

Dear Middle School Parents,

I hope your summer has been filled with relaxation and fun times as a family. We have been busy preparing for the new school year, from the logistics of scheduling to brainstorming about how we can improve the Middle School experience. I am so excited about our theme this year, *Flourishing Together*. The Middle School years can be challenging, and it has always been our goal to make this time a positive experience for students, years when they "flourish together". We are going to be focusing on how to interact with one another in a godly way so that we are encouraging our peers. We've been praying for your children by name and are ready to have our halls filled again. As we prepare for the year, here is some information about faculty and important dates.

Faculty - I truly believe that what makes the Middle School a wonderful experience is our amazing teachers. I am excited about a few additions to our Middle School faculty.

- Coach JD Chaplain - Coach Chaplain is our new Athletic Director, but he will also be serving as the Middle School Dean of Students. He has been serving in Christian education for over a decade in several roles. He particularly enjoys working with middle school students, as he believes these years are a crucial and impactful time in their lives. Coach Chaplain is married and has two young daughters.
- Mrs. Abbey Mraz - Mrs. Mraz will be teaching English and a Creative Writing elective while also coaching volleyball. Her degree is in Middle Grades Education from Georgia Southern. She has most recently been teaching Middle School English in Aiken, where she also led FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) and a Bible Study for girls. Mrs. Mraz is recently married.
- Mrs. Anna Bolduc - While Mrs. Bolduc is not new to Westminster, she will be serving in a new role while continuing to teach Physical Science. Mrs. Bolduc will be overseeing student life. This includes the 8th-grade leadership team, along with anything related to social events and student culture.
- Coach Rahkeem George - As Coach George is moving into a full-time role in the technology department, he will be teaching both the STEM and Computer Science classes in the Middle School.

Important Dates - Here are some important dates specific to the Middle School (full calendar is on Blackbaud).

- **Monday, August 11**
 - **New Student Orientation (Knox Hall), 9:30-11:00a a.m.** - All new Middle School students and parents (including all 6th graders) will meet in Knox Hall to hear about the Middle School, walk through schedules, meet teachers, and set up lockers. There will be a meeting for parents at the same time, and then parents are welcome to help with locker set up and meet teachers.

- **Returning Student Locker Set Up, 1:00-4:00p p.m.** - Returning students are welcome to stop by during the day to set up their lockers. It is also fine to do this on the first day of school.
- **Tuesday, August 12: First Day of School, 8:00a-12:15p**
Students should report to their homeroom. We will spend some time in GAP groups, enjoy the Senior Parade, and briefly visit classes. Lunch will not be served.
- **Wednesday, August 13: Full Day of School** (late start Wednesday), **8:30-3:15p**
- **Monday, August 18: Middle School Parent Night (Knox Hall), 6:00-8:30p**
- **Monday, October 27 - Thursday, October 30: Outdoor Classroom Trips**
(The fees with these trips will be billed through Blackbaud in August.)
 - 6th Grade - Tybee Island / Oct. 27-29 / Service Day on Oct. 30 / \$100
 - 7th Grade - Camp Thunderbird, Charlotte / Oct. 27-30 / \$130
 - 8th Grade - Washington, DC / Oct. 27-30 / \$150
 - **Friday, October 31** - no school for Middle School

Again, I am truly so excited for the year to begin!! We have an amazing group of teachers who love your children, teaching, and the Lord. Please do not hesitate at all to call or email with questions.

Sincerely,



Tracy Lutz
Middle School Principal