

Middle Level Guide



St. Cloud Area
School District



www.isd742.org

Welcome!

DEAR PARENTS,

Curious, dynamic, funny, brave and unpredictable is how our middle level educators describe the early teens we work with. For students, middle level is a period of intense personal and intellectual growth that lays the foundation for future success. We understand the unique challenges of middle level students and have designed programs to support them as they explore their fantastic potential. Our students are encouraged to do more and to become more than they dreamed possible. We understand that the decisions you make for your child's education are among the most important decisions that you will ever make. Whether children attend Kennedy Community School, North Junior High or South Junior High, they will have tremendous opportunities and be prepared for the next step in their educational journey.

Nearly 66% of our staff have a Master's Degree or higher. This expertise and experience contribute to an academic program that will challenge and inspire your child. We pride ourselves in our approach to meet the individual learning needs of each student. Students experience instruction that satisfies all learning styles through hands-on instruction, individual and group activities, projects, technology integration and more. We have a variety of options across curricular areas to meet academic needs and provide the challenge and rigor for students who are interested in exploring content in a deeper, more complex way.

We believe that students who participate in extracurricular activities become more confident, gain important social skills and are more likely to be successful in school. These reasons are why we offer numerous academic achievement, artistic and leadership activities in addition to a wide range of athletic activities. Of the many choices, your children are certain to find activities that match their interests and enhance their school experience.

We strive to provide opportunities for students to engage in positive, supportive relationships. Our school counselors assist students with educational issues, future planning and decision-making, along with personal and social growth and development. All students are part of an advisory student group that focuses on improving self-awareness and self-concept, personal relationships, decision-making, teamwork and responsibility. Additionally, through the use of a systematic approach to positive behavior support and management (PBIS: Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support), we work to create a positive climate where all students feel safe and welcome.

We focus on creating an effective and positive partnership with you and your child. It is this commitment that will reinforce and enhance your child's educational experience. We are honored to partner with your family along this journey.

Sincerely,



Anna Willhite, Principal
Kennedy Community School



Sascha Hansen, Principal
North Junior High



Becky Estrada, Principal
South Junior High

Our Schools



KENNEDY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Home of the Colts, Kennedy Community School is located in St. Joseph on the western side of our District boundaries and educates students in grades PreK-8. In 2012, Kennedy was named a Green Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education. Honored schools exercise a comprehensive approach to creating “green” environments by reducing environmental impact, promoting health and ensuring a high-quality environmental and outdoor education. Kennedy inspires all students through hands-on learning opportunities in its gardens and prairies, and celebrates collaboration through its community partnerships, including the Sauk River Watershed District and College of St. Benedict. Students who attend Kennedy will complete their high school education at Apollo High School located in west St. Cloud.



1300 Jade Road, St. Joseph, 320-370-7430



NORTH JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Eagles, North Junior High educates students in grades 6-8 and is geared toward helping students transition from elementary to high school. North inspires student leadership through its student advisory opportunities and resiliency through its social emotional learning strategies. North has been rated as a PBIS Exemplary School for the last eight years. According to the school boundary areas, students who attend Madison and Westwood at the elementary level will transition to North. Students from Discovery and Lincoln will attend either North or South depending on where they live. Additionally, North is home to the middle level Chinese Immersion program. Students who attend North complete their high school education at Apollo High School.



1212 29th Ave N, St. Cloud, 320-370-7000



SOUTH JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Tigers, South Junior High educates students in grades 6-8 and is also geared toward helping students transition from elementary to high school. South is a Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports focused school. South “CAREs” (Community of Accountability, Respect and Empathy). South inspires students through community partnerships and hands-on learning. According to the school boundary areas, students who attend Clearview and Oak Hill at the elementary level will transition to South. Students from Discovery and Lincoln will attend either North or South depending on where they live. Spanish Immersion students continue their immersion education at South beginning in grade 6. Students who attend South complete their high school education at Tech High School.



1120 15th Ave S, St. Cloud, 320-370-7230

Enrollment

CURRENT STUDENTS

Students who are currently attending a District 742 elementary school are automatically placed on the class roster of their designated school for sixth grade. Designated schools are determined by the school attendance area that students reside in. Language Immersion students are placed on the class roster of their program's host school.

NEW STUDENTS

District 742 welcomes all resident and non-resident students through open enrollment. Families of new students who are transferring from a private school, charter school, home school, online school or a public school outside of District 742 boundaries will need to complete the necessary enrollment process.

SCHOOL TOURS

Families who are looking to learn more are welcome to schedule a customized school tour. Contact District 742 now to schedule a tour!

Kennedy	320-370-7430
North	320-370-7000
South	320-370-7230

JOIN US AT A MIDDLE LEVEL OPEN HOUSE!

Get to know the learning communities of our middle-level schools and our 6th grade course offerings. Tour the school, meet teachers and explore our many activities!

Whether your child is already enrolled in District 742 or you're still trying to determine the best fit, your family will benefit from attending an Open House!

Kennedy	Jan. 29	4:00-5:30
North	Jan. 27	4:30-6:30
South	Jan. 27	5:30-7:30

FAMILIES HAVE TWO WAYS TO ENROLL.

1. Online

Enroll your student from the comfort of your home by using our online enrollment feature.

Go to www.isd742.org/enrollment.

2. Visit the Welcome Center

Looking for additional support while enrolling? All families are invited to enroll their child at the Welcome Center. Children are welcome to attend, but need not be present.

The Welcome Center at Quarryview Education Center
800 7th St S
Waite Park, MN 56387

Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Call 320-370-8116 or visit www.isd742.org/enrollment with questions.



Support

ADVISORY GROUP

All students participate in an advisory group, which is made up of around 10 to 20 students and one teacher. This group helps students gain positive relationship skills and build character. Students participate in activities designed to improve self-awareness and self-concept, personal relationships, decision-making, teamwork and responsibility. In addition, advisory teachers review test scores (STAR, MCA) and set growth goals with students as well as help students keep up with schoolwork.

BILINGUAL COMMUNICATION SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Bilingual communication support specialists are a group of multi-linguistic and multicultural professionals assigned to schools throughout District 742. They act as cultural and linguistic liaisons between school staff members, students and parents. Bilingual communication support specialists mentor and provide academic support to students who are not yet proficient in English. They are often called to language interpret within their schools and throughout District 742.

ENGLISH LEARNERS (EL)

The EL Program supports students that are learning English as an additional language. Academic language instruction is delivered by licensed EL teachers employing research-based strategies from the field of bilingual education. District 742 serves more than 2,000 students representing 29 languages. The ability to speak and understand multiple languages is an asset to District 742 school programs.

GUIDANCE

School counselors assist students with educational issues, future planning and decision-making. Additionally, counselors provide personal and social growth and development assistance to students. Counselors meet with students individually and in groups. Counselors are often in contact with parents, teachers and others in the community to further the development of students so they become positive and successful learners.

POSITIVE BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS & SUPPORTS

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a major advance in schoolwide discipline. Using the PBIS process, schools move from a reactive approach to proactive strategies for defining, teaching and supporting appropriate student behaviors across the entire school campus to create a more consistently positive learning environment.



TARGETED SERVICES

Targeted Services programs offer additional learning opportunities for K-8 students who are struggling academically. Targeted Services learning opportunities are purposefully designed to build academic skills, as well as to help students develop better organizational and social/emotional skills. Students who meet enrollment criteria and are struggling in core academic areas are eligible for services. Programs provide small group classes with low student to teacher ratios so that students can receive individualized assistance based on individual student needs. Targeted Services are offered through extended day and summer school programming.

If you need help translating these materials, please call 320-370-8116.

Si necesita ayuda para traducir estas materias, por favor llame 320-370-8117.

Haddaab u baahan tahay in lagaaga caawiyo tarjumaada ku saabsan waxyaabahan, fadlan soo wac telifoonkan 320-370-8118.

Extracurricular Options

A wide variety of options and opportunities for students are provided outside of the classroom. Research shows that students who participate in extracurricular activities are more likely to be successful in school and achieve higher grades. Students can learn new skills and gain confidence in themselves and their abilities by participating in after-school activities. Students can gain physical, cognitive and emotional skills depending on the types of activities. Additionally, extracurricular activities provide students with the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends, which can contribute to successful social skills in the future.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT ACTIVITIES			
	Kennedy	North	South
Future Problem Solving	X	X	X
Geography Bee	X	X	X
Knowledge Bowl	X	X	X
Math League	X		X
Robotics	X	X	X
Speech Club		X	X
Spelling Bee	X	X	X
United States Academic Triathlon		X	

ARTISTIC			
	Kennedy	North	South
Art Club		X	X
Chamber Orchestra		X	X
Jazz Band			X
Chamber Choir	X		X
Fiddle Club	X		
Theater	X	X	X

LEADERSHIP			
	Kennedy	North	South
FAB (Friends Against Bullying)		X	
Gender & Sexuality Alliance	X	X	X
Service Learning/WE Act	X	X	X
Student Council	X	X	X
WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)	X	X	X



ATHLETIC			
	Kennedy	North	South
Adapted Floor Hockey	*	*	*
Adapted Floor Soccer	*	*	*
Adapted Softball	*	*	*
Alpine Skiing	*	*	*
Baseball	X	X	X
Basketball Boys	X	X	X
Basketball Girls	X	X	X
Cross Country Boys & Girls	*	*	*
Dance	*	*	*
Fitness Training Boys & Girls	*	X	X
Football	X	X	X
Golf Boys	*	*	*
Golf Girls	*	*	*
Gymnastics	*	*	*
Lacrosse Boys	*	*	*
Lacrosse Girls	*	*	*
Nordic Skiing	*	*	*
Soccer Boys	X	X	X
Soccer Girls	X	X	X
Softball	X	X	X
Swimming & Diving Boys	*	*	*
Swimming & Diving Girls	*	*	*
Tennis Boys	*	*	*
Tennis Girls	*	*	*
Trap Shooting	*	*	*
Track Boys & Girls	X	X	X
Volleyball	X	X	X
Wrestling	*	*	*

* Indicates the activity is hosted at the High School level (Apollo or Tech)

* Indicates the activity is hosted at the High School level (Apollo or Tech) and is only available to students in 7th and 8th grades.



Academics

District 742 students complete a variety of courses including the required subjects of math, science, social studies and language arts. Students also complete a series of allied arts classes including Art, Family and Consumer Science, and Technology Education. Additionally, District 742 believes that music and physical education help to develop the strong minds and bodies needed for success in high school and beyond. Therefore, students are highly encouraged to participate in both music and physical education opportunities provided through our excellent Band, Orchestra, Choir, Music Exploration and Physical Education classes.

LANGUAGE IMMERSION

The sixth-grade language immersion curriculum is delivered in much the same manner as fifth-grade curriculum. The core subjects of social studies and immersion language arts are taught in the immersion language while English language arts and math are taught in English.

In seventh and eighth grade, two core content areas are delivered in the immersion language: social studies and immersion language arts. Students have access to honors courses, music and other specialized classes.

ADVANCED ACADEMICS

Students in need of a challenging curriculum can take advantage of several options designed to incorporate additional challenge and rigor

Honors Courses: Honors courses are designed to provide the challenge and rigor needed for highly motivated and capable students. These choices are available for students who are interested in exploring content in a deeper, more complex way. Students who engage in honors courses are expected to demonstrate strong motivation and interest in challenging curriculum and a passion or deep curiosity in the topic. Honors courses emphasize process and critical-thinking skills and are often driven by a discussion of “why and how” as compared to “what.”

Cluster Grouping with Differentiation Specialist Support (Kennedy): Students with advanced academic needs are purposefully placed in clusters. Classroom teachers incorporate differentiated strategies and curriculum into coursework to extend learning for students.

Advanced Language Arts: Students who have academic needs that extend beyond grade-level curriculum in language arts can apply for Advanced LA. This course teaches out of grade-level standards with a curriculum designed specifically for advanced learners. Students must meet specified criteria to be enrolled in this course. *(Available at Kennedy, North and South.)*

Math Acceleration: Students who have mastered mathematics content at their grade level may accelerate up to two years beyond their grade level in math. Students must meet specified criteria for both one-year and two-year math acceleration. *(Available at Kennedy, North and South.)*

ART

District 742 art courses provide students with creative challenges using a variety of media and creative, problem-solving activities. Students learn to express themselves through a number of two-dimensional and three-dimensional art experiences. The possibilities include drawing with pencils, ink, charcoal or markers, painting with watercolor and acrylic paints, sculpture in-the-round or sculpture in-relief, computer art and a global pursuit of the cultural and historical influences of art. Understanding the personal, social, cultural and historical influences of art helps students appreciate their own artwork and the work of others.



C4

C4 focuses on the four C's; college, careers, community and citizenship. This course introduces valuable academic skills to support student success. Topics such as effective note-taking, critical thinking, and deepening knowledge through higher-level questioning, are foundational elements of the curriculum. C4 also provides the opportunity to examine career and post-secondary education options after high school graduation. Projects included in the curriculum inform students of career path options as well as the educational and training requirements to follow that path.

HEALTH

A variety of activities are used to engage students and provide them with the knowledge and skills to make health-enhancing decisions. The hands-on, interactive curriculum covers topics such as personal health and physical activity, chronic and communicable diseases, personal safety, healthy relationships, personal growth and development, CPR & first aid, stress, drug awareness, decision-making and nutrition.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Middle level students receive a concentrated focus on reading and writing skills. Students learn how to synthesize reading skills they have learned through the use of strategies such as predicting, visualizing, connecting, questioning, clarifying and evaluation. The textbook series also incorporates a writing program that focuses on narrative, argumentative and informative writing, as well as writing a literary analysis. Throughout the English language arts program, students work on their provided devices to engage in reading, complete writing projects and presentations, keep track of their learning and participate in classroom discussions. The STAR assessment is used as a pretest, helping to identify skills that are mastered, and skills that need to be developed. STAR is also used to monitor progress in reading skill acquisition.

TECHNOLOGY IN THE CLASSROOM

District 742 teachers are always looking for ways to integrate technology to enhance learning and to prepare students to succeed in today and tomorrow's society. As part of this vision, students are given the opportunity to learn with a variety of tools including iPads, Chromebooks, Interactive Whiteboards, Website Development, Google Apps for Education, and so much more! Through the Inspire initiative, every student in grades 6-8 is provided a device to excel their learning in school and at home.

LIFE SMARTS

As the desire for independence grows, what 'life hacks' are important for teenagers to know? Life can be stressful and unpredictable, but this class can help students to be prepared. In grade 6, Life Smarts 1.0, main focus areas include health, healthy decision-making, personal care and wellness, careers in health sciences and human services. In grade 8, Life Smarts 2.0, main focus areas include personal finance, careers in business, entrepreneurship, communication and arts.

MATH

Students are challenged through hands-on discovery, projects, exploration, group activities, problem-solving techniques and differentiated activities. Technology is integrated throughout the math curriculum to move students into twenty-first century learning. The math curriculum incorporates hands-on lessons, online homework help and interactive technology lessons. Instruction is geared toward multiple learning styles and areas of relevance to middle school students who want to expand what is being taught in the classroom. Math courses offered include Pre-Algebra, Algebra and Intermediate Algebra.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical education aims to build attitudes, work habits and skills that promote lifelong fitness and wellness in each student. The main objective is for each student to gain an optimal level of fitness and acquire the knowledge and skills to maintain a healthy lifestyle. Students experience individual fitness testing and fitness training, as well as individual, dual and recreational sports. Building sportsmanship and healthy lifestyle habits are key components to the program. The basis for grading is to meet the Minnesota Physical Education Standards and Benchmarks while participating and having fun!



Academics

SCIENCE

Science is best learned through a hands-on integrated experience. Students complete a variety of laboratory experiments, computer simulations, dissections and three-dimensional models. These activities encourage teamwork and communication, skills that are integral to the field of science and the world. There are many experiments and projects that engage students in learning and encourages them to do their best work at every opportunity. Materials are differentiated to meet the needs of every student. Students are challenged to use the practices of science and engineering to do independent research, analyze data, access information through internet resources, and develop and carry out their own investigations. The science curriculum is designed to help students not only achieve on the Science MCA tests, but also help prepare them for AP (Advanced Placement) classes at the high school level. Science courses offered include Physical Science, Life Science and Earth Science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

In a rapidly changing and diverse world, it is vitally important for students to understand where humanity has been, where it is currently and what will be its mission in the future. The social studies program helps students understand possible answers to these questions while emphasizing their importance in a global society. The curriculum in Minnesota History (grade 6), U.S. History (grade 7) and World Geography/Global Studies (grade 8) allows teachers to best meet the needs of all learners by providing more individualized instruction while still teaching the core concepts of the subjects. Using latest resource materials and technology, students are actively involved as they explore the beauty and richness of the planet and the people who live on it.

TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION

District 742 offers multiple options for students who are interested in applying knowledge and learning more about career pathways. Technology education concepts are taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum and are designed to introduce pre-engineering principles through real-world, project-based, hands on applications. Courses include Energy and Machines (grade 7), and Robotics (grade 6).

WORLD LANGUAGES & CULTURES

Wondering what world language to take in high school? Explore those options and more! Languages and cultures explored in this course are: American Sign Language, Chinese, French, German, Ojibwe, Somali, and Spanish. World Languages & Cultures is about empowering students to become culturally and linguistically aware in the world they are living in today!

MUSIC

Music education teaches skills and promotes values that lead to personal development such as self-discipline, dedication, teamwork, self-confidence and practice. Students have the option to take advantage of curricular classes in band, classroom music, choir and orchestra. The performing groups of band, choir and orchestra give evening concerts during the school year and various daytime performances. They may also participate in festivals, honors groups and master classes. There are also co-curricular music groups that meet before or after school. These groups include Chamber Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Jazz Band. All students are welcome and encouraged to sign up!



What's Next

Whether students attend Apollo High School or Tech High School, they will be presented with a tremendous amount of options and opportunities.

CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

To prepare students for the competitive marketplace and workforce, District 742 offers educational opportunities that are focused on business and marketing, career development, family and consumer science, health careers, technology education, work experience and YouthBuild.

COLLEGE & CAREER PREP

By partnering with local colleges and universities, District 742 provides an amazing array of opportunities to help students successfully transition from high school into post-secondary education. Academic and social preparation gives students a head start on college and careers in high-demand occupations. Options include:

- Advanced Placement
- Articulated College Credit
- Discovery Academy
- Post Secondary Enrollment Options
- College in the Schools
- Dreamline
- Upward Bound

SERVICE LEARNING

District 742 aims to prepare students to live and contribute within a changing and diverse world. This program integrates community service with academic study to enrich learning, teach civic responsibility and strengthen the community. Approximately 3,800 students (K-12) participate in service learning annually, with over 2,240 community members impacted and 50 community partnerships.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CLUBS & GROUPS

With 33 High School League sponsored athletics including lacrosse, gymnastics and Nordic skiing as well as over 45 groups and clubs such as drama, robotics, Knowledge Bowl and Future Problem Solvers, every student is certain to find activities that match interests and enhance the school experience.

ELECTIVES & ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Since many students pursue careers that are outside of the core curriculum, District 742 encourages students to cultivate interests beyond traditional subjects and to demonstrate the depth and seriousness of study that appeals to colleges. A diverse selection of electives is offered to keep students motivated and engaged in the learning process. Just a few of the elective choices include engineering, electricity and robotics, debate, environmental science and entrepreneurship. Advanced Placement (AP) courses are just some of the many options that students have to prepare for the next step of their educational journey. Over 300 students receive college credit through AP testing a year. District 742 offers an impressive 22 AP course selection including art, biology, chemistry, computer science, psychology and more!

