Welcome to Margaret Bell Miller Middle School
Parent Orientation
for Students New to MBM
2021 – 2022

As parents we often have concerns about our children as they grow and face new situations. We want our children to experience success and to be happy and secure in their surroundings. Leaving the security of the elementary school and entering the middle school can cause feelings of apprehension on the part of the student and his/her family.

This booklet was designed for you – the parents of a student entering the middle school. We hope the information compiled in this publication will help you to understand the middle school program, so you may, in turn, help your child make a smooth transition to the middle school.

At MBM Middle School our goal is to provide your child with a developmentally appropriate and responsive middle level program. We strongly believe we can accomplish this goal by working together with you. Therefore, we extend to you our willingness to help you and your child in any way possible.

Sincerely,

Justin Stephenson
Principal

Approved by the CGSD School Board August 17, 2021
Central Greene School District Mission Statement

The Mission of the Central Greene School District is to provide a comprehensive education for all students to become successful, critical thinkers as they enter a global society.

COVID 19 UPDATE

We will be following the district guidelines through our Health and Safety Plan. We will keep you notified as guidance changes.

It is possible that we will be social distancing in the cafeteria during breakfast and lunch. If we do require social distancing, the cafeteria, commons area, and gym will be utilized prior to school starting to allow students the appropriate space between each other and to promote social distancing. Hand sanitizers will be available in every classroom. All water fountains have been shut off and restrooms will be continually cleaned throughout the day. Students will be permitted to have water bottles in the classroom when we start the year and dividers will be used in the cafeteria to provide safe boundaries for social distancing. We will be continuously checking for more guidance from our governor and CDC to make changes to our Health and Safety Plan throughout the school year in our building. Updates will be announced and posted on the www.cgsd.org website.

What is a Middle School

The middle school movement came into existence in the mid-1960s in response to a growing need to provide an appropriate learning experience for young adolescents between the ages of 10 and 15.

Although the junior high concept was originally proposed to provide for young adolescent needs, in reality, the junior high school usually was a scaled-down version of the high school model. Young adolescents, faced with a multitude of physical, intellectual, emotional and social changes taking place within themselves, found difficulty coping with the academic programming and social situations designed for high school students.

Middle schools are specially designed to meet the unique needs of the young adolescents they serve. In the middle school the child comes first. Its programs strive to develop the total with emphasis placed on physical, intellectual, emotional and social growth. Middle schools create small communities for learning through interdisciplinary teaming and assign a teacher advisor to provide individual support to each student. Middle schools reduce the levels of tracking and encourage the use of varied instructional strategies. Exemplary middle schools strive to promote success for all students and create a sense of belonging and caring.
Philosophy

To meet the developmental needs of our young adolescents, it is our belief that the total school staff must function as a team, along with parents, students and the community to provide a middle school which:

- Places children at the heart of every decision.
- Offers a variety of learning experiences.
- Establishes a positive and supportive environment.
- Offers young adolescents an integrated and challenging curriculum.
- Directs young adolescents’ energy and vitality in productive ways.
- Promotes self-confidence and a positive self-image.
- Emphasizes excellence by challenging young adolescents to perform to a level consistent with their abilities.
- Acquaints young adolescents with various career opportunities.
- Promotes an awareness of differences and respect for all individuals.
- Encourages discovery and exploration of ideas and talents.
- Encourages participation in extracurricular activities/interests which promotes enjoyment, leadership, sportsmanship and/or teamwork.
- Establishes small advisory groups fostering positive social interactions.
- Assists young adolescents in selecting and applying appropriate problem-solving techniques to given tasks.
- Instills young adolescents with life-long skills necessary to become effective learners, workers and citizens.
- Addresses the dramatic physical and emotional changes of young adolescents.
- Involves participation in community service projects.
- Provides young adolescents with skills to organize time and materials effectively.
- Generates enthusiasm in young adolescents throughout the school day.

Components of an Effective Middle School Program

Developmentally responsive middle level schools are characterized by these:

- Educators committed to young adolescents
- A shared vision
- High expectations for all
- An adult advocate for every student
- Family and community partnerships
- A positive school climate

Therefore, developmentally responsive middle level schools provide these:

- Curriculum that is challenging, integrative and exploratory
- Varied teaching and learning approaches
- Assessment and evaluation that promote learning
- Flexible organizational structures
• Programs and policies that foster health, wellness and safety
• Comprehensive guidance and support services

National Middle School Association

Homeroom/ SSR/ PD 1

On a daily basis, students will report to their homerooms/SSR/ PD1 no earlier than 7:45am and no later than 8:00am. Homeroom/SSR/PD 1 will run from 7:45- 8:37am. Students are reminded that they will be late if they enter their homeroom/SSR/PD 1 after 8:00 am.

MBM PTO

MBM Middle School has a Parent Teacher Organization. All parents/guardians are welcome to attend. Most meetings will be scheduled at the same time as dances and other student activities. There will be a link on the school webpage or email mbmpto@cgsd.org.

Student Assistance Program / Team

The Student Assistance Program (SAP) is a team of professionals who identify and assist students considered to be at high risk for school failure due to mental health, social or family –related issues. Team members include: administrators, social workers, school counselors, teachers, school nurse and representative from the local mental health/drug/alcohol agency. Parents are always notified and permission is required.

Members of the team meet each week to provide consistent, systematic and professional responses to students who are experiencing difficulties. The team develops a plan of action which may include the following:

• Meetings with parent(s), student or family to share concerns and develop cooperative solutions.
• Individual counseling with school counselor or social workers to help resolve personal, social and emotional problems.
• Multidisciplinary evaluations to determine the need for special education services.
• School-based counseling with a social worker from the local mental health agency to provide students with more accessible treatment.
• Referral to community-based agencies for mental health or drug/alcohol assessment.

MBM Team members are as follows:

Mrs. Blair 7 8 Math Teacher
Mr. Moore 8 ELA Teacher
Mr. Brumley 7 8 Health Teacher
Mrs. Kozich 8 ELA Teacher

Mr. Stephenson Administrator
Ms Deurlein School Counselor
Agencies
Greene County SAP liaison – Tracie Sippon

Various pamphlets are available in the guidance office, such as agency information, where to locate necessities and how to get through middle school and much more.

Course Offerings
Grades 7 – 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade 7</th>
<th>Grade 8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>Math</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Science</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Studies</td>
<td>Social Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language Arts</td>
<td>Language Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exploratory Career Readiness</td>
<td>Exploratory Career Readiness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Band</td>
<td>Band</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chorus</td>
<td>Chorus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Related Arts*</td>
<td>Related Arts*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory/IXL</td>
<td>Advisory/IXL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Related Arts Rotation: Art, Health, Technology Education, General Music
Sample Schedule

Activities and Sports

A variety of activities and interscholastic sports are available to MBM students. The listings below are offered in addition to school-sponsored activities, musical performances, and contests.

Activities and Clubs

Zeta Theta Honor Society
Math Counts
Student Council
Yearbook (Grade 8 only)

Interscholastic Sports – Grades 7 & 8*

Boys
- Football
- Soccer

Girls
- Softball
- Cheerleading
- Soccer
*Interscholastic Sports are available for students in Grades 7 and 8. Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) requires student athletes to have a physical examination and submit the PIAA Comprehensive Initial Pre-Participation Physical Evaluation prior to participating in the sport. Forms are available in the MBM Office or at the WCHS Athletic Office. (According to the guidelines established by the PIAA, sixth grade students are not permitted to participate in the sports listed above.)

MBM SUPPLY LIST

7th Grade
(2 pkgs) Filler paper
(5) 1 Subject Notebooks
(5) 2-Pocket Folders (recommend plastic folders)
(1) Box #2 pencils
(1pkg) package Pencil-top Erasers
(1 pkg) Red Pens
(1) 3 ring binder for Science
(4) Yellow Highlighters
(2) glue sticks
**Algebra students only:**
(1) Graphing Calculator, model TI-83 Plus
(1 pkg) Quartile graph paper
(1) 5 subject notebook
**General Math students only:**
Optional – Calculator model TI30xIIs-to coordinate with calculators used in the classroom – Texas Instruments-approximately $13.00
(1) protractor
**General Music Students only:**
(1) 1 subject notebook
(1) 2 pocket folder
**Health**
(1) 2 pocket folder

8th Grade
(1 pkg) Filler Paper
(6) 1 Subject notebooks (1 for each class & Health)
(6) 2 Pocket folders (1 for each class & Health)
(2) Boxes of #2 Pencils
(1 pkg) pencil top erasers / erasers
(1) Box Red pens
(1) Yellow Highlighter
(1) Ruler
**Algebra Students only:**
(1) Graphing Calculator, model TI-83 Plus
(1 pkg) Quartile graph paper
(1) Protractor
Some items will need to be replenished through the year. Please replenish as needed.

Important things you need to understand from Orientation and review in your online student handbook!

Attendance - There are multiple differences between the elementary school and the middle school. Examples: We require notes for all changes in routines. The notes must be handed in to the homeroom teacher the morning of that school day. We require excuses for students who are tardy. (8 unexcused tardies equal 1 full day of an unexcused absence.) We only allow 10 parent excuses for absences. If you come in and pick a student up, you still need to give us an excuse.

1. We have policies that all parents, guardians, visitors, volunteers, and chaperones need to look at and review. Policy #907 and # 916 can be found on the district website www.cgsd.org. These policies deal with entering the building in any capacity. We also have a new drug and alcohol policy which is Policy #227.1.
2. Know the dress code! Every year we have the same issues with students and earrings and other piercings. Please understand that you can’t take gym with earrings or other piercings in. Also, you can’t have any piercings in your nose, tongue, mouth, or face that disrupts the education process.
3. Know the Chromebook and Cell Phones Policies! You are responsible for making sure it is not damaged.
4. If you have medication, please take it directly to the nurse’s office and nowhere else. The nurse must do all of the distribution of any medicine.
5. You are not allowed to use your cell phone to call home, and have your parents come get you. If you have an appointment a parent needs to come in and give us an excuse for you to leave. There is no cell phone usage from 7:45-3:15pm unless a
teacher wants you to use it during class. If there is an emergency students can come to the office and use the phone after permission is given by the principal.