

MIDDLE SCHOOL INFORMATION

Dear Middle School Families:

I am excited for the upcoming school year and getting to know our new community members and revisit with returning families. I will work with our two Coordinators, Meghan Ward (5th, 6th) and Michelle Gallivan (7th, 8th) and Grade Level Team Leaders: Daphne Abrams (6th), Michelle Gallivan (7th), and Bryan Walker (8th) to lead our middle school community. Of course, your child's advisor will have a critical role in communicating and coordinating among your child's teachers and between school and home. Please utilize your child's advisor as one of your first contacts with school if the need arises. Advisor assignments will be published with the student schedules on Book Day. Below you will find important information regarding the middle school. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to call or email me with your questions or concerns. I am eager to speak with you about whatever is on your mind which might help us better deliver a top notch education to your child.

Sincerely,

Colburn Shindell
Middle School Head
cshindell@sageridge.org

New Student Orientation (includes all new and returning 6th grade, all 5th, new 7th and 8th) – **Friday, August 20; 8:30-1:30**: All new students and all students (new and returning) entering 6th grade are requested to attend this day-long informational event from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Students are to bring a bag lunch and snack, dress in casual clothing for various activities – we will be running around at times – no sandals or flip flops please. Drinks will be provided. Furthermore, students in grades 6-8 are asked to bring school supplies acquired so far, i.e. locker-shelving, notebooks, binders, etc. with them to this event. 5th grade students are asked not to bring supplies to school this day. I will hold an assembly for all arriving new students promptly at 8:30am; I recommend you arrive a few minutes early to allow time for your child to unpack and meet his or her grade level teachers before the assembly. All parents are to be off campus by the time the assembly begins – I can empathize with your intentions to “linger” but a clean drop-off will make for a more focused morning for your child.

Outdoor Education – September 13-17: All middle school families, new and returning should have received a packet regarding grade-level outdoor education trips scheduled the week of September 13-17. The parent orientation meetings are scheduled for September 2 at 6:00. This is an important meeting to attend. Furthermore, the forms: release of liability, health inventory, emergency contact information, etc. are due to Laura Stephens by the end of the school day August 27. Contact her if you need any of the forms. The middle school grades go to the following areas:

5 th	Grizzly Creek Ranch
6 th	Golden Gate National Recreation Area – Headlands Institute
7 th	Pt. Reyes National Seashore, Naturalists at Large
8 th	Yosemite National Park, Naturalists at Large

Students Walking Home from SRS Campus: Any student who intends to walk off campus at the end of the day must have a written statement from their parent or legal guardian on file with Ms. Stephens, Divisional Assistant, giving explicit permission to do so. We will not accept verbal instructions to release a student to walk off campus.

After School Study Hall: This has certainly been utilized by many families and time well-used by students to complete homework. There are some school days when this service will not be offered during the school year. Please check the master calendar for those dates. Commonly, early release days (12:40 or 1:00 dismissal) will preclude the study hall.

1. Parents must come to room 102 in the Webster building to sign out their child from study hall.
2. The charge of \$10 is billed at the end of each month.
3. The study hall opens at 3:30. However, any students remaining on campus after 3:45 are required to attend study hall.
4. All students must be picked up by **5:30 p.m.**
5. Students are not allowed to watch video or play video games.
6. Snacks and drinks are encouraged. However, we ask students to leave their space clean.
7. Students are encouraged to bring a free-reading book or drawing activity in the event homework has been completed.

MS Parent Advisory Council: Two to three parents are appointed by the division head to represent a portion of the parents in their respective grades. This group advises the middle school head and middle school coordinator on various issues. The purpose of the Parent Advisory Council is as follows:

- a) provide a forum for addressing parental concerns.
- b) act as a sounding board for initiatives developed by the school.
- c) pass on suggestions for improvements in the school to the administration.
- d) act as a positive community resource for new, current and prospective parents.
- e) make suggestions for appropriate policy/curricular changes.
- f) provide a direct and indirect communications link to their respective grade levels.

The members of the 10-11 Middle School Parent Advisory Council are:

Grade	Name	Email	Phone
5	TBD		
5	TBD		
6	Ruth Adams (Claire 6, Emily 9)	ruveges@charter.net	775-884-4585
6	Ilana Rugg (Alexandra 6, Barbara 12)	ariellt@aol.com	775-849-0246
7	Eric Novak (Jeremy Novak, 7)	Eric.novak@sbcglobal.net	775-786-7908
7	TBD		
8	Ann Marie Craddock (Aidan, 8)	annmariecraddock@mac.com	775-852-0738
8	Sara Stevenson (Ben, 8)	SYD1JOE@aol.com	775-852-4967

School Supply List: These were mailed home in late June. A copy of the list, if you need one, can be requested from Ms. Stephens.

Dress Code: First, any student at SRS, regardless of grade may wear white or navy blue polo shirts or sweaters. Evergreen and burgundy are identified with specific divisions, middle school (evergreen) and upper school (burgundy) respectively. Second, girls in the middle school are required to wear a blue blazer and white blouse top on Dress Wednesdays. **Reminder, the first Dress Wednesday is on September 1 not August 25.** Finally, there still remains clothing from Lands' End that is not embroidered with the required school logo through hand-me-downs and the used clothing program run by the Parents' Association. Therefore, these items are exempt from having the required logo. Simply put, some blazers and many other items in "circulation" will not have logos and I will not require that you have them embroidered – they are "grandfathered" into the uniform program. Finally, I want to reinforce the length requirement of girls' skirts and skorts. The hem of the skirt must not be more than three inches from the middle of a child's knee. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the dress code, please call me.

Grade Level Team Leaders: The GLTL is responsible for overall leadership of their grade level. Student culture, routine, communication and coordination are some of their responsibilities. The GLTL will also coordinate twice-monthly grade level teacher meetings. Finally, the GLTL maintains a grade level calendar or bulletin for parent reference on the grade level Edline site. The GLTLs for the 10-11 SY are listed below.

Grade Level Team Leaders (Faculty)

5th, 6th Coordinator

Ms. Meghan Ward

6th

Ms. Daphne Abrams

7th, 8th Coordinator; 7th GLTL

Ms. Michelle Gallivan

8th

Mr. Bryan Walker

7th and 8th Grade Extra-Curricular Requirement for 2010-2011: On page 37 of the Parent-Student Handbook it states, "Students in 7th and 8th grade are required to participate in at least one athletic season or one theatre production each of these two years in the middle school." I have reviewed the spirit and purpose of this policy and concluded that it is good for middle school children to require them to join a sports' season or theatre production in each of the 7th and 8th grade years. It enriches both the child's experience at a critical growth period and allows the child to "give back" to the community. This policy is designed to broaden a child's experience – helping them try a new sport or club or take-on a part in a play.

The following is a list of opportunities which will fulfill this requirement, other opportunities are under review:

1. One season SRS athletic team membership
2. One performance of a SRS theatre production – either as performer or crew
3. Math Counts, (Ms. Abrams) – one semester
4. Band – one semester

7th and 8th grade chamber ensemble opportunity in 2010-2011: Students who are accomplished musicians may audition for this opportunity. This group will meet twice weekly during the 10:05-10:35 period in the music room. The students who pass the audition would comprise a MS orchestra for the 2010-2011 SY under the leadership and instruction of Eric Gault. Please contact Eric Gault (egault@sageridge.org) if you are interested in this opportunity.

Middle School Band: Students who wish to continue with an instrument beyond the SRS music class may enroll in this group. It will meet twice a week after school. This is open to all students. Mr. Gerry Willis will be leading this.

Vaccinations:

Washoe County Health Department audited our records last year for accurate vaccination records. Results of the audit were:

Tdap (Tetanus and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine) is recommended by the CDC and Washoe County Health Department for children ages 11-12. **Currently, Washoe County School requires incoming 7th grade student to have this vaccination.**

The pertussis portion of this vaccination is particularly important in middle schools. Most children are vaccinated for pertussis before entering kindergarten; however, immunity wears off over time. If you are receiving vaccinations from your child's pediatrician for your incoming 7th grade child, please ensure to have this vaccination. Please go to the CDC's Recommended Immunization Schedule for further information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/>

Please see attached Immunization Schedule for more information.