

## ***The Middle School Years***

### ***Meeting the Needs of our Middle School Students***

Between the ages of 10 and 14, children can experience dramatic physical changes, and these years are often characterized by mood swings and feelings of insecurity. Middle school children's behavior can vary from mature to immature, and they may feel confused and perplexed by their rapidly changing bodies. Often during middle school years, our children's friends become more essential to them. While they continue to value the adults in their lives, they often seek approval from their peers.

In order to meet these dramatic changes, middle schools in Volusia County strive to address the social-emotional needs of our students as well as their academic needs as they transition from childhood to adolescence. In addition to rigorous academic programs and opportunities for students to receive academic intervention and academic acceleration, students receive embedded instruction and guidance regarding social-emotional learning that is vital as they navigate these challenging years. Parent involvement in their child's middle school years is essential, and we strongly encourage parents to utilize the various resources available at your school to support your child's transition and strengthen our home to school connection.



### ***Middle School Teaming***

For the 2023-24 school year, middle school will continue the concept of teaming. Students will share a team of teachers in their core subjects (ELA, math, science, and social studies). In addition to teaming, schools will remain with a six-period day. Other initiatives related to teaming include daily "Team Time" during first period block and Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS), where students will be recognized and rewarded for exhibiting positive behaviors.

### ***Middle School Testing***

Required state testing for middle school includes: Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) testing for English language arts and mathematics (grades 6-8), NGSSS testing for science (grade 8) and end of course (EOC) testing for civics (grade 7) and applicable high school level courses (Algebra or Geometry).

Multiple high school level courses are available for students to accelerate their learning and earn high school credits. In addition, career exploration and a variety of career academies are available in our middle schools. We encourage parents to reach out to their assigned middle school to learn more about the academies and programs offered at their child's school.

### ***Middle School Promotion Criteria***

In order to be promoted to the next grade level within a middle school, a student must make acceptable progress in at least four of the six courses they are enrolled in during the school year. This must also include satisfactory completion of at least three of the four core courses: English, mathematics, science, and social studies. In order to be promoted to grade nine, middle school students must have successfully completed three courses in English, three courses in mathematics, three courses in science, and three courses in social studies (one of which must be civics).