

WARDLAW + HARTRIDGE

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August 1, 2023

Dear Middle School Families,

As we enter the final stretch of summer, I hope each of you has enjoyed sunshine, relaxation and the opportunity to refresh yourself before diving into the excitement of a new school year.

As we move into the last weeks of our break, I wanted to share some information that may be helpful as you prepare for the 2023-2024 school year. Below, please find contact information for the Middle School office and a number of important pieces of information, some of which may require your attention or response prior to the beginning of the school year.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Contact Information:

Ms. Eileen Valentine, MS Division Assistant: evalentine@WHSchool.org , (908) 754-1882 x 163

Mrs. Kirstin Rogers, Interim Head of Middle School: krogers@WHSchool.org , (908) 754-1882 x 305

1. **Summer Reading and Math:** Please be reminded that the summer reading assignment for Middle School students is accessible on the school website: [MS Academics](#). Please scroll down to the bottom right of the page for the link for your child's grade level. The recommended summer mathematics skills are available to your child using their [IXL](#) login. If they need assistance logging in, please reach out to the middle school office.
2. **School Supplies:** A school supply list is also available on the school website: [MS Academics](#). You will find that list above the Summer Reading Information. The school will provide a paper planner to all middle school students and a school-issued iPad as well as all necessary textbooks for academic classes.
3. **iPad Bootcamp:** Every newly enrolled middle school student in grades 6-8 is required to attend one iPad Bootcamp Session with a parent or guardian in order to receive their school-issued iPad. This year's iPad Bootcamp
4. **Dress Code:** a link to the Lands' End School Uniform Shop can be found here: [Lands End Uniform](#). Please be sure to follow the guidelines of the Middle School Dress Code found in the Student and Parent Handbook. If there is a discrepancy between the items available on the website and the Dress Code information, please contact the Middle School office so we can

quickly address the issue.

5. **Health and Physical Education:** As part of our ongoing endeavor to improve and strengthen our programming and promote student well-being, beginning this fall our health and physical education curriculum will be incorporated into the schedule of all middle school students twice per week.
Sixth grade students will participate in one period of Transitions, in which our school counselors support the social and emotional learning of students transitioning to the Middle School, as well as one period of physical education.
Seventh and eighth grade students will participate in a unified two-period-per-week Health and Physical Education program designed to promote healthy, physically active lifestyles. Physical fitness, athletic activities and health education will provide a well-rounded and comprehensive experience which allows students to further discover new athletic interests and abilities.
6. **Athletics Selection Form:** In addition to Health and Physical Education, which takes place during the academic day, all Middle School students are invited to participate in our interscholastic athletics teams. Please take a moment with your child to complete the [Sports Selection Form](#) to indicate which sport, if any, your child may choose to participate in during the fall season.
7. **Uniform Requirements:** For both Health and Physical Education classes and interscholastic athletics team practices, all students are expected to wear the athletics uniform. This uniform, which is different from the Lower School PE uniform, can be purchased via [SquadLocker](#). As health and physical education classes meet twice weekly and athletic teams meet four times weekly, it is strongly recommended that all students have 2-3 sets of uniforms on hand.
8. **New Student/Parent Orientation:** All new Middle School students and families should plan to attend New Student/Parent Orientation on Tuesday, September 5th, at 9:00 am. This event, which runs simultaneously for students and parents/guardians, is designed to welcome new families to our community and to review important information prior to the start of school.
9. **Parent Partnership Conferences:** To support all Middle School students as they join our school community, all new families are invited to participate in Parent Partnership Conferences at the start of the year. These are scheduled for Wednesday, September 6th and Thursday, September 7th. You will hear directly from your child's advisor by the end of August to schedule these meetings.
10. **School Communication System:** Please make sure that your household and contact information is updated in PCR, our digital communications portal. We will be using PCR for any school closing notifications as well as to communicate student academic reports throughout



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the year, so it is imperative that your phone numbers and email addresses are correct. If you need any assistance in logging into PCR and updating your information, please contact the Middle School office.

11. School Arrival and Drop-Off: Our Middle School day begins with advisory check-in at 7:45am and ends at 3:15pm. In the morning, all students should be dropped off at the Middle School doors and proceed to the AP room, if they arrive prior to 7:40am, or directly to advisory. In the afternoon, students are dismissed to sports practices or to the MS doors for pickup at 3:15pm. Please see the attached sheet for more detailed information.

We are currently working on faculty and student schedules; these are traditionally shared with families at the start of the school year..

Kindly note that only fully enrolled students can be scheduled for classes and athletics. Please contact the business office directly to finalize enrollment if you have not already done so already.

I am eager to partner with you in support of a wonderful school year for our students. I look forward to seeing you on the first day of school and at the Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 7.

Best,

Kirstin Rogers

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Interim Head of Middle School



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