

CMS ORIENTATION PROCESS

We are excited to welcome you to Clarence Middle School! CMS a place where everyone belongs! Our orientation program focuses on growing skills needed to be successful in secondary education, while familiarizing students with schedules, peers, teachers, and the building.

Middle school is a time where identities are formed amid social and emotional growth. Our goal is to make all students feel as comfortable and as excited as we are each day when we walk into CMS.

Below outlines the phases of our program.

PHASE 1: CMS MUSICAL PREVIEW (WINTER)



We begin this process by inviting 5th grade students to preview our school musical. This is a fun event where our musical directors are able to showcase work with students in an extracurricular capacity. It gives students the opportunity to visualize what it will be like to participate in large scale performances be it on stage, behind stage, or as an audience member. This is also one of the first times the entire graduating class is in one room together, and that alone is something to celebrate!

PHASE 2: 5TH GRADE CMS MEET & GREET (SPRING)

The next step of this process is meeting students at our annual 5th Grade CMS Meet-and-Greet. The goal of this event is for students to picture a day in the life of a 6th grader. In addition, we hope to garner excitement for middle school, and quell unknowns from the kid perspective. Students spend time interacting with each other, and have the opportunity to ask burning questions about CMS! We discuss key components about being part of the CMS community. Our own 8th grade students deliver a presentation that includes an overview of the house system, a student schedule, technology platforms, grading practices, instructional routines, social elements, extracurricular opportunities, locker use, and the upcoming Orientation event. This visit ends with 8th grade students touring 5th grade students around the building.



PHASE 3: GRADE 6 ORIENTATION (SUMMER)



We split the class in half so students are less overwhelmed and have more individualized attention. Based on last name, students attend a half day event where they rotate through four sessions, meet new people, engage in team building activities, practice drop off and dismissal routines, walk schedules, and learn about important aspects of how to be a successful middle school student. [See page 2 for times, dates, and content activities.](#)

PHASE 4: OPTIONAL WALKTHROUGH (SUMMER)

In the past we have found students feel comfortable and ready for school after Orientation. However, we recognize some students would want additional time to walk their schedule with a parent or caregiver. The optional Walkthrough is after Orientation so that students can tour parents/caregivers around the building. Students should bring schedules received at Orientation. Sign up is required. Date, time, and sign up details will be posted on our website in July .



PHASE 5: OPEN HOUSE (FALL)

In September, parents/caregivers are invited into the middle school for a large group presentation and an opportunity to meet teachers. More information about this event is forthcoming once the school year begins. The purpose of this event is to come together to better understand today's middle schoolers, visit spaces that become important to your student/s, meet teachers, and learn more about our community.

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STAY UP-TO-DATE AT [CLARENCESCHOOLS.ORG](https://www.clarenceschools.org)

GRADE 6 ORIENTATION

TUESDAY, AUGUST 25 - LAST NAMES A - K
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26 - LAST NAMES L - Z

The actual Orientation event gives students opportunities to interact with new friends and teachers in fun and informative ways. Students meet as a large group and immediately engage in icebreaker activities, followed by rotating through the four sessions outlined below.

Sign up at this link if you need transportation: <https://forms.gle/VRpBzS5ruijRx3dh9>

ACADEMIC INDEPENDENCE



This session is designed to help students develop an academic goal for 6th grade and to identify steps to follow both at home and at school to ensure success.

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

This session helps students understand the importance of practicing digital empathy in order to leave healthy digital footprints, and to avoid pitfalls of social media.



PERSONAL ORGANIZATION & ACCOUNTABILITY

Students engage in team building activities to familiarize themselves with their peers, lockers, and classroom locations within the building. The CMS scavenger hunt is an awesome tradition students remember for years to come!



SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

This session teaches students how to reflect on feelings, experiences, and values to better take care of themselves and each other. Students share ideas in social circles and engage in team building to understand the typical challenges of middle school years. Students explore resources at CMS that are devoted to the well-being of all students.

