



## Middle School: 'The Tunnel'

- Think of middle school as a three-year maturation process.
- Give your child choice and responsibility. Examples of when this can be used: disagreement with friends, disagreement with teacher, not earning the grade they wanted.
- When your child presents a problem to you, try to remain as calm as you can (easier said than done). Ask them what they think they should do about it. Offer your viewpoint in the least judgmental way possible. Do not be offended or upset if they don't try what you suggested and try it their way, and then are not successful. This is how they learn!
- **You can try to fix everything for them, but they will not learn how to fix things themselves. Resist the urge (it will be strong) to step in and solve their problems for them.**
- Technology often hinders our students' interpersonal skills (and I guess ours too sometimes, right?). It is more important now to encourage your child to try to talk to whomever they are having a problem with. That includes their teachers. You can help them figure out what to say (but don't tell them what to say).
- You will be amazed at who they become by the time they leave here! If parents were to keep a journal about their 6<sup>th</sup> grader and then read it when the child left 8<sup>th</sup> grade, they would be in awe of how much they have grown. They would also have some serious laughs.

*Prepare the Child For the Road, Not the Road For the Child - Kari Kampakis*

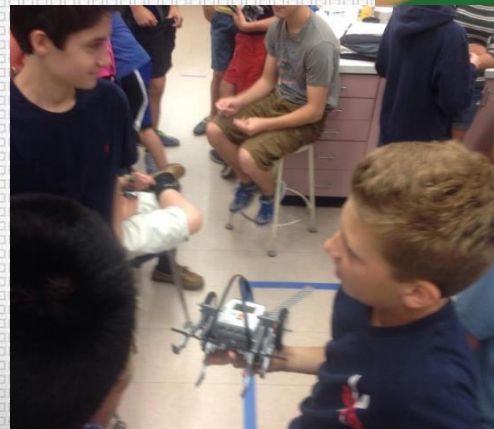
<http://www.karikampakis.com/2015/07/prepare-the-child-for-the-road-not-the-road-for-the-child/>





# Use of Technology

- One to One Devices
- Laptop carts
- No need for cell phones





## Monitor devices

Remind your child that words hurt...a lot. This hurt is multiplied when others join in a 'group' slam.

Talk to your child about conflict management.

Teach child to let friends know it's not okay to text inappropriate content or offensive language to him or her.

Enforce consequences for sending texts or making posts on social media that are inappropriate.

Discuss 'sexting'.

Keep conversation open about cyber bullying.

Warn them about strangers/anonymous people.

Parental controls can be your friend.

Ask your child about what **THEY** think the ground rules should be as far as social media and phone.

*From McAfee Family Safety Blog; [blogs.mcafee.com](https://blogs.mcafee.com)*







# Classes and Schedules

- School Day:
  - Gates open at 9:15am
  - Homeroom tardy bell is 9:35am
  - Dismissal is 4:30pm (3:30pm on Mondays)
- Different Level Courses; Class Placement Decisions
- Class Size
- Attendance/Early Sign Outs



# Typical 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Schedule

- HR (morning show & announcements)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Critical Thinking/Reading
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Math
- 11:30am Lunch
- 3<sup>rd</sup> US History
- 4<sup>th</sup> PE
- 5<sup>th</sup> Elective(wheel)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Science
- 7<sup>th</sup> Language Arts





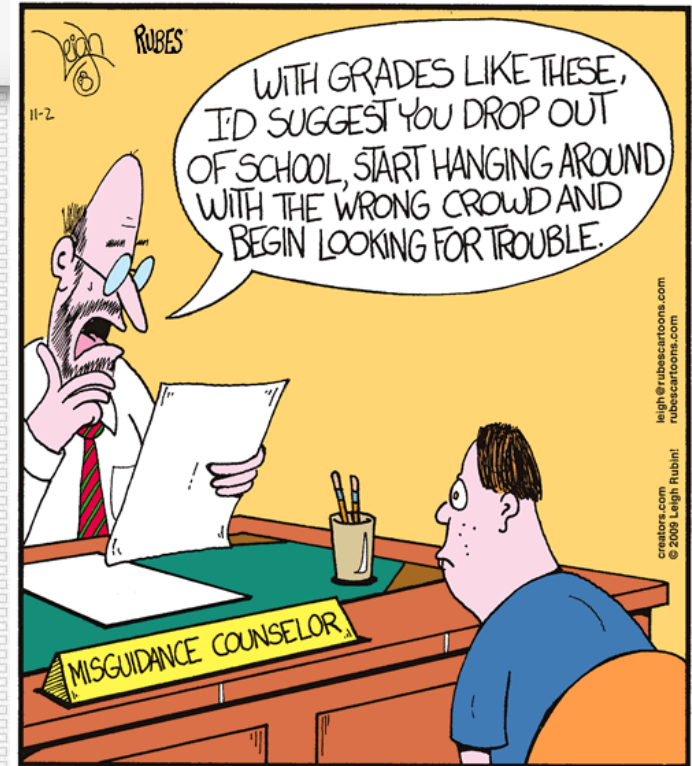
# Curriculum

## Traditional Middle School:

- Language Arts – McGraw-Hill Study Sync
- Math – Accelerated Model
- Science – Text along with lab experience, HS level course in 8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- Social Studies – US History
- Reading (Critical Thinking) – Required in 6<sup>th</sup> Grade
- PE – All 3 years
- Electives – AVID, Art, Business Technology, Band, Orchestra, Agriculture, Creative Writing

# What the counselors say...

- Students may experience their first 'B' or 'C' on progress report or report card. Good experience to have – most likely won't be their last.
- Take advantage of study sessions.
- Encourage your child to self-advocate – they will be amazed at how important this becomes!







# Clubs

## **NJHS – National Junior Honor Society**

- Inducted at the end of 7<sup>th</sup> grade
- Projects: Fall Festival, Great American Teach In, service projects, Bulldog Boot Camp
- Elected officers

## **Why Define Us**

- 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls
- High school girl mentor program

## **Student Government**

- Grades 6-8
- Elected officers
- Projects: Community service, dances, Spirit Week

## **Prodigy Club**

- Grades 6-8
- 3.5 GPA or higher
- Project-based focused on Food-Energy, Water Nexus, Ecology, etc.

## **First Priority**

- Grades 6-8
- Student-led faith-based group

## **Green Team**

- Grades 6-8
- Recycling





# Athletics

## Basketball

- Grades 6-8
- Boys and Girls

## Volleyball

- Grades 6-8
- Boys and Girls

## Track

- Grades 6-8
- Boys and Girls

## Soccer

- Grades 6-8
- Boys and Girls

## Flag Football

- Grades 6-8
- Boys and Girls



Please visit our website for more information:  
<https://www.hillsboroughschools.org/wilsonms>





# Student Safety

- The Campus
- Over 50 Security Cameras
- School Resource Officer
- Daily Safety Protocols
- Monthly Safety Drills
- Student Sign-Outs





# Odds and Ends

- Band is located in the modular behind the gymnasium
- Cafeteria: PTSA memberships, merchandise & Birthday Broadcasts; Required student agenda planner; Host information
- Bus information located on HCPS website. Search “Find My Bus Stop”. If you need additional support, come to the media center
- You will receive a schedule & map in HR. You’ll follow your schedule based on the bells. If you do not know where your HR is, see a staff member with a HR locator