Howard County Public School System

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION TO MIDDLE SCHOOL

Building a Strong Foundation for High School and Beyond

Meet the Staff

Ms. Antoinette Roberson: Principal
Mr. Debra O'Byrne: Assistant Principal
Ms. Ebony Peppers: Student Services
Ms. Kathleen Goffaux: 6th Grade Team/ITL
Ms. Susan Thomas: 6th Grade ELA
Mr. Kirk Mardock: RA Team
Ms. Lois Han: GT

In order to teach a child well we must know a child well.

HCPSS Strategic Call to Action

Learning and Leading with Equity

The Fierce Urgency of Now

VISION: Every student and staff member embraces diversity and possesses the skills, knowledge and confidence to positively influence the larger community.

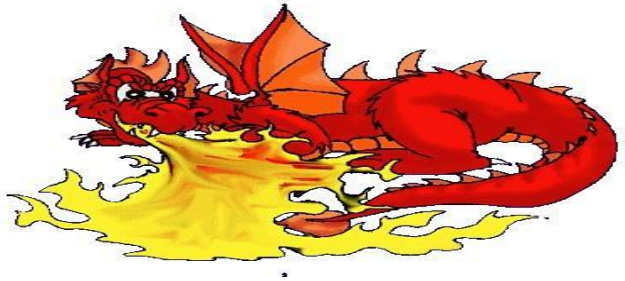
MISSION: HCPSS ensures academic success and social-emotional well-being for each student in an inclusive and nurturing environment that closes opportunity gaps.

Four Overarching Commitments

VALUE ACHIEVE CONNECT EMPOWER

DMS Vision & Mission

Vision: The Dunloggin Middle School Vision is to inspire, empower, and prepare students to be successful in all life endeavors in a global community.

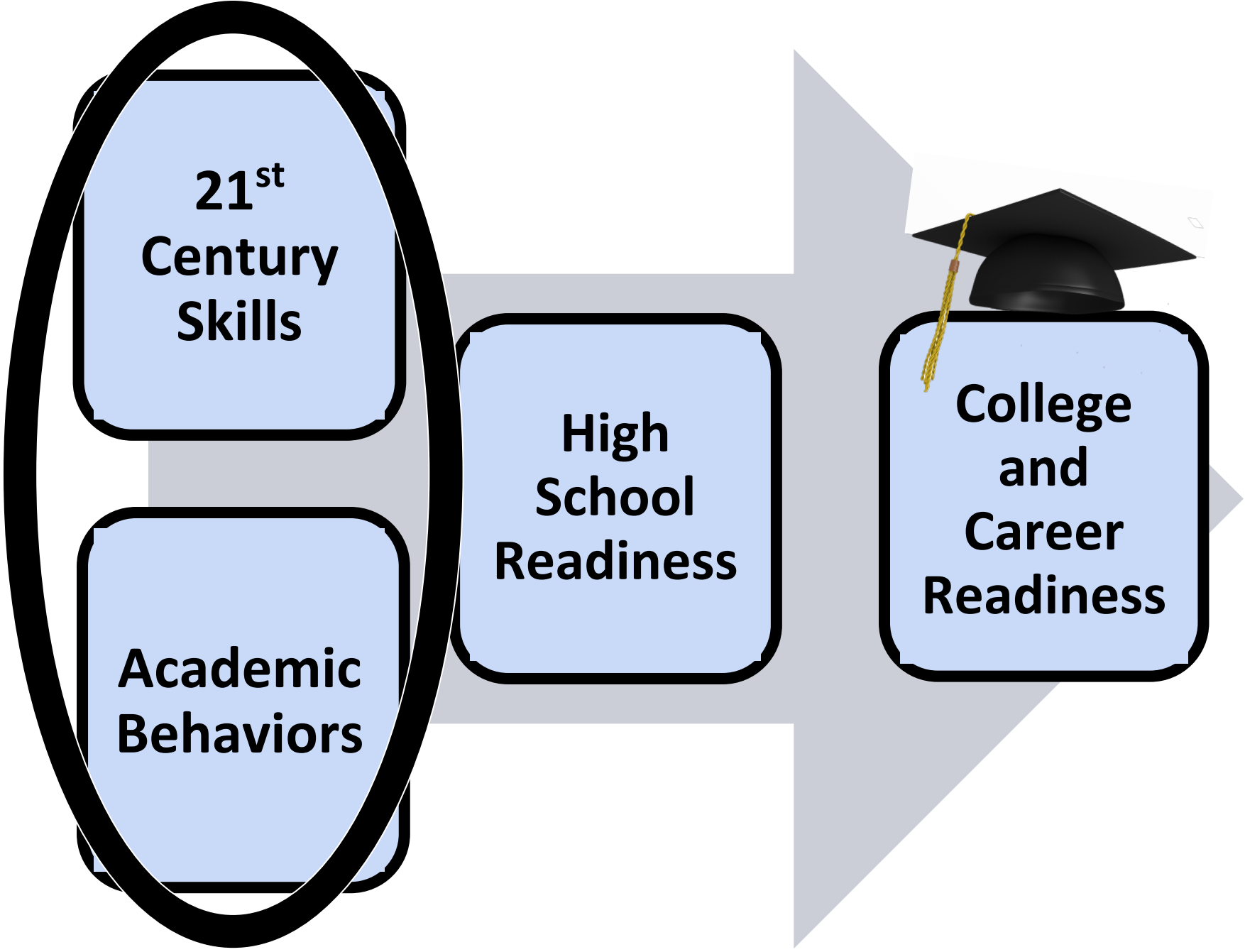


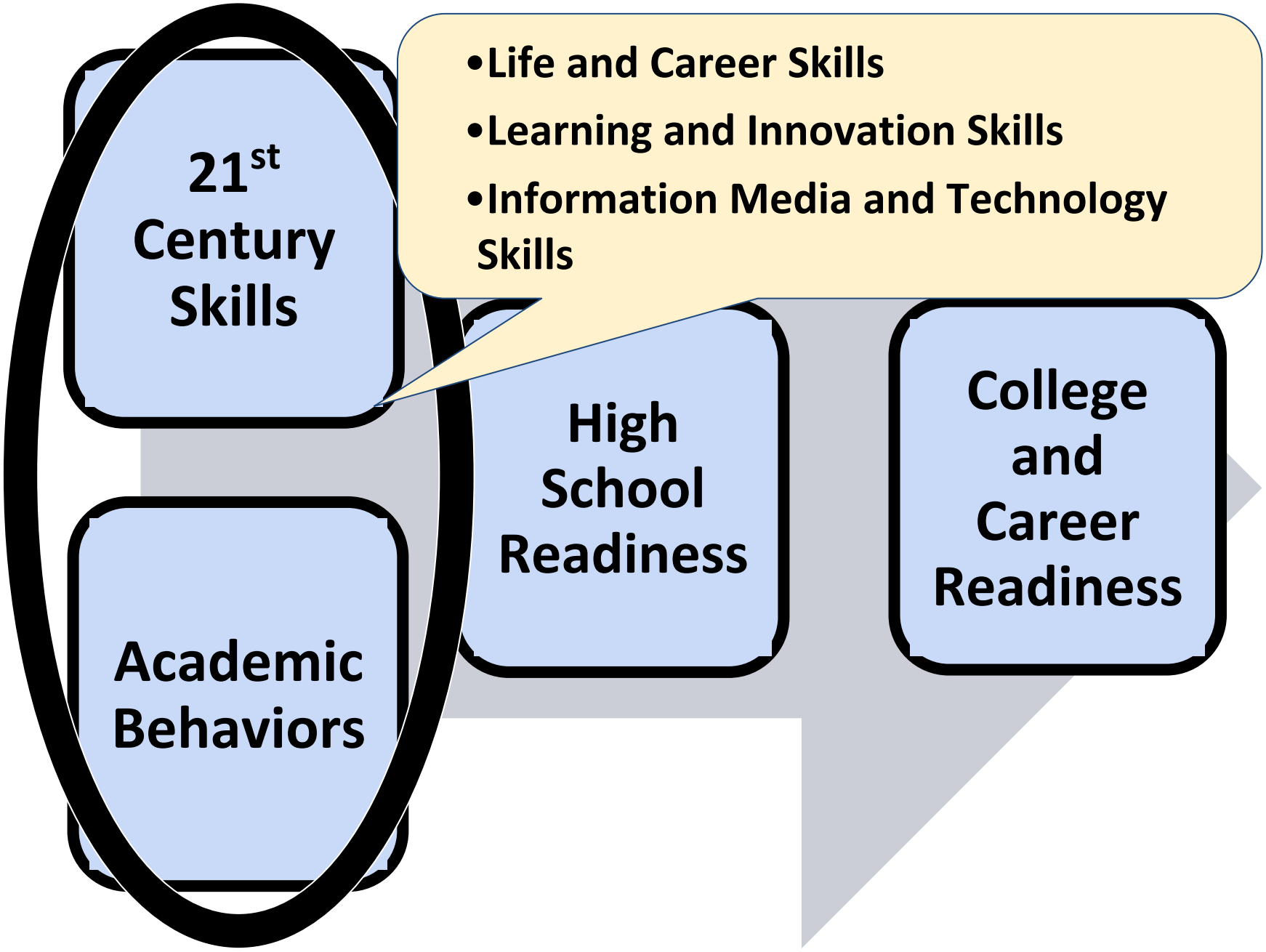
Mission: The Dunloggin Middle School Mission is to create an environment in which students, staff, and community are dedicated to fostering a diverse, engaging, rigorous, and nurturing global learning community that promotes success. DMS empowers all individuals to maximize their potential, take ownership of their learning, and develop an academic and civic foundation for success throughout life.

Middle school is a defining point for students in the college and career readiness process.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.

Preparing Students for the Future


21st Century Skills
Academic Behaviors
High School Readiness
College and Career Readiness


21st Century Skills
•Life and Career Skills
•Learning and Innovation Skills
•Information Media and Technology Skills
Academic Behaviors
High School Readiness
College and Career Readiness

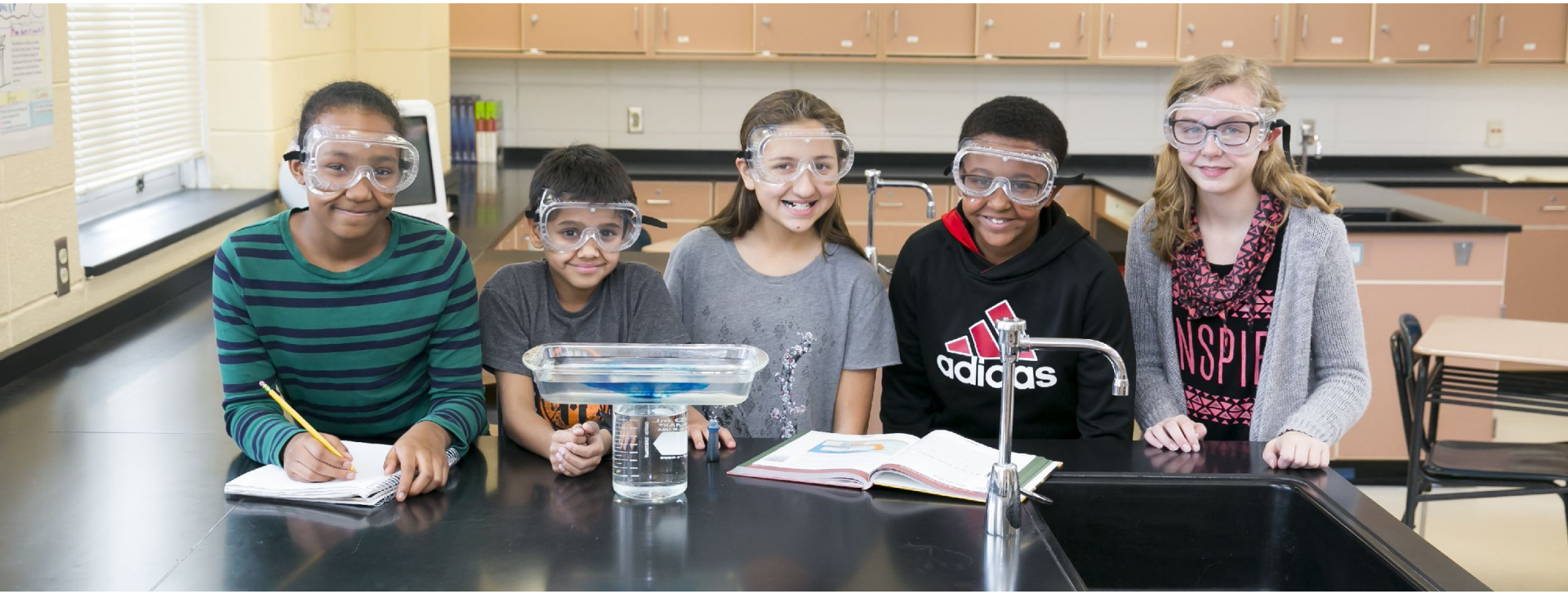
Academics

The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness than anything that happens academically in high school.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School

The Middle School Schedule

All students are enrolled in seven 50-minute classes every day.



All students receive daily instruction aligned to Maryland's College and Career-Ready Standards in:

English

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

In addition, Maryland regulations require all students take:

Health Education
Physical Education
Fine Arts (Music and/or Visual Arts)

Music Performance Ensemble Options

Band – Chorus – Orchestra

- Year-long classes
- Includes a daily large ensemble rehearsal and a weekly small sectional that are scheduled on a rotational basis
- Ensembles are ability-based.
- Music teachers will be in contact with elementary programs to schedule meetings and auditions.

World Language Options

French – Spanish

- Year-long classes
- Students may begin French or Spanish in 7th or 8th grade.
- Students receive high school credit for completing MS world language courses.

Additional Course Options

Family and Consumer Science

Technology Education

Reading and/or Math Intervention

Innovation & Inquiry Reading Modules

GT Research

Lunch

Finding the Right Balance Between

- Course Placements
- Rigor
- Personal Interests
- Student Success

Academic Behavior

The earlier a student develops important academically related behaviors, the more likely these behaviors are to become a habit.

Source: The Forgotten Middle: Ensuring that All Students Are On Target For College and Career Readiness Before High School, ACT, 2008.

Supporting Academic Behaviors

At DMS, staff and students:

- Start with the goal in mind
- Do what they do best, every day
- Celebrate effort and achievement
- Engage in positive experiences each school day
- Create excitement for the future.

3 WAYS

TO SUPPORT

THE WHOLE CHILD

1. Teach kids that intelligence isn't fixed. They can grow their brains through lifelong learning.

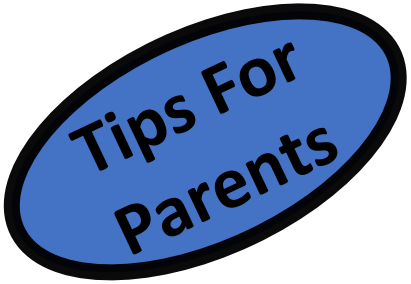
2. Talk to students about college and potential careers. Tell them you believe in them and in their success.

3. Keep the communication lines open – set aside time to regularly talk about feelings and friendships.

LearnED by PEARSON

Supporting Your Child's Development Of Positive Academic Behaviors

- Ensure that your child has the materials and place to study at home.
- Set a regular time for homework.
- Encourage your child to be responsible for chores and homework.
- Provide your child with a range of experiences to allow him/her to identify areas of strength.
- Talk to your child.



Frequently Asked Questions about Middle School

What tests will my child take during the year?

- Next year your child will take:
  - Measure of Academic Progress (MAP)
  - Partnership for Assessment for Readiness for College and Careers (PARRC)-Not PARRC but similar
  - Unit tests/quizzes
- No more than three on given day

How will my child navigate lockers?

- Students may only access lockers during designated breaks.
- Encourage practice with combination lock over the summer.
- Locker Schedule:
  - 7:30 before first period
  - Before and after lunch
  - Around Related Arts
  - 2:20 dismissal
- NO backpacks/bags are to be carried around during the day.

What does a typical day look like?

- Students are dismissed from the lobby to their lockers at 7:27.
- Ten minute announcements through first period.
- Five academic classes, 50 minutes each- one before lunch and four after.
- Related arts classes are first two periods of the day.

What supplies will my child need?

- Middle school supply list is generated and approved by the county. We can only make some edits.
- It may be wise to hold off buying *everything* until teachers indicate what your child will need.
- ONE big binder is discouraged.
- Just the basics the first week- paper, pencil, folder.

Is there homework every night?

- Homework is given from most classes nightly (yes, weekends too).
- Nightly homework is NOT accepted late.
- It comprises no more than 10% of total grade.
- Homework may also include long term projects and studying for tests and quizzes.
- Monitor agenda books *and* Canvas for assignments.

How is Canvas used in Middle School

- Canvas is used as:
  - A gradebook- grades should be checked about once/week
  - A forum for announcements/homework/resources- students should check these pages nightly or as needed
  - Online assignments- Only *some* teachers and contents use the online submission feature of Canvas.

How do I contact my child's teachers?

- MOST teachers prefer an email to address a concern. Please allow them 24 hours to respond.
- Certainly call the school for subject matter that is more urgent or sensitive.
- Conferences are in the Fall only. Parents may choose THREE content teachers for the conference window.
- Immediate concerns **do not** need to wait until conferences. Contact your child's teacher if you'd like to schedule one sooner.

What is Outdoor Education?

- WONDERFUL experience for all sixth graders!
- Extended day, overnight trip
- NorthBay Adventure is located on the Chesapeake Bay in Northeast, MD
- **Would you like to chaperone?**
- Look for more information to come!

Important Dates

Date	Activity
May 21, 2019	Fifth Graders Visit Dunloggin
Thursday before students return (summer 19)	6th Grade Orientation

Once Again: Welcome to the DMS CommUnity!