

Porter 6th Grade Caregivers

**WELCOME TO
MIDDLE SCHOOL!**



CS Porter Essentials

What does it look like?

- 8 classes + lunch (9 periods)
- Multiple teachers: organization is essential.

Explore: CTE/ARTS/WORLD LANGUAGE

- Community School
- Arts Integration
- Diversity
- Student Led Conferences
- Synergy Rallies

Develop Independence

Rigorous Curriculum

Student agency over learning

MAST and ExactPath

Math & ELA testing

Student Handbook

Read with your student at the start of 6th grade.

Link: [Student Handbook](#)



Micro School

Learners

Students in the microschool work in consistent four-person teams. Each student holds a rotating leadership role, from keeping the team focused on their mission, to encouraging teammates and leading reflection. Leadership is not a metaphor here; it is a daily practice.

Environment

Students who thrive with strong peer relationships and benefit from being part of a consistent, close-knit team.

Focus

Students who learn best by doing, investigating, building, presenting, and connecting ideas to the real world.

A blend of targeted instruction in reading, writing, and math alongside community-connected experiences.



Arrival & Dismissal Schedule

Morning Routine

- 7:48 AM: Breakfast served in the halls
- Students enter school, can access lockers (optional), head to WIN class, or access breakfast

Dismissal Times

- **Standard:** 2:43 p.m.
- **Early Out:** 1:59 p.m.



Schedules

Infinite Campus

Look up schedules in [Infinite Campus](#) by Aug 26th. Know your WIN Teacher!

School Secretary

Call before the first week if you need help connecting.

- Secretaries: 406-728-2400 ext. 4610
- Attendance: 406-542-4060 op #1
 - Lauren and Jessica

WIN Teacher Info

Front Doors

Lists posted on Porter front doors by 4 PM, Aug 24th.

First Day Distribution

Your student's Crew teacher will provide a printed full schedule on the first day.

Schedule Changes

- 2nd/3rd period Exploratory classes change each quarter.
- Music stays same all year/semester.
- Exploratories: Spanish, Engineering, Med Detectives, Computer Sci, Visual Art.

Contact counselor with schedule issues.

Once School Starts students have a short window to change schedules



Morning Routine for your Child

Drop-off Location

North, Central, & 26th Avenue before 7:35 a.m.

- Park across the street from school for drop off
- Buses Park on Sidewalks that border school
- Staff parking lot is for staff only

Breakfast (7:45 - 7:55)

Breakfast is served in the hallways

Morning Schedule

- 7:43 AM: Line up in WIN Teacher Line
 - 7:45: Enter the building, head to WIN class
- WIN: Will consist of Learning Paths, and student Portfolio Work

Dismissal Times

- Mon, Tue, Wed, Fri: 2:43 p.m.
- **Thursday: EARLY OUT at 1:59 p.m.**

Arriving after 7:50? Report to the **office** for a late pass.

Note: Three tardies will result in a lunch detention--Reset each quarter

1st Day of School - 6th Grade Only

When & Where

Wednesday, August 26th, 2026

Full Day: 7:48 AM – 2:43 PM

Arrival Support

Teachers in **yellow vests** will be on the playground with walkie-talkies and class lists to guide students.

Morning Routine

Students line up with their **WIN (Homeroom) Teacher**.

Check previous slides for drop-off and breakfast details.

Quick Links

[View Schedule](#)

After School & Transportation

Create a plan: Will you pick them up at North Ave. or will they take the school bus?

Check the bussing slide for bus numbers to ensure a smooth trip home. Teachers will be on the playground to assist.

LOCKERS

Locker locks are a major source of anxiety for students. **Practice opening locks** with your child to build confidence!

Opening Your Lock

Keep it Simple:

- Left Turn
- Right Turn
- Left Turn

Write it on a Post-it:

- 2 turns
- 1 turn
- 0 turns



No Lockers for 6th grade until Labor Day.

Locker codes are currently being reset.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES GUIDE

REQUIRED FOR DAY ONE

- Pencils
- Loose leaf paper for notes
- Pocket folder (for schedule & login info)
- Backpack (for lunch & water bottle)

FULL SUPPLY LIST

Starting Thursday, August 31st

C.S. Porter ~ 6th Grade List

We recommend waiting to bring additional items until teachers provide specific details on the first day.

Tip: Only bring the essentials on Day 1 to keep your backpack light!

BUSING

FIND YOUR STUDENT'S BUS # AND ROUTE

- Navigate to: **mcpsmt.org** → Web Connect → Infofinder i
- Direct Link: infofinder.com/ifi/?cid=MCPS4CVNG54XW

PARENT PICK UP & DROP OFF

Located on **North, 26th, and Central Ave**

Tip: Check your bus route a few days before school starts for any updates!

MUSIC CLASS

MIDDLE SCHOOL OPTIONS

All students get to choose one:

- Band
- Orchestra
- Choir

CHANGING YOUR CLASS

Check your schedule this fall. If it's not the class you want:

1. Reach out to your Music teacher for a slip.
2. Give the slip to your school counselor.
3. The counselor will update Infinite Campus.

Tip: Check your schedule early to ensure your preferred music option is listed!

ABSENCES

TARDY, ABSENT, OR EARLY PICKUP

 Office Secretaries: 406-728-2400 ext. 4610

 Attendance Line: 406-542-4060 option #1

EXTENDED ABSENCE & HOMEWORK REQUESTS

Check Google Classroom AND request homework via communication with student's crew teacher.

Tip: Communication is key! Inform the office as early as possible for planned absences.

NEWSLETTER

DELIVERY DETAILS

- **Weekly Grade Level Newsletter:** Sent every Monday by your student's Crew Teacher.
- **Monthly School-Wide:** Sent to all CS Porter Caregivers from Mr. Mettler.
- **Method:** Sent via email. Ensure contact info is correct in Infinite Campus.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

The weekly newsletter includes:

- Subject Level Content
- Upcoming Events
- Student Teachers
- Parks and Rec After School
- W.I.N. clubs (Intervention)
- Wellness & Emotional Care
- Club info: Student Council, etc.

Tip: Stay connected! Review the newsletter each Monday for key dates and student progress.

WHY ATTENDANCE SCHOOL MATTERS

A CRITICAL INDICATOR

By 6th grade, chronic absenteeism is a leading indicator of student dropout. By high school, it's a better predictor than test scores.

THE IMPACT

- Chronic absence (8th-12th) = **7x more likely** to drop out.
- Strong link between 6th grade attendance and on-time graduation.

HABIT FORMATION

- Attending school (or not) becomes a habit.
- Missing school puts children at risk.

Tip: Consistent attendance is the foundation for student success and graduation.

PORTER COUNSELORS

WHEN SHOULD I REACH OUT TO A COUNSELOR?

- Scheduling questions
- Social-Emotional needs in your child
- Concerns with peer relationships

COUNSELORS

Ms. Burwick

Students: A - L

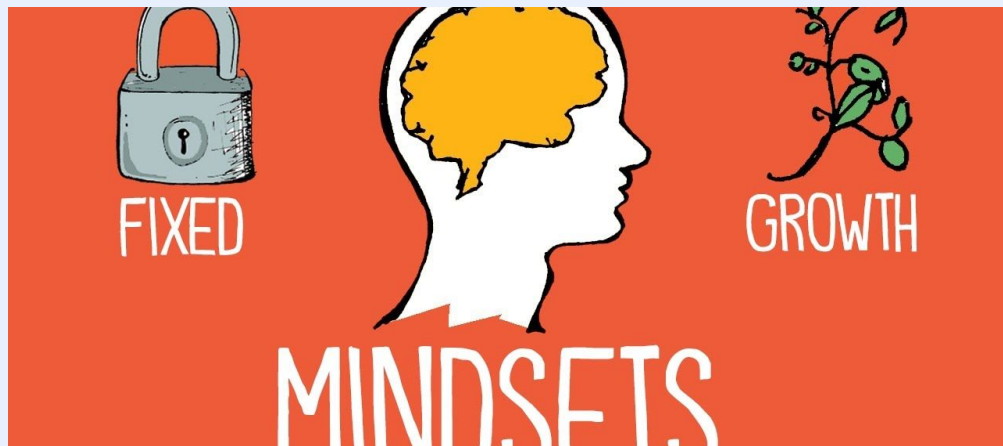
Ms. Michels

Students: M - Z

Our counselors are here to support your student's academic and emotional success!

GROWTH MINDSET

EXPLORE THE MINDSET



[Click the image above to watch a video link](#)

FOR CAREGIVERS

Helping students develop a Growth Mindset can build confidence, resilience, and a stronger willingness to learn.

Take a few minutes to watch the video and explore simple ways you can encourage and support your student's growth at home.

Tip: Encouraging effort over innate ability fosters resilience and a love for learning.

GRADES

HOW DO I CHECK MY STUDENT'S GRADES?

- **Infinite Campus App:** Download for immediate updates on grades, attendance, and more!
- **Account Setup:** Contact our front office to set up your Infinite Campus login.
- **Google Classroom:** Check for individual assignment grades and class progress.

Student in Good Standing

Must remain in good standing to participate in extracurriculars, sports, field trips, and dances. [See requirements here.](#)

WHAT ELSE CAN MY STUDENT BE INVOLVED IN?

SPORTS

6th Grade:

Soccer, Wrestling, Track, Cross Country

7th & 8th Grade: Adds Volleyball & Basketball

EXTRACURRICULARS

Parks & Rec After School Clubs

Spring Musical in coordination with Big Sky HS

CLUBS & PROGRAMS

- Student Council
- Leadership Club
- Native American Lunch Club
- Robotics
- Yearbook

Check the Student in Good Standing Requirements

Participation in sports and extracurriculars requires students to remain in good standing.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

PORTER PARENT COUNCIL

- Meets 2nd Wednesday every month at 6:00 p.m (Virtually)
- Sign up during Open House

VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL

- Porter School Store
- Porter 5k race (Fundraiser)
- Field Trips
- Sign up here for one stop shop for all our opportunities
- <https://mcpsmt.galaxydigital.com/>



FOLLOW CSP ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/csportermiddleschool>

OUR PORTER COMMUNITY

"We will empower, engage, and inspire each and every student to reach his or her potential as a life-long learner and respected member of the community. We will encourage students to pursue their dreams with confidence and passion in a safe, stable, and supportive learning environment."

TOTAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT

655

Students

PORTER STAFF

Principal: Craig Mettler

Assistant Principal: Ariel Cornelius

Dean of Students: Ryan Hansen

45 Certified Staff

19 Classified Staff

1 CSCT Team & PHC Team

1 School Psychologist

1 Social Worker

1 Academic and Behavioral Interventionist