

Middle School Transition Kit

A Guide to 6th Grade





How is Middle School Different?

1. Changing classes
2. Different teachers for every class
3. Greater need for organizational skills
4. Homework and grade tracking
5. Backpacks & Hallway time
6. Dealing with peer pressure
7. Lunch Time

Changing Classes



What is the best way to prepare for changing classes? Ask these questions:

- Do I have my homework written down in my planner or on google classroom?
- Do I fully understand what the homework is? (If not, it is important to ask the teacher!)
- Are my papers all put away in the right folders? Do I know where I put my work?
- What class am I going to next? (Check your schedule on PowerSchool!)

Working with Several Different Teachers

Students will have an average of 10 teachers to get to know each year at Cloonan, this is a huge change! How can students manage this change?

- Read teacher handouts thoroughly! Many times they are telling you exactly how they will be grading assignments right there in the instructions
- Find out where the teacher writes homework assignments so you always know where to find it
- Find a buddy in your classes that you can contact when you aren't sure of the homework or a due date for a project
- Participate!

Staying Organized

Making a Homework Plan and Tracking
Grades

In class: if you have paper materials; always put papers in the correct folder so you can easily find them.

Before leaving school: check your homework folder and make sure you have everything you need; put everything in your backpack to bring home

Set a weekly binder & backpack clean up time

Don't forget to charge your devices every night!

- Write down the homework
- Review your agenda and/or google classroom before leaving school
- Pick a homework time and a homework SPACE (quiet and clean, remove distractions)

Powerschool for Parents: Cloonan Middle School
Main Page under “Families” click **Parent Portal**

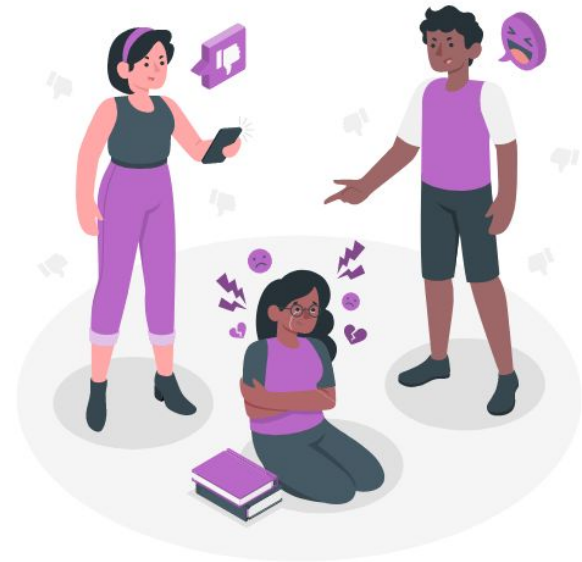
Contact: Angelica Reyes (203) 977-5794

AReyes@stamfordct.gov


Peer Pressure

An increase in peer pressure is common in middle school, it is a part of your child's development and social growth. Look for teachable moments, there will be plenty!

- It is also important to remember that your child WILL most likely make mistakes when it comes to social interactions, and that is ok! Create a safe space to communicate so you can help your child navigate these challenges.
- If your child is ever feeling they are being peer pressured into doing something they don't want to do, talk to them, or encourage them to talk to any adult they feel comfortable opening up to. Communication is key when working through social challenges!



Lunch Time



Lunch can be one of the most fun times during your child's day. At Cloonan the students can choose who they sit next to at that table. This is where they can practice social skills, meet new friends, and take a brain break from the classroom. Here is some helpful information for a positive lunch time experience:

- ❖ Don't always sit next to the same students
- ❖ Choose your seat wisely
- ❖ If you don't think you can handle the lunch room on a particular day, check to see if your counselor or teacher is free to eat with you
- ❖ If you see something, say something!

10 Tips for Middle School Success

1. Sleep is important- Go to bed early!
2. Eat right
3. Do your homework
4. Pay attention in class
5. Get involved
6. Think Positive
7. Ask for help
8. Stay organized
9. Make goals
10. Take risks



How to be an Active Learner

Staying engaged in class can be very difficult for many students, here are some guidelines on how to be an active listener:

- ❖ **Sit up straight and keep your eyes on the speaker**
- ❖ **Listen to the teacher and classmates**
- ❖ **Start your work right away**
- ❖ **Correct your work when the class reviews it**
- ❖ **Write down your homework and important notes**
- ❖ **Ignore friends who are trying to distract you**
- ❖ **Raise your hand to ask and answer questions**



Getting Involved

Getting involved in sports, clubs, and other after school activities can help students feel more connected to both their school and community.

Extra curricular activities can also help to increase self-esteem and give students an outlet for the growing stress and demands of middle school.

Getting your child moving (and away from a screen!) can be challenging.

If possible, try to introduce some new activities on the weekends or after school.

Contact the Youth Rec. Dept, ROSCCO or your counselor if you are looking for Community Resources or programs here at Cloonan.





Diplomats

7th and 8th grade student ambassadors nominated by their teachers. They provide tours for new students, assist with school functions and represent our school.

This is our second year having Diplomats at Cloonan. Diplomats are nominated by their teachers at the end of their 6th grade year.

Nominated students must then complete an application. No more than 20 Diplomats are selected per grade



Peacemakers

Peacemakers are trained peer mediators in the 7th and 8th grade. Mediation is when two or more students involved in an argument meet in a private, safe and peaceful setting to work out problems with the help of a trained Peacemaker.

There are 3 ways in which you can request a mediation:

1. Fill out a paper Peacemaker Mediation Request Form located on the bulletin board in front of Ms. Cleary's office
2. Fill out the electronic Peacemaker Mediation Request Form located in the School Counselor 6th grade google classroom
3. Ask a teacher/parent to email the counselors

Guardian Summaries

Your child's teacher will be sending you a Guardian Summary Invite via email. This will allow them to email you a weekly summary of missing work, upcoming work, announcements, assignments, and questions recently posted by teachers.

Guardians can get emails daily or weekly and can unsubscribe at any time.



Google Classroom

Nicole Ballantoni invited you as a guardian in Google Classroom

You'll get a weekly summary of [REDACTED] progress with missing and upcoming work, and new teacher posts.



GUARDIAN INVITE

[REDACTED]

Accept

I'm not the guardian

You don't need Gmail or a Google Account to accept.

If you accept, your contact information will be shared with [REDACTED] teachers and domain administrators, and applications they authorize for use with Classroom. [Learn more](#)

Forward to only those you trust. Anyone with this email may be able to accept the invitation.

Google Google LLC [1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043 USA](#)



Who can help?

Everyone needs help sometimes, remind your child who can support them at Cloonan:

Principal & 8th Grade Administrator:

Mr. Tate DTate@stamfordct.gov

Assistant Principal & 7th Grade Administrator:

Mr. Huertas HHuertas@stamfordct.gov

Assistant Principal & 6th Grade Administrator:

Ms. Churchill JChurchill@stamfordct.gov

School Counselors:

Mrs. Ballantoni (Teams B, D & F)

203-977-4042

NBallantoni@stamfordct.gov

Mrs. Cleary (Teams A, C & E)

203-977-4551

KCleary@stamfordct.gov

Who can help?

School Psychologists:

Ms. Spiegel ZSpiegel@stamfordct.gov

Ms. Santini CSantini@stamfordct.gov

School Social Worker:

Mr. Guillaume
RGuillaume@stamfordct.gov

Restorative Student Support Specialist

Dr. Hadley PHadley@stamfordct.gov

Technology Integration Support Specialist:

Ms. Jacobsen AJacobsen@stamfordct.gov

Office Staff:

Ms. Revell 203-977-4546
Ms. Lamontagne 203-977-4547

Parent Facilitator:

Angelica Reyes
203-977-5794

AReyes@stamfordct.gov