QUESTIONS?

NOTE CARDS
## INTRODUCTIONS

### SUPPORT TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal</td>
<td>Ms. Emily Harrison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Principal</td>
<td>Mr. Patrick McGee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum Coordinator</td>
<td>Mr. Jeffrey Stoddard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Counselor 6th – 8th</td>
<td>Ms. Sandi Watson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guidance Secretary</td>
<td>Ms. Baez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instructional Literacy Coach</td>
<td>Ms. Kristine DeMartino</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean</td>
<td>Mr. Chris Wetjen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media</td>
<td>Mr. Lou Greco</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TRANSITION GOALS

• REDUCE ANXIETY (PARENTS/STUDENTS)

• SMOOTH AND POSITIVE TRANSITION

• EMPHASIZE POSITIVE STUDENT/TEACHER RELATIONSHIPS

• MAKE A POSITIVE FIRST IMPRESSION TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS

• OVERVIEW
BUILDING A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE, TOGETHER!

In its inaugural year, Patriot Oaks Academy began building many traditions of excellence. In its establishment, we have emphasized the pillars of character and quality teaching as foundational characteristics of our school culture. Our students will always be held to the highest expectations and coached to academic and behavioral success. Together, we commit to collaborating with our community. Teachers thoughtfully plan instruction and their delivery techniques emphasize maximum impact. To be the best, we utilize researched based practices, make decisions based on data, teach students the qualities of good learning and then foster those qualities in the classroom. We are committed to learning together and transforming our profession. In 2015 we will continue our inaugural initiatives as well as focus on innovation and creativity, including STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math) education.
COLLECTIVE COMMITMENTS!

For Our Students:
- We commit to making learning visible.
- We commit to having an impact on ALL of OUR students.
- We commit to hearing our students' voices.
- We commit to respecting student's questions and curiosity.
- We commit to engaging students in work that matters.
- We commit to celebrating learning and achievement.
- We commit to encouraging risk.
- We commit to basing instructional decisions on student needs.
- We commit to establishing and communicating criteria for success.
- We commit to promoting high expectations for ALL students.
- We commit to demonstrating interest in each student as a “whole person”.
- We commit to providing timely and helpful feedback to parents.
Our vision at Patriot Oaks Academy is to foster the personal nature of learning and to inspire students to take initiative for individual academic growth. Our school culture will create the conditions where students set their own goals, solve problems and thrive from consistent feedback. Our priority is to maintain high expectations for student success and to celebrate achievement in every area of their lives. Patriot Oaks Academy will provide opportunities for students to explore their personal interests and talents. As a learning community, we will promote digital citizenship while working together to remove barriers in student learning and promote persistence, character and confidence in all endeavors.

Guiding Principles:
Priorities – Holistic development: academics, talents, interests, character
Opportunities – Progressive vision, Removing barriers, goal monitoring
Achievement - celebrating success
Culture – Goal setting, problem solving, high expectations, persistence, confidence
MISSION

Patriot Oaks Academy provides opportunities for students to be successful in learning and celebrates both personal and academic growth.

**Student Statements:**
Priorities - I can develop areas that matter to me.
Opportunities – I have the skills and confidence to overcome any obstacle.
Achievement – I celebrate my success.
Culture - I believe I can accomplish my goals.
VISIBLE LEARNING
WHEN TEACHERS SEE LEARNING THROUGH THE EYES OF THEIR STUDENTS AND WHEN STUDENTS SEE THEMSELVES AS THEIR OWN TEACHERS

- Steps to success
- Define and teach “good learner” qualities
- Provide effective feedback
- Improve high level questioning and opportunities for student questioning
- Impact study
- Parent involvement
At Patriot Oaks Academy, what does a good learner do?

COMMUNICATES EFFECTIVELY
HAS HIGH EXPECTATIONS
ADAPTS AND PERSEVERES
REMAINS RESOURCEFUL
GENERATES GOALS
ENGAGES IN MEANINGFUL FEEDBACK
REFLECTS ON LEARNING
SEES ERRORS AS OPPORTUNITIES
CONNECTIONS... PARENTS AND STUDENTS

• IMPORTANT FOR STUDENT SUCCESS
• LOOKS DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE
  • STUDENTS: CLUBS, SPORTS, BAND
  • PARENTS: VOLUNTEER, PTO
• BE INVOLVED!
HOW DO WE TRANSITION?

- PARENT NIGHT
- DAYTIME TRANSITION
- SUMMER TRANSITION PROGRAM
- ORIENTATION
- “OPEN HOUSE”
SAFETY

• STUDENTS WILL FEEL SAFE IN SCHOOL
• EMOTIONALLY AND PHYSICALLY SECURE
  • BULLYING
  • PEER COUNSELING
• FOCUS ON AND REWARD THE POSITIVE
  • CHARACTER COUNTS
  • LEADERSHIP
  • SET THE CULTURE
MR. MCGEE
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

• TECHNOLOGY 1:1 DIGITAL SUCCESS

• INSURANCE OPTIONS

• WHERE TO NEXT
  • CULTURE SHIFT
  • STUDENT HELP DESK
  • TECH COMMITTEE
INFORMATION

• HOW DO I....?
• WHERE DO I......?
• WHAT IF........?

• SCHOOL VISITS, ORIENTATIONS, OPEN HOUSE, NEWSLETTERS, CHARGER CHAT, SCHOOL WEBSITE, PTO WEBSITE, TWITTER, REMIND TEXTS
COMMUNICATION AND CONFERENCEING

• EMAIL IS PREFERRED- DUE TO THE BUSY NATURE OF THE SCHOOL DAY, PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 48 HOURS FOR RESPONSE.

• TO LEAVE A PHONE MESSAGE, CALL THE FRONT DESK THE FRONT DESK WILL LEAVE THE TEACHER A NOTE.

• IF YOU WANT TO MEET WITH THE TEACHERS, PLEASE CONTACT MS. WATSON, THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, TO SCHEDULE A TEAM MEETING.
POA CHARGER
TEACHER SUPPORT

4 Core Classes

Language Arts
Math

Social Studies
Science

3 Non-Core Classes

P.E. (required)
Chorus

Band
Spanish / Introduction to Technology
Information Communications Technology 1 (ICT)
Intensive Reading / Intensive Math (as needed)
LANGUAGE ARTS

• CURRICULUM FOCUS
  • FOUR THEMATIC UNITS
  • VOCABULARY SKILLS, PREFIXES/ROOTS
  • LITERATURE BALANCED BETWEEN FICTION/NONFICTION
  • ACADEMIC ESSAYS: WRITING FOCUS IS ON INFORMATIONAL AND ARGUMENTATIVE
  • GENRE BINGO

• HOMEWORK, ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNICATION
  • THERE IS AN ONLINE TEXTBOOK AND STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PERSONAL USERNAME AND LOGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL
  • HAC AND EDMODO AND WEEKLY EMAIL UPDATES
  • NIGHTLY READING- A MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES
  • STUDY FOR VOCABULARY SKILL QUIZZES

• SUMMER READING
  • YES- DETAILS POSTED AT THE END OF THE SCHOOL YEAR
MATH

- CURRICULUM FOCUS
  - FSA STANDARDS
  - STD. / ADV.
    - STD. = 6TH GRADE STDS.
    - ADV. = ALL 6TH GR STDS. + (8) 7TH GRADE STDS.

- HOMEWORK, ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNICATION
  - HOMEWORK IS STARTED IN CLASS AND COMPLETED AT HOME, NIGHTLY
  - EDmodo, HAC, PLANNERS
## Middle School Math Progression

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A Student in:</th>
<th>Meeting the following criteria:</th>
<th>Recommended Placement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>grade in class</td>
<td>placement test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - Grade Five</td>
<td>A or B</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - Grade Five</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics - Grade Five</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics, Adv</td>
<td>A or B</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics, Adv</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>Passing Grade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics, Std</td>
<td>A or B</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics, Std</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 6 Mathematics, Std</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7 Mathematics, Adv</td>
<td>A or B</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Algebra 1 Honors (HS Credit)</td>
<td>C or Higher</td>
<td>Pass EOC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7 Mathematics, Adv</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7 Mathematics, Std</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grade 7 Mathematics, Std + Intensive Math</td>
<td>A-D</td>
<td>n/a</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SCIENCE

• CURRICULUM FOCUS
  • STUDENTS WILL PARTICIPATE IN INQUIRY-BASED SCIENCE AND LABS

• HOMEWORK, ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNICATION
  • STUDENTS WILL USE A WORK TEXT/TEXTBOOK AND HAVE ACCESS TO AN ONLINE TEXT
  • STUDENTS USE THEIR INTERACTIVE NOTEBOOKS FOR ALL UNITS OF STUDY

• SCIENCE FAIR

• LAB FEE
SOCIAL STUDIES- WORLD HISTORY

• CURRICULUM FOCUS
  • WORLD HISTORY- ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS TO SETTLEMENT OF THE AMERICAS
  • INTEGRATES ECONOMICS, GEOGRAPHY AND CIVIC STANDARDS
  • WE USE DBQ’S (DOCUMENT BASED QUESTIONS) TO PRACTICE OUR CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS AND (CLOSE) READING SKILLS
  • WE HAVE ONE DBQ PER QUARTER THAT IS A SUMMATIVE GRADE FOR THE ESSAY... ***SUPPORTS LANGUAGE ARTS INSTRUCTION***

• HOMEWORK, ORGANIZATION AND COMMUNICATION
  • THERE IS AN ONLINE TEXTBOOK AND STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE THEIR PERSONAL USERNAME AND LOGIN THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

• HISTORY FAIR
  • ALL STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN RESEARCH AND PRESENTATION SKILLS
  • FAIR IS OPTIONAL
SCHEDULE

• STUDENTS TAKE 7 COURSES ON AN ALTERNATING BLOCK SCHEDULE

• RED DAY –
  • 1ST PERIOD (EVERYDAY SAME CLASS- 45 MINUTES)
  • 3 BLOCKS (90 MINUTES)

• BLUE DAY –
  • 1ST PERIOD (EVERYDAY SAME CLASS- 45 MINUTES)
  • 3 DIFFERENT BLOCKED CLASSES (90 MINUTES)

• STUDENTS REPORT TO HOMEROOM/1ST PERIOD EACH DAY BY 8:30AM FOR IMPORTANT MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS
PHYSICAL EDUCATION

• ALL 6TH GRADE STUDENTS TAKE A FULL YEAR OF P.E.

• PE UNIFORM (ORDERS WILL BE AVAILABLE OVER THE SUMMER) / APPROPRIATE FOOTWEAR

• STUDENTS CHANGE IN THE LOCKER ROOM- LOCK FEE $5
BEGINNING BAND
BAND IS A WONDERFUL OPTION FOR STUDENTS WHO ENJOY MUSIC!

• STUDENTS INTERESTED IN BAND SHOULD SELECT BAND ON THEIR ELECTIVE FORM.

• TO BE ENROLLED IN ADVANCED (7TH GRADE BAND), PARENTS MUST CONTACT MS. VANCE.

• WE WILL HOST AN INSTRUMENT AND INFORMATION NIGHT PRIOR TO THE SUMMER CAMP AND THEN AGAIN AT THE START OF SCHOOL SO STUDENTS CAN TRY OUT ALL INSTRUMENT CHOICES.

• INSTRUMENT PURCHASE/RENTAL – INFORMATION REGARDING PURCHASE AND RENTAL WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE SUMMER MEETING.
How do I stay informed?

- General information is provided on the school website. (middle school website under construction)
- Online textbooks are available for all core classes. Teachers provide usernames and passwords at the beginning of the year.
- Teachers use Edmodo and HAC in lieu of a class website.
  - Students will use Edmodo to view upcoming activities, tests, and important class information.
  - Home Access Center (HAC) allows parents and students to view grades online. If you need your username / password, please contact Ms. Weaver.
PLANNERS/EDMODO

- ORGANIZATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!
- PLANNERS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THROUGH THE PTO. AVAILABILITY WILL BE ADVERTISED DURING THE SUMMER.
- STUDENTS ACCESS ASSIGNMENTS THROUGH EDMODO OR THE PLANNER. STUDENTS RECORD CLASS NOTES IN “ONENOTE”. “ONENOTE” CAN BE ACCESSED THROUGH THE LAPTOP OR YOUR HOME COMPUTER. STUDENTS WILL RECORD ALL HOMEWORK AND ASSIGNMENTS IN THE STUDENT PLANNER, “ONENOTE” AND/OR EDMODO.
- PARENTS MAY ASSIST STUDENTS WITH ORGANIZATION BY CHECKING THE PLANNER AND EDMODO ON A DAILY BASIS
- STUDENTS MAY MARK THEIR PLANNERS WITH A RED AND BLUE MARKER SO THEY KNOW WHAT DAYS THEY HAVE THEIR CLASSES... THE CALENDAR IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE ON THE SCHOOL WEBSITE
CHARGER SUCCESS

• WRITE ASSIGNMENTS IN PLANNER OR WITHIN “ONENOTE” ELECTRONIC BINDER

• CHECK EDMODO SITES DAILY

• PUT HOMEWORK IN THE CORRECT CLASS FOLDER/NOTEBOOK AND KEEP THE CASE-IT CLEAN

• STUDY BUDDY, HAVE OTHER STUDENT’S PHONE NUMBERS TO CALL FOR HELP OR QUESTIONS ABOUT HOMEWORK OR ASSIGNMENTS.

• DO HOMEWORK FOR TODAY’S CLASSES THAT NIGHT.

• CHARGE YOUR LAPTOP

• POST A SCHEDULE ON INSIDE OF LOCKER – “RED” & “BLUE” DAY CLASSES

• HAVE A “STUDY AREA” AT HOME WITH LIMITED DISTRACTIONS – TV, CELL PHONE, VIDEO GAMES, ETC.

• PLENTY OF SLEEP AND A GOOD BREAKFAST

• A GREAT ATTITUDE
HOMEWORK

• HOMEWORK IS DESIGNED TO BE PRESCRIPTIVE, MAY FRONT LOAD LESSONS (FLIPPED ASSIGNMENTS), AND/OR MAY PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PRACTICE

• THE HOMEWORK POLICY IS PROVIDED ON THE WEBSITE

• HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL CLASSES WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO PARENTS AT OPEN HOUSE

• HOMEWORK EXPECTATIONS INCREASE WITH EACH GRADE LEVEL

• EACH NIGHT, STUDENTS WILL HAVE APPROXIMATELY SIXTY MINUTES OF HOMEWORK, IN ADDITION TO INDEPENDENT READING
SUPPLIES

- The 6th grade supply list will be posted on the school and PTO websites at the end of the year.

- Prepackaged supplies will be available through our PTO for delivery to the school at the beginning of the year.
  - Headsets
  - Lab Fees
  - Art Fee

- Supplemental supply requirements will be posted on the middle school website
3/9/2015

Student Request Verification

471 - Patriot Oaks Academy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Homeroom</th>
<th>Counselor</th>
<th>House/Team</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>06</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regular Course Requests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Credit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1001020</td>
<td>M/J Language Arts 1 Adv</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1205020</td>
<td>M/J Mathematics 1 Adv</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002050</td>
<td>M/J Compre Science 1 Adv</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2109020</td>
<td>M/J World History Advanced</td>
<td>World History</td>
<td>0.0000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Parents/Guardians: Please review the recommendations for your child, sign and date the form, and return it to your child's homeroom teacher BY MARCH 27, 2015. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Ms. Watson in the Guidance Department at 547-4050. Thank you!

Parent/Guardian Name (Please Print) | Signature | Date

---

**COURSE VERIFICATION FORM SAMPLE DUE BY MARCH 27TH**
CHARGERS TOP 10

TIPS FOR SUCCESS!
#10
BE ON TIME

- HR IS BUILT INTO 1ST PERIOD, THE SKINNY BLOCK (45 MINUTES). IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE ON TIME.
- REPORT CARDS, SCHOOL INFORMATION
- EXCELLENT PLACE TO GET INFORMATION/ASK QUESTIONS
- STORE / CHARGE YOUR LAPTOP WHEN (IF) NOT A HOME
#9
STORE THE BACKPACK

- TO AND FROM SCHOOL
- DRAWSTRING PACKS AND “CASE IT” BINDER
- HALLWAY / CLASSROOM CONGESTION
- TOO MUCH “STUFF” / TOO HEAVY
- ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS
- TEXTBOOKS ONLINE
- LOCKER BREAKS BUILT IN SCHEDULE
#8
SECURE PERSONAL ITEMS

- WE RECOMMEND YOU LEAVE EXPENSIVE ITEMS AT HOME
- LOCK YOUR LOCKER
- BE RESPONSIBLE WITH YOUR LAPTOP
#7

STAY ORGANIZED

- PLANNERS, EDMODO AND HAC ARE UTILIZED DAILY
- PLANNERS ARE A GOOD COMMUNICATION TOOL W/ TEACHERS
- AVAILABLE THROUGH THE PTO (SUMMER/ORIENTATION)
#6

**BE IN CLASS**

- **KEEP ABSENCES TO A MINIMUM**
- **MISSING CLASS PUTS A STUDENT BEHIND**
- **YOU CAN GET MAKEUP WORK.....BUT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO MAKEUP CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION**
- **PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY**
#5
STAY INFORMED

• STUDENT....TEACHER....PARENT
• IT IS A PARTNERSHIP
• MIDDLE SCHOOL WEBSITE/HAC- ONLINE GRADES
• SCHOOL - WEBSITE, PATRIOT PRESS / CHARGER CHAT, ALERT NOW PHONE MESSAGES, REMIND TEXT MESSAGES, TWITTER
• VOLUNTEER AT THE SCHOOL!
#4
PARENT CONFERENCES

• CONTACT TEACHERS FIRST
  • THIS USUALLY SOLVES PROBLEMS

• CHECK ONLINE GRADES, WEBSITE, PLANNER/EDMODO

• SHOULD BE AN ACADEMIC NEED

• CONFERENCES ARE SCHEDULED BY THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR
#3
LUNCH / P.E.

- **LUNCH**
  - 6\(^{th}\) – 8\(^{th}\)
  - STUDENTS MAY SIT WHERE THEY WANT
  - 30 MINUTES

- **P.E.**
  - LOCK RENTAL FEE
  - PE UNIFORM
#2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Start / End Times - Same as Elementary 8:30-2:50 (1:50)**
- **School Opens at 8:00 AM**
- **Parent Drop Off**
  - **About 7 Minutes - Allow Time for Your Student to Walk To Their Locker and Class... You Should Be in the Line Between 8:10-8:15 - Earlier if Having Breakfast**
- **Dress Code - Follows the Student Code of Conduct**
- **Forgotten Items**
  - **An Email is Sent to the Teachers**
I AM IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.....

• GET INVOLVED!
• POSITIVE STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP
• INCREASE FREEDOM ....INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY
• STUDENT ACCOUNTABILITY
  • BE A CHARGER LEARNER!
  • BE ON TIME AND TRY YOUR BEST
  • ADHERE TO SCHOOL/CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS
SUMMER TRANSITION

- Dates will be advertised in May
- Opportunity for students to become oriented to middle school
- See the locker room, PE activity
- Meet teachers
- Make new friends
THANK YOU FOR COMING TONIGHT!

PLEASE LEAVE QUESTION CARDS SO WE CAN ANSWER ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE

WE ARE CONFIDENT YOUR CHILDREN WILL HAVE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO THE 6TH GRADE.

OUR EXPERIENCED TEAM IS READY TO HELP YOUR CHILD TO BECOME A SUCCESSFUL AND INDEPENDENT LEARNER!