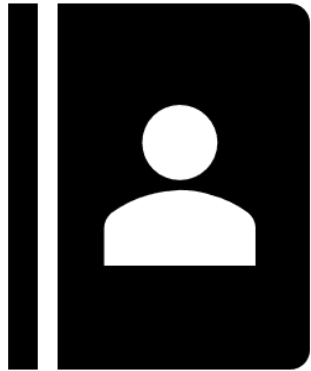


# **JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**Incoming Sixth Grade Orientation  
January 29th, 2025**



# IMPORTANT CONTACTS



**Ms. Shannon Blasy**

Principal

[blasysm@midlandps.org](mailto:blasysm@midlandps.org)

**Ms. Lynsey Johnson**

Special Education Supervisor

[johnsonla@midlandps.org](mailto:johnsonla@midlandps.org)

**Ms. Jennifer Pedelty**

Assistant Principal- Mentee

[pedeltyj@midlandps.org](mailto:pedeltyj@midlandps.org)

**Officer Jose DeLeon**

School Resource Officer

[jdeleon@midland.mi.org](mailto:jdeleon@midland.mi.org)

**Mr. Brian Trebilcock**

Assistant Principal

[trebilcockb@midlandps.org](mailto:trebilcockb@midlandps.org)

**Ms. Misty Theisen**

Counseling

[theisenmb@midlandps.org](mailto:theisenmb@midlandps.org)

**Ms. Lisa Rabie**

Administrative Assistant

[rabielf@midlandps.org](mailto:rabielf@midlandps.org)

# SCHOOL INFORMATION

- Grades 6th, 7th, 8th
- Current enrollment - 937 students
- 57 teachers
- 30+ support staff
- One story building

[jms.midlandps.org](http://jms.midlandps.org)





# **DAILY SCHEDULE**

**Doors open at 7:30 AM**

**\*Breakfast will be served in the cafeteria at 7:30 AM**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Period 7:55 – 8:50
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Period 8:55 – 9:55
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Period 10:00 – 10:55
- 4<sup>th</sup> Period 11:00 – 11:30
- LUNCH 11:35 – 12:05
- 4<sup>th</sup> Period 12:10 – 12:40
- 5<sup>th</sup> Period 12:45 – 1:40
- 6<sup>th</sup> Period 1:45 – 2:40



# SIXTH GRADE TEAMS

- Three Teams, consisting of 3-4 teachers
  - Allstars, Pathfinders, Trailblazers
- Your child's reading and writing teacher serves as a homeroom teacher
- Less travel, less contact with seventh and eighth grade



# BENEFITS OF SIXTH GRADE TEAMS

- 1. Stronger Teacher-Student Relationships:**
  - allow for more personalized attention
  - deeper connections
- 2. Consistency and Coordination:**
  - better communication among teachers about students
- 3. Smooth Academic Transition:**
  - Teams can align their teaching strategies to bridge the gap between elementary and middle school
- 4. Collaborative Problem-Solving:**
  - Teachers on a team can collaborate to address issues like student behavior, academic struggles, or social-emotional needs, providing cohesive interventions.
- 5. Sense of Community:**
  - helps students feel less overwhelmed by the larger middle school environment and creates a "home base" where they feel secure.



# SIXTH GRADE CORE SUBJECTS



- Reading (English A)
- Writing (English B)
- Math
- Science
- World Geography & Global Issues



# SIXTH GRADE MATH OPTIONS



- Math 6
- Extended Math 6
- Pre-Algebra A (for current cross-graded students)
- Math Questions:
  - Contact Andrew Zimmer
  - [zimmerat@midlandps.org](mailto:zimmerat@midlandps.org)



# Jefferson Math Sequence

## 6th Grade

Math 6



Math 7



Extended Math 6



Pre-Algebra A



Algebra

Pre-Algebra A



Algebra



Geometry A or  
Geometry H

## 7th Grade

## 8th Grade

Pre-Algebra A or  
Pre-Algebra B

Algebra

# SIXTH GRADE ELECTIVES



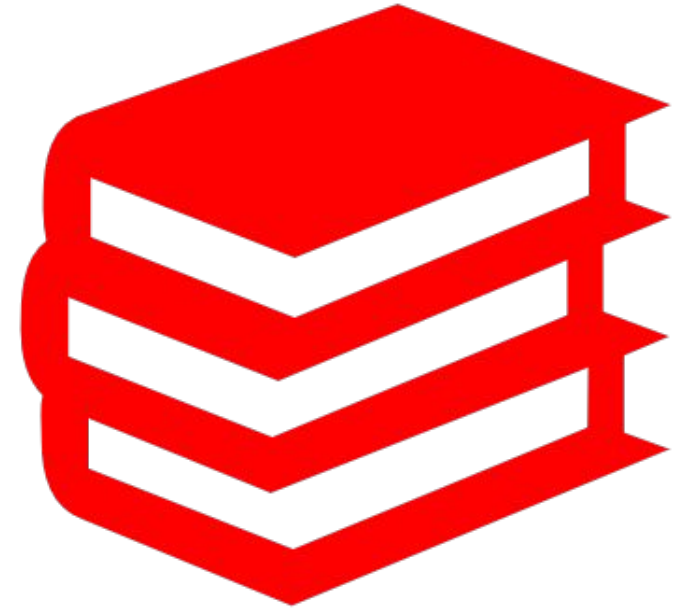
- Electives will meet during 5th or 6th Hour for 6th Graders
- Electives meet on different days in a rotation
- Elective options are:
  - Band (2 days)
  - Orchestra (2 days)
  - Choir (1 day)
  - Art (1 or 2 days)
  - PE (1 or 2 days)
  - CSI: Medical Detectives/ Space and Flight (2 days)
  - Spanish (2 days)

# GRADES

- In 5th-grade students did not receive letter grades.
- In 6th-grade students will receive letter grades and will get a report card every 9 weeks (**on ParentVUE**)
- **Students are responsible to turn in their work on time.**
- We recommend setting a day and time each week to check your child's grades and talk with him/her about their progress.
- This is a good time to encourage your child to contact their teachers about questions they may have in order to work on their self-advocacy skills.

# HOMework

- Students will have homework.
- Homework will depend on the teacher and subject area.
- Please help your child plan a time to complete it.





# LOCKERS



- Students have their own lockers
- Do not share locker combinations with anyone
- Do not leave your locker “spun”
- Always shut your locker and spin the combination so it will not open
- Less is more; the fewer items in the locker, the less likely it will get jammed
- A tip is to practice with a dial lock found in most stores.



Midland Public Schools  
*Inspiring Excellence*

# Why Attendance Matters:

Absences lead to lost instructional time - and that can have consequences for students, even later in life. Here are the facts:

By 6th grade, being chronically absent is the leading indicator that a student will drop out of high school.

Missing 10% (about 18 days) of school can make it harder for students to learn to read.

Attending school helps kids make friends, feel good about themselves, and achieve their goals!

Half of students who miss 2-4 days in September go on to miss nearly a month of school.

Missing just one day of school every 2 weeks equals 20 days (4 weeks) per year. Over a 13-year school career, that's almost 1.5 years!

# Attendance- Year to Year

<b>2023-2024 days missed (Aug 22- Jan 28)</b>			
<b>6th grade (2030)</b>	<b>7th (2029)</b>	<b>8th (2028)</b>	<b>Total Days</b>
1425	1731	1535	4691
(296) 4.81 days/stu	(307) 5.63 days/stu	(311) 4.93 days/stu	(914) 5.13 days/stu
<b>2024-2025 days missed (Aug 20- Jan 28)</b>			
<b>6th grade (2031)</b>	<b>7th (2030)</b>	<b>8th (2029)</b>	<b>Total Days</b>
1649	1610	1755	5014
(312) 5.28 days/stu	(297) 5.42 days/stu	(308) 5.69 days/stu	(917) 5.46 days/stu

# ATTENDANCE

- In middle school, attendance is taken every period
- A student is counted tardy to class if they arrive late; if they arrive more than 10 minutes late it is marked as an absence
- 5 tardies = one absence
- There is 5 minutes of passing time between each class
- If your student accumulates 10 absences that are not medically or school-excused, we will invite you to a meeting to explore ways we can work together to support and encourage positive attendance

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY



# ATTENDANCE CONTINUED

- If your child is going to be absent, please call the office at 989-923-5873. All you need to say is “This is John Doe, Father of Jane Doe. She is sick today, May 5, 2025, and will not be in school.”
- You can also log into ParentVue and excuse their absence there.
- If we do not receive a call or notification from ParentVue from you, two things will happen:
  1. You will get an automated call from our attendance system stating your child has an unexcused absence on the evening of May 5 (or said date). Please call us the next day to excuse the absence.
  2. You will receive an automated email notifying you of the absence.

# JMS Counseling

Located in the Main Office  
Email: [Theisenmb@midlandps.org](mailto:Theisenmb@midlandps.org)



- Planning for the future (HS, Post-Secondary Plans)
- Academic Support ( Tutors, Planners, Time Management, Study Skills)
- Standardized Testing (M-STEP, PSAT 8 )
- Support Groups ( TRAILS, Children Grief Group)
- Mental Health Support

( Anxiety, Depression, Grief, Conflict resolution, Hygiene)

School to Community resources for Mental Health

### Helpful Tip #1:

- \*extra clothing
- \*locker combination
- \* walk schedule before school starts

### Helpful Tip #2

Check social media

### Helpful Tip #3

Student Involvement

### Helpful Tip #4

StudentVue  
ParentVue

# APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY USE

- When do I get my Chromebook & charger?  
On your assigned day for “schedule walk” -- August
- Acceptable Use Agreement
- Digital Citizenship
- Workshops for Parents/Guardians

Should I get the insurance?



YES!!!

# APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY USE

- Students are responsible for their chargers as well as their Chromebooks.
- Students should NEVER share their passwords with other students.
- Phones should remain in the lockers during instructional time turned off. If phones are visible during class time, the phone will be confiscated and either returned to the student by the end of the day or a parent will be contacted to pick up the device.
- GoGuardian - teacher and parent use

**Handbook:** Violation of Acceptable Use Policy A student shall not violate or attempt to violate School District policies, administrative regulations, and directives concerning School District or personal computers, networks, and telephone systems. Violation of any of the rules and responsibilities may result in a loss of access privileges/technology privileges/computer usage and may result in other disciplinary or legal actions including restitution.



# CANVAS

## Teacher/Student Use

- All teachers use Canvas for their classes
- Assignments
  - created/graded in Canvas; synced with Synergy at midnight
  - posted in Canvas; grades entered in Synergy at a later date
- Students should check Canvas daily, especially when absent

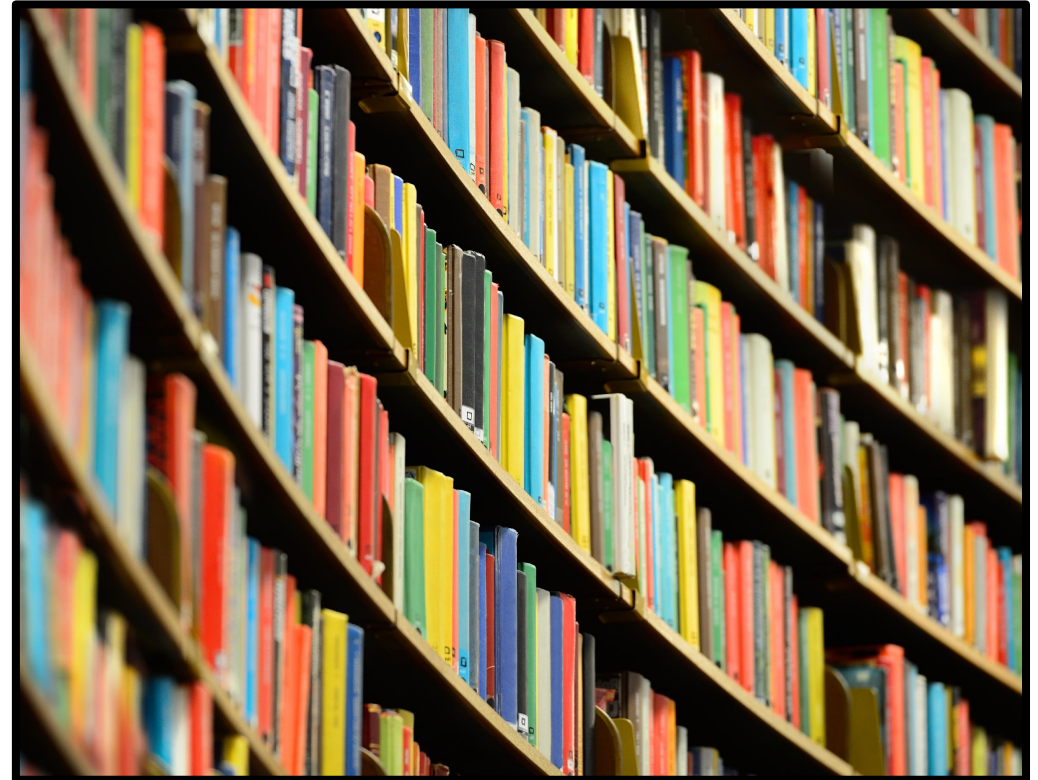
## Become an Observer (click below)

- [Create a pairing code](#)
- [Register and use pairing code](#)



# MEDIA CENTER

- Students can check-out books before school, between classes, and during lunch.
- If books are not returned there will be a fine causing grades to be blocked on ParentVUE.



# IN THE MORNING...

Please contact transportation at 989-923-3541 with any questions about bussing.

Drop off:

- Please enter the drop-off parking lot from Chapel Ln. It is a one-way parking lot. Please pull all the way up and come to a complete stop to drop off your child.
- What time is breakfast?
  - 7:30 AM – inside the cafeteria; if not eating breakfast, doors open at 7:30 AM

# AT LUNCH...

- Students can pack a lunch
- A standard lunch is provided at no cost - this year - next year?
- Students can buy additional lunch items
- You can put money on your child's account linked on the JMS website (and monitor what they buy...)
- There are **a lot** of choices in middle school; discuss healthy eating habits at home
  - See Food Service on MPS website for more information
- Students may choose to go outside for 15 minutes after they eat



# AFTER SCHOOL

Everyone needs to be out of the building by 2:55 PM

## UNLESS

- At the ROCK at JMS; contact 989-835-2542 for more information; ask for Jill (until 6:00 PM)
- Participating in an activity (athletic practice or club meeting)



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

## Sports

- Athletic Director: Carlos McGee
- Visit [www.greatermidland.org](http://www.greatermidland.org)
- Visit the JMS website: [jms.midlandps.org](http://jms.midlandps.org) under the sports tab
- All athletes must have a physical on file prior to participation
  - Fall: Football, Pom, Cheer, Cross Country, Girls Basketball
  - Winter I: Boys Swimming, Volleyball and Wrestling
  - Winter II: Girls Swimming, and Boys Basketball
  - Spring: Track & Field

## Clubs – Here are a Just a Few


- Robotics
- Math Counts
- Chess
- STEM Club
- Newspaper
- You Be the Chemist
- Student Leadership
- Art Club
- The list goes on and on. Visit [www.midlandps.org](http://www.midlandps.org) for the full list of clubs
- OR
- Start your own

# JEFFERSON SPIRIT



- PAWS tickets - given weekly to students who.....
  - Practiced **RESPECT**
  - Acted **RESPONSIBLY**
  - Worked **SAFELY**
  - Showed **GRIT**
- Pep Assemblies
- Spirit Wear - Spirit Weeks
- School Song

STUDENT \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_



- Practiced **RESPECT**
- Acted **RESPONSIBLY**
- Worked **SAFELY**
- Showed **GRIT**

Staff: Please add a statement describing the positive action on the back of this ticket.

staff \_\_\_\_\_



# JEFFERSON SCHOOL SONG

Now when the Jefferson Huskies fall in line  
We know our team will win another time  
And for the dear old school we love so well  
And for the red and white we'll yell and yell and yell  
And then we'll fight, fight, fight, for Jefferson  
And when it's over that's a job well done  
We'll back our team of Huskies every time  
To help them win, win, win, FIGHT!

# TIPS FOR SUCCESS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Check ParentVUE - on here you can view attendance and grades. There is an app for smartphones.
- Monitor your child's attendance; no more than 5 absences allowed per semester- 10 days total per school year
- Make sure your child goes to bed and gets enough sleep; school starts earlier
- Have a routine for homework; help your 6<sup>th</sup> grader manage their time wisely
- Use Canvas as a talking tool with your child when you want to find out about schoolwork.
- Encourage your child to get involved with extracurricular activities



# PARENT INVOLVEMENT

- Sponsor a club
- Coach a team or assist a coach
- Volunteer at the school
- Monthly Parent Meetings Based on Your Interests
- Friday Newsletter
- Use RAPTOR when entering the building.
- JPAC - Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee [jpacmidland@gmail.com](mailto:jpacmidland@gmail.com)

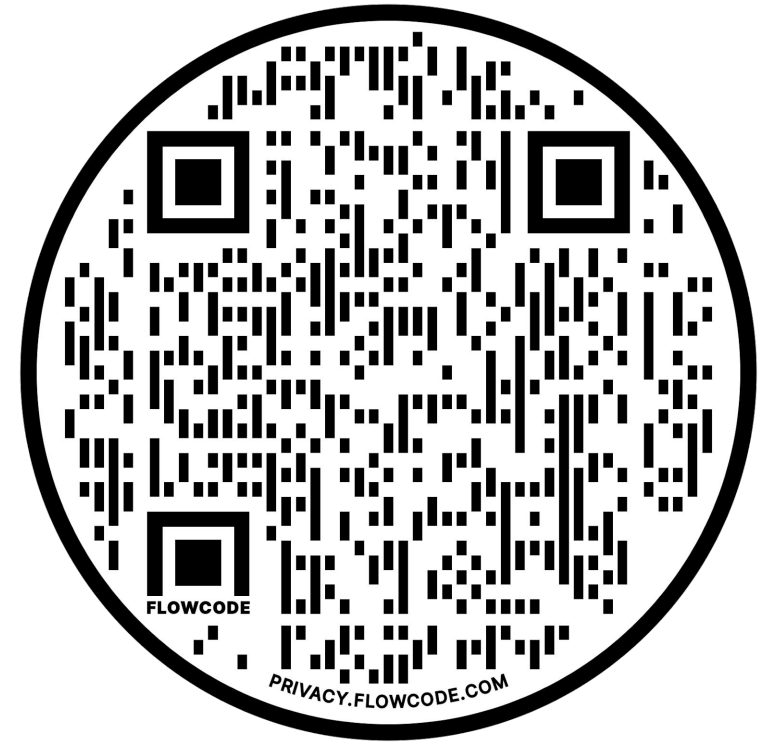
ALL ADULTS  
MUST ENTER  
THROUGH THE  
MAIN  
ENTRANCE

This keeps kids  
safe.



# JPAC

- Jefferson Parent Advisory Committee- Many hands make for light work! We have tasks that are big and small.
- We are a group of parents that get together once a month to work together on finding ways to support staff and students throughout the school year.
- We work on providing school assemblies, fundraising, field trips, restaurant and family nights, ski day, and SO much more.
- We have implemented a new communication tool for the school. Please join using the QR code here to stay up to date on everything Jefferson related. (Promise not to bombard you with emails!)





Coming Soon...  
**Student Walk Through**

**May 15, 4:00-6:30**

Tour the building, find your classes, try out a locker, STEM Space, Talk with current students about middle school, learn about Student and Parent Vue and other fun opportunities at Jefferson!



Thank you for joining us!

This presentation will be shared on the JMS website.

Please direct any questions to Mr. Trebilcock at [trebilcockb@midlandps.org](mailto:trebilcockb@midlandps.org)