. *\*Once the 6<sup>th</sup> Grade PSSA scores become available in mid-summer, middle school counselors and administrators will review them for updated final reading placements.*
- Teacher recommendation
- Level of Reading support at the elementary level
- Final 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading grade

**World Language:** Pre-requisites for placement in a World Language:

- All students who have scored Proficient or Advanced on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade PSSA ELA assessment will be preliminarily placed in a World Language. *\*Once 6<sup>th</sup> grade scores become available in mid-summer, middle school counselors and administrators will review them. Students must remain at least proficient to begin a World Language. If their ELA score has dropped to Basic or Below Basic, students will be enrolled in Reading.*
- Teacher recommendation
- Level of Reading support at the elementary level
- Final 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading grade
- Satisfactory grades in all three 6<sup>th</sup> grade FLEX classes strongly recommended.

*Because students are choosing their World Language before they have had all three (3) rotations, please notify the middle school counselors by **May 1, 2020** with any language changes.*

**To view the 2020-2021 Course Description Packet, please visit the counseling page of the middle school website.**

We look forward to meeting you and best wishes for the rest of this academic school year. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us here at the middle school.

Sincerely,

Bianca Goodwin, 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor for the 20-21 school year – [goodwinb@pt-sd.org](mailto:goodwinb@pt-sd.org)

Mary Beth Kenny-Massaró, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Counselor for the 20-21 school year - [kennym@pt-sd.org](mailto:kennym@pt-sd.org)