



# Beacon City School District

## Sixth Grade Transition Handbook



# Welcome!



Middle school years are the beginning of a new chapter in a student's educational journey and it is exciting to welcome a new class of 6th graders to Rombout Middle School. The middle school administration, teachers, and support staff are all dedicated to ensuring a smooth and enriching transition for incoming students. This handbook is designed to provide valuable information and resources to help both students and caregivers navigate the changes and challenges that come with moving to middle school. At Rombout Middle School, we understand that transitioning from elementary to middle school can be both exhilarating and daunting. Students will encounter new academic expectations, a rotating schedule, more independence, and a wider array of extracurricular activities. The goal is to create a supportive and nurturing environment where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The next chapter is going to be a fantastic one!



## **Rombout Middle School**

88 Matteawan Road, Beacon, New York, 12508

Main Office: 845-838-6900 ext. 4131

# Before the First Day



## Orientation

In a student's 5th grade year, they get the opportunity to attend two different orientations at Rombout Middle School. Each year in the spring, 5th Grade teachers take the students on a field trip to visit RMS.



At this orientation the students will tour the school, meet the 6th grade teachers, hear from 8th graders about their middle school experience and engage in team building activities. In addition, the middle school hosts an evening orientation where parents/guardians have the opportunity to tour the school with their student

to meet the principal, listen to guidance presentations, practice opening lockers and ask questions about the 5th to 6th transition.

## Schedules

Student schedules are made available for viewing in mid-August each year. A communication is sent out to families once the schedules have been made "live". Parents/guardians must have an active PowerSchool Parent Portal account to view the schedule. Paper copies are not mailed.

## Parent Portal

Parents/Guardians and students have access to see their student's grades through PowerSchool. Teachers update grades weekly and often indicate student progress with each graded assignment. Parent Portal notifications are customizable. It is imperative that parent/guardian information is accurate in our systems; update your information yearly by completing the PowerSchool Returning Student Registration Form.

## Choosing Electives

In the spring of a student's 5th grade year, they choose their elective courses (chorus, band or general music and exploring technology or studio art.

# Before the First Day



## **Supply Lists**

School Supply lists are posted on the RMS website each summer. Supply lists are universal for each 6th grade subject area (they are not specific to each individual teacher).

## **Chromebooks**

Students will be responsible for bringing their chromebook that was assigned to them in elementary school, with them to middle school. Students will utilize this device everyday in their classes and the expectation is that they bring it back and forth with them to school each day and it is fully charged, overnight, each night.

## **Backpack Policy & Lockers**

Students are allowed to use their backpacks throughout the day instead of storing them in their lockers. Students will be assigned a hall locker during homeroom on the first day of school. Their locker number and code will be recorded by their homeroom teacher. If there are any issues throughout the year with their hall locker, please see your homeroom teacher first. Students are encouraged to utilize their locker and switch out morning/afternoon books before/after lunch and recess. Students also need a combination lock for Physical Education class and can store their clothes in the PE lockerroom.



# The First Day



## **Transportation**

Bus students are dropped off near the gym doors any time between 7:40–8:00 am and enter the building through the cafeteria entrance. Walkers or drop off students must enter through the kiosk. Any students that arrive earlier than 8:00 am will be directed to the cafeteria by security until homeroom begins. Once it is 8:00 am, students are free to make their way directly to homeroom. Homeroom takes place between 8:00–8:10 am. Once the 8:10 bell rings, 1st period has begun for all 6th graders. Students who arrive after this time will be directed to check in with the attendance office secretary in order to retrieve a pass to class.

## **Dismissal**

The 6th grade school day ends at 2:39 pm. Students are free to leave immediately when the bell rings. Parent pick up takes place at the kiosk parking lot, so these students are expected to exit the building through the kiosk. Bus students are expected to exit via the doors at the front of the building or out of the gym lobby doors. Walkers are free to exit from either location.

## **Late bus**

A late bus is offered Monday–Thursday for any students who wish to stay after school for extra help or clubs. The buses usually arrive sometime between 3:40–4:00 pm. In order to take the late bus, students must obtain a pass from the adult they stayed after with.

## **Homeroom**

Homeroom (same classroom and teacher as Period 1) takes place between 8:00–8:10 am for all 6th grade students. Your child’s homeroom teacher is a great point person whenever you have any questions. Homeroom is a time for students to get breakfast, go to their lockers, and listen to announcements.



# The First Day & Beyond



## Extra Help

Each teacher holds extra help either once a week for an hour, or twice a week for a half hour. These sessions can either take place before or after school. Additionally, teachers who have lunch during 4th period (6th grade lunch) may offer sessions during this time as well. A spreadsheet will be shared with all caregivers at the start of the school year with each teacher's extra help time(s).

## Clubs & Activities

There are many clubs and activities offered to 6th grade students. Examples include: Art Club, Environmental Club, World Language Club, Chess Club, Pickleball Club, AM Intramurals, Student Council, Newspaper Club, Home & Careers, E-Sports, Yearbook Club, Girls on the Run, Jazz Band, Drama Club, Kaleidoscope Club, Board Game Club, Video Media Technology Club & Engineering Club. Dates and times for each club are announced at the interest meetings in the beginning of the school year. Students are able to join as many clubs as their schedule allows for. Modified sports are only offered to 7th and 8th grade students due to state regulations.

## Homework Requests when Absent

If your child is absent from school you may request homework through the guidance secretary at 838-6900 ext. 4181. Homework will be available for pick up in the main office between 3pm - 4pm. Homework should be requested by 11am.

## Student Planner

Students are given a planner from their homeroom teacher at the start of the school year. Planners contain a code of conduct that address all school wide policies. Students are expected to use the planner to keep track of homework and assignments for each class.



# The First Day & Beyond



## **Breakfast and Lunch**

School meals are offered daily to all Rombout students. Breakfast begins at 7:45 am and ending around 8:15 am. 6th grade lunch takes place from 10:40-11:24 am (Period 4). Meals are no cost; ala carte items are available for purchase. 6th Grade lunch is split into two sections, a section that eats first and has recess second and vice versa. The order in which they do this will be assigned on their schedule.

## **Parent Portal/PowerSchool**

It is strongly recommended that you have access to the parent portal and check frequently for updates. This is a place where all of your child's attendance records and grades are inputted daily.

## **Honor Roll**

To be eligible for the honor roll, students must be passing all courses including Physical Education. Incomplete or failing grades in any subject automatically disqualifies a student from honor roll consideration.

- Principal's Honor Roll: Students with an average of 95% and above
- High Honor Roll: Students with an average of 90%-94%
- Honor Roll: Students with an average of 85%-89%.

## **Google Classroom**

All 6th grade teachers use Google Classroom for various purposes- to post assignments, lesson slides and/or class announcements. Access codes will be given out during class at the start of the school year and caregivers can also be invited to the classroom in order to gain access to weekly Google Classroom emails.



**Newsletters**



**Bell Schedules**



**Student Handbook**



**Food Services**

# Academics

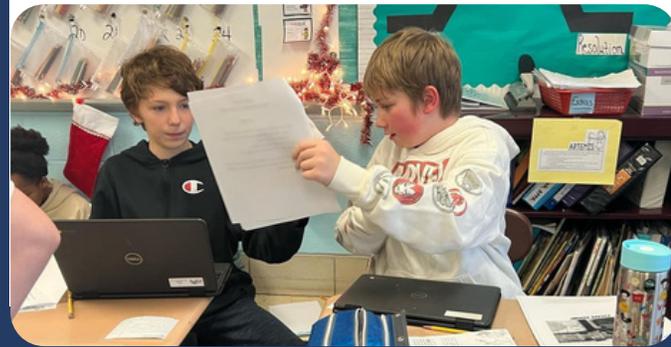


## **Core Classes**

The four core classes are math, science, social studies and ELA. Based on New York State requirements, 6th grade is still considered elementary and students must receive 90 minutes of ELA daily. For this reason, ELA will take up two class periods in 6th grade, with the double block consisting of a combination of reading, writing and word work. Math is the only content area that offers an advanced placement in 6th grade. Students are placed in this course based on recommendations from their 5th grade teacher(s).

## **Alternating Day Schedule**

RMS runs on an alternating “A Day” vs. “B Day” Schedule or electives. Core classes (math, science, ELA, social studies) along with lunch and recess all take place at the same time every single day.



## **Academic Intervention Services (AIS)**

AIS is offered in Math and ELA as an extra support class. Class size is typically smaller. Students are placed in these courses based on recommendations from their 5th grade teachers(s). AIS classes may replace the art and/or technology electives.

## **Electives**

The four main electives in 6th grade are physical education, music (chorus, band or general music), studio art and technology. Students who were enrolled in band at the elementary level will be automatically enrolled in band class in middle school as their elective. Academic Intervention Services (AIS) are support classes offered for Math and ELA. Students are placed in these courses based on recommendations from their 5th grade teachers(s). AIS classes may replace the art and/or technology elective.

**Physical Education** – Students are given the option to change their clothes for PE. If the student comes to PE class fully prepared with the appropriate shoes and clothes, they do not have to change. If they do not come to class prepared, they can change to receive full credit if they would like. Students are recommended to purchase their own lock to put on their gym locker.

# Academics



## Core Classes

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## Music Selection

Students are provided a music selection form with a choice between chorus, general music, or band. Students must choose one. Note: The band teachers prefer students who have experience playing. However, if a student does not have prior experience, they will address on a case by case basis.



**(A-B) Courses**- On the student schedule, this indicates that a student will have this class every day during that period. Core classes (math, science, ELA, social studies) along with lunch and recess all take place at the same time every single day.

**ELA Double Block**- 6th grade students are required to receive 90 minutes of ELA instruction daily. Therefore, as seen on the sample schedules above, ELA is the only class that spans two periods in a row opposed to just one. ELA double blocks can either take place during periods 1&2, 6&7 or 7&8.

# Points of Contact



Position	Name	Email
Principal	Brian Soltish	soltish.b@beaconk12.org
Principal's Secretary	Deana Garrett	garrett.d@beaconk12.org
Assistant Principal (Students with last names A-L)	Michael Carofano	carofano.m@beaconk12.org
Assistant Principal (Students with last names M-Z)	Amanda Pucino	pucino.a@beaconk12.org
6th Grade Guidance Counselor	Kelly Patterson	patterson.k@beaconk12.org
School Psychologist	Dawn Assumma	assumma.d@beaconk12.org
Social Worker	Ken Kerrs	kerrs.k@beaconk12.org
School Nurse	Amber Klemann	klemann.a@beaconk12.org
Attendance Secretary	Nancy Guisto	giusto.n@beaconk12.org
School Librarian Technology/Chromebook questions or issues	Jeanne Dottavio	dottavio.j@beaconk12.org
Occupational Therapist	Michelle Query	query.m@beaconk12.org
PTO	TBA	romboutpto@gmail.com

## Social Media

- **Beacon City School District**
  - Instagram: @beaconcitieschool
  - Facebook: Beacon CSD
- RMS : @RomboutMS

## RMS Website

- <https://www.beaconk12.org/Domain/9>

