

Step-Up Orientation



4:00-4:30 Meet in the Gymnasium

Parent Testimonies

Teacher/Staff introductions

4:30-5:00 Walk to each classroom, view curriculum, greet the teacher

Academic Differences

- 1. Curriculum Guides/Courses Offered:** All of our classes have curriculum guides with objectives and assessment techniques. These are available through a link on our website.
- 2. Guidance Counselor:** The focus is on helping students identify career opportunities and prepare for entrance into a university, the military, or the work force. All students in the 9th grade receive a “High School Planning Sheet.” The option is to choose an “Honor’s Diploma” or “Standard Diploma” track. The differences between those diplomas can be found in the Family Handbook.
- 3. Physical Education:** MS and HS students have PE every day with 7th and 8th having it in alternating quarters; students are required to change into a PE uniform; there are no showers; 6th graders change back into school uniform, 7th-12th remain in PE clothes from either 7th or 8th periods.
- 4. Band/Choir/Art:** 7th and 8th grade students must choose at least one fine arts class for their last period elective.
- 5. Study Hall:** Students in 6th grade get a study hall twice each week; 6th graders will no longer be required to take band/strings; they can choose a study hall instead; 7th and 8th graders can elect to have a study hall every other day or they can take two fine arts classes.
- 6. Class size:** MS 22-24; HS 18-24
- 7. Instructional Time:** The average is 45 minute per class; this may be the only time that teacher sees your child that day. The 6th grade has an easier transition by having Ms. Mann teach 6th grade 3 times and having them in just two classrooms for their six core subjects.
- 8. Homework:** For classes that give daily homework the average is 35 minutes of instruction and 10 minutes for independent practice; some students use this 10 minutes diligently and others do not. This time in class can decrease homework significantly when you factor in 6 core classes.
- 9. Renweb:** This is the teachers’ primary form of communication; homework is posted by Sunday at 6:00 pm; grades taken from previous week posted by same time. “PND” in a grade space means work not completed yet, could be because of absence or work turned in late; D means “drop” – some teachers drop the lowest quiz score.
- 10. Technology/Google Apps/Chromebooks:** Every student is assigned a “gmail” address and login for the Chromebooks; teachers will be establishing “Google Classrooms” to distribute notes, assignments, power points, etc.; students will be able to chat with other students on assignments and turn in work electronically.
- 11. End of Year Awards:** we give awards for most improved student in a grade; highest average in a class; President’s Academic Excellence and Academic Achievement for 8th grade; HS – ACSI Distinguished Christian High Student; Man of Faith & Woman of Faith; not every student receives an award every year.

Social Differences

1. **Enrichment Period:** This is used for clubs most weeks; also used for class meeting times and mentoring of elementary students; variety of clubs available.
2. **Lunch:** Students responsible to get order forms from teachers and return on time; students eat in gym with entire MS/HS student body; no assigned seats; students responsible for their own clean up; 5-7 teachers on duty.
3. **Discipline System:** Students accumulate demerits over 9 weeks; Levels 1, 2, 3; parents receive emails concerning 2nd and 3rd level offenses unless personal communication is warranted; Saturday school results from excessive demerits.
4. **Chapel/Praise Team:** All 6th-12th graders have chapel together in the gym on Friday; girls wear skirts and boys in 9th-12th wear ties; the Praise Team which is a ½ credit HS class leads the worship music; local youth leaders and Bible teachers share a message from God's Word.
5. **MS Social Event:** Every year the student council hosts a middle school social in the fall; there has been gym time, a bonfire, food, games and more.
6. **Banquets:** There is a winter banquet also hosted by the student council for students in 9th-12th grades; a Jr./Sr. banquet for students in 11th and 12th grades is hosted by the junior class. These are both formal affairs where students dress up and are allowed to bring a date; dresses must be pre-approved.
7. **Sports:** The MS & HS students can participate in soccer for guys and volleyball for girls in the fall; basketball for guys and girls in the winter and track and field for both guys and girls in the spring.

Organizational Differences

1. **Homerooms:** Every grade has a homeroom teacher and a homeroom time each day between 2nd and 3rd periods; this is a time for the teacher to take attendance, say the pledges with the students, and pass out or collect any slips for lunch, field trips, etc.
2. **Lockers:** All students are assigned a locker; 6th graders have their locker in their classroom (room 103); 7th-12th graders have a locker in the hallway; their numbers are given out at orientation or the first day of school by the students' homeroom teachers.
3. **Dress Code:** The primary difference is that beginning in 6th grade jeans are not allowed; jackets are not permitted in class.
4. **A/B schedule:** Every Wednesday there are some classes during 7th and 8th periods that meet every-other week either on an "A" schedule or a "B" schedule - classes like art, choir, band, etc.; this schedule is posted under the "Resource Documents" tab in Renweb.
5. **Friday Chapel Schedule:** Chapel meets during 3rd period; instead of missing the third period class each week, third period floats between 1st and 7th period every nine weeks, i.e. the third period class meets during 1st period one week and then during 2nd period the next week, etc....
6. **Thursday Bell Schedule:** Because of the "Enrichment Period" on Thursdays, the classes are a little shorter and the bell schedule is different.
7. **Two-Hr. Delay Schedule:** Any time there is a two-hour delay all classes meet for approximately 30 minutes; bell schedules are also posted in Renweb.