

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 6th grader and then read it when the child left 8th 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/>

Overview of Wilson

- History of Excellence
- The Middle School Years
- Social, Social, Social...
- Being Smart is the Cool Thing
- The Staff, Parents and Community
- Dress Code
- Backpacks and Lockers

Classes and Schedules

- School Day:
 - Gates open at 9:15am
 - Homeroom tardy bell is 9:35am
 - Dismissal is 4:30pm (3:30pm on Mondays)
- Class Size
- Early Sign Outs

“What To Expect in 7th Grade”

An insight into the academic, social, and developmental life of a Wilson 7th grader.



“Mr. Osborne, may I be excused? My brain is full.”

What To Expect in 8th Grade

An insight into the academic, social, and developmental life
of a Wilson 8th grade student...

A photograph of a crowded party scene. In the center, a young man with curly hair and a white t-shirt looks directly at the camera with a wide-eyed, awkward expression. He is surrounded by other young people, some of whom are looking away or interacting with each other. The lighting is dim and warm, typical of an indoor party.

**WITH FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM AND ALL OTHER
KINDS OF SOCIAL MEDIA**

**YOUNG KIDS TODAY ARE GOING TO HAVE THE MOST WELL
DOCUMENTED AWKWARD PHASE IN HUMAN HISTORY**

AKA, Emerging From the 'Black Hole'...

Often, if things are going to be out of whack - it's in 7th grade.

Meaning, a student who may have always sailed along with no issue, may be having issues in 7th grade.

Hold tight, 8th grade is usually the time we see the students pull it together and get ready for the responsibility of being a high school student.



7th Grade Academics/Scheduling

- Language Arts
- 7th Grade Math/Algebra(HS)
- Science
- Civics
- Electives (2)
- PE
- Intensive Reading

8th Grade Academics/Scheduling

Math

Pre-Algebra

Algebra 1 (HS)

Algebra 1 Honors (HS)

Geometry Honors (HS)

U.S. History

Language Arts

Intensive Reading

Electives

Digital Information Technology (HS)

Foundations of Agriscience (HS)

Aquaculture (HS)

Spanish 1 (HS)

AVID

Science

Comprehensive Science

Physical Science Honors (HS)

Band, Jazz Band, Percussion

Orchestra

Yearbook

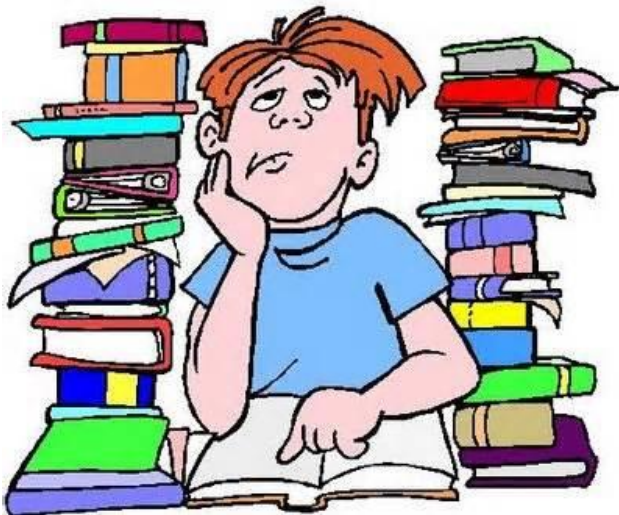
Morning Show

Art

High school credit classes mean that the grade that the student earns will be part of their high school transcript and GPA.

These courses have the look and feel of high school. Students who lack maturity may not always be successful even though he/she has the academic ability.

Struggling students will be removed from HS credit courses prior to the end of the first quarter as not to impact the GPA.



How Do We Help Student Succeed in These Courses?

- Data Based Placement
- Daily Monitoring
- Exam Review Sessions
- Excellent Teachers and Counselors
- School and home working as a team



Electives

Students are scheduled into electives based on their elective choices. However, students do not automatically get their top two choices. Making elective changes in a schedule is not a priority - making sure a student is in the correct academic courses is the top priority. Often making an elective change will change a student's entire schedule, which can disrupt their routine as well as the routine of the class.

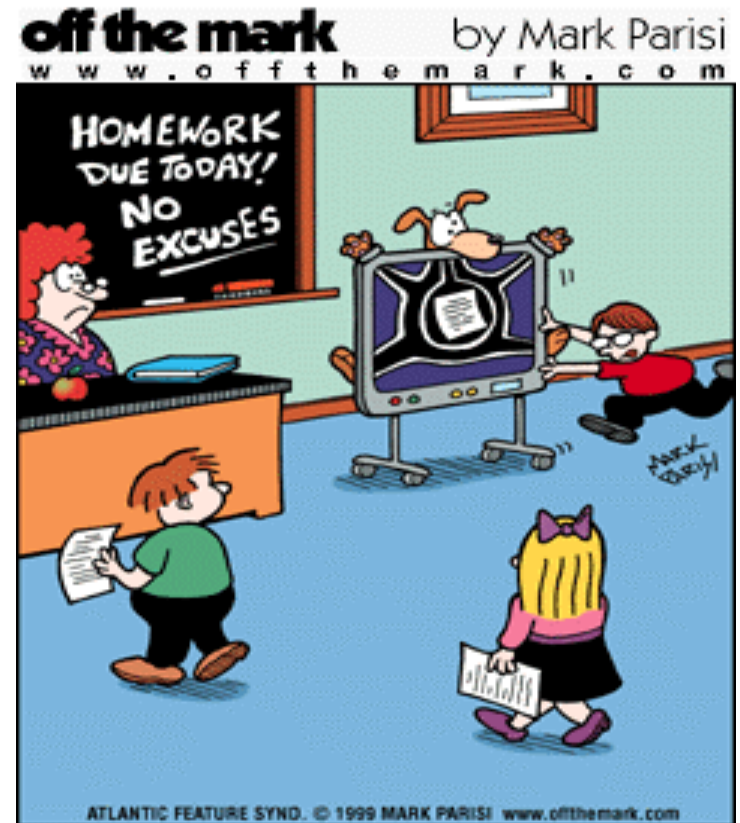
How Can Assessments Affect Future Scheduling/Plans?

- 7th Grade Math FAST scores are used for Algebra placement in 8th grade. Students scoring a 3 and higher are placed into Algebra. Students must have successfully completed Algebra and the Algebra EOC to enroll in magnet programs (Robinson IB, Collegiate Academies, Middleton STEM).
- ELA FAST scores are used to place students in Language Arts, Science, Social Studies and determines if a Reading course is required.



What's going on in 7th grade?

- Changes in friends
- Greater need for independence
- Horseplay and drama
- Academics can take a back seat
- Moods are like the tides

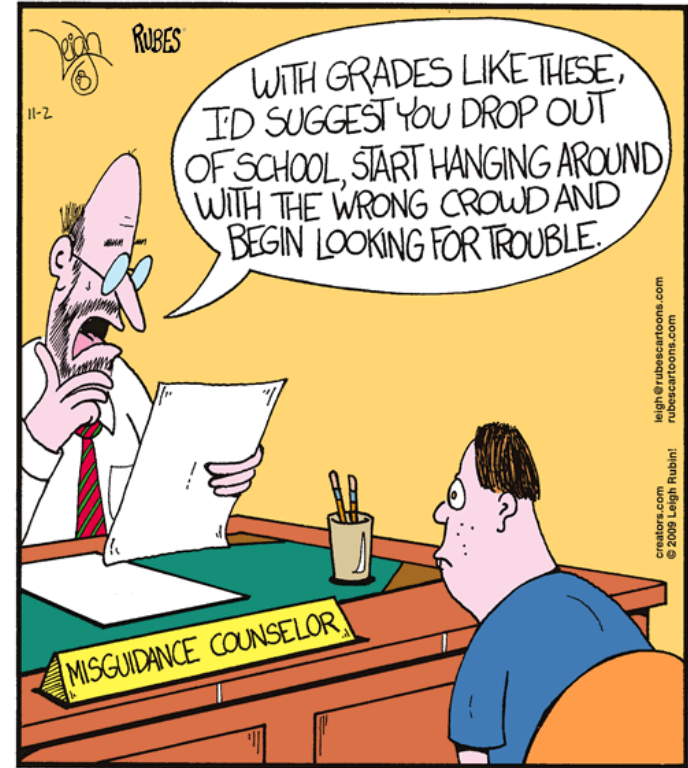


What Teachers Say...

- Binder organization is a **MUST** - students who can't find yesterday's homework don't always get a break.
- Keep records via student planner, particularly for projects and due dates.
- Use **CANVAS** to keep up with grades on a regular basis, not just at progress report and report card time.
- Be proactive about turning in make-up work when absent (this is huge for high school credit classes).
- Come to class prepared to work (both with supplies and mindset).
- Keep up with supplies, especially mid-year.
- Use all resources to keep up. Have someone in each class you can contact if you didn't write homework down/Edsby's not working etc.
- Be present (obviously not when sick). Absences can be a huge issue when you miss labs and new information (particularly important for high school credit classes).
- Expectation is students are to be responsible for their grades and behaviors, not parents.
- Quality work = quality grades. If students aren't putting in effort, they won't earn the A's they have in years past.

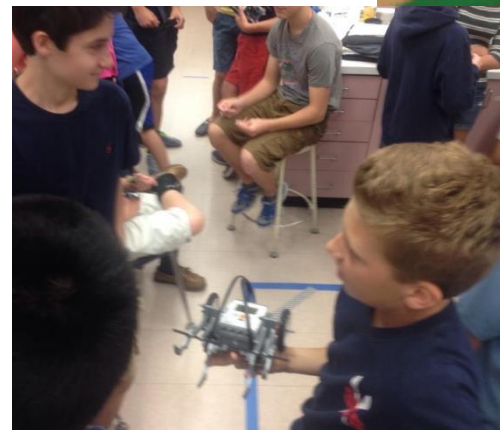
What the counselors say...

- 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.
- MOST students mature quite a bit between 7th and 8th grade. They are exiting the 'black hole' and realizing high school is just around the corner.
- Plant, IB, private school, or other magnet program? Guide your child in making a decision, but don't make it for them.
- Take advantage of study sessions.
- Encourage your child to self-advocate – they will be amazed at how important this becomes!



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



Clubs

NJHS – National Junior Honor Society

- Inducted at the end of 7th grade
- Projects : Fall Festival, Great American Teach In, service projects, Bulldog Bootcamp
- Elected officers

Why Define Us

- 8th grade girls
- High school girl mentor program

Student Council

- Grades 6-8
- Elected officers
- Projects: Community service, dances, coin wars

Poetry Club

- Grades 6-8

First Priority

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

Green Team

- Grades 6-8
- Recycling



Sports

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
- School Resource Officer
- Daily Safety Protocols
- Monthly Safety Drills

How we can help our student...

- Continue to encourage student to advocate for his or her self; they may want to not involve you at all, don't take this personally
- Monitor their social media as this is where drama gets stirred up
- Lots of students find a peer group, maybe even a new one (or even try out different peer groups) - know who their friends are and who they are spending their time with
- Be patient - the transition from 7th to 8th grade (usually) brings us a more mature student/child/teenager

How you can seek support...

- Reach out to your child's teacher
- Talk to your child's counselor if you feel your child is struggling more than what is typical.
- Talk to other parents and find support from others who are dealing with the same issues

Odds and Ends

- Band is located in the modular behind the gymnasium
- PTSA is in the cafeteria selling memberships, merchandise and birthday broadcasts
- Bus information, Host information and agendas are located in the media center
- You will receive a schedule and map in HR and you'll follow your schedule based on the bells