

Heritage Middle School

Sixth Grade Orientation



OUR MISSION

OUR STUDENTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL...

COMUNICATORS...

COLLABORATORS...

CREATIVE AND...

CRITICAL THINKERS...

CORE BELIEFS

- Heritage Middle School believes each student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged.
- Heritage Middle School believes that highly effective teachers, well supported by administration and the community, are essential to success for all students.
- Heritage Middle School believes that a diverse, inclusive and respectful school community promotes a positive learning and working environment.
- Heritage Middle School believes that working collaboratively to support every student eliminates the predictability of achievement.

OUR VISION

- Heritage Middle School creates a meaningful educational environment that engages students in relevant and rigorous learning, fosters creativity and promotes critical thinking by focusing on 21st century skills.
- Heritage Middle School collaborates and communicates as partners in education to provide data driven instruction and best practices that are focused on student achievement.
- Heritage Middle School promotes a flexible and supportive school climate, which recognizes that development of positive character helps students reach their full potential.

Heritage Middle School is...

- A learning community of adults, teenagers, and children working together to learn new concepts, explore new ideas, and strengthen academic and interpersonal skills.
- A Positive Behavior Intervention Support School.
- A place where staff members grow through Professional Learning Teams.
- A caring community using an intentional approach to Character Education.
- We are the Patriots and HMS is a wonderful place for both adults and adolescents!
- A BYOD school that embraces digital learning

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Mission Statement: The mission of BYOD at HMS is to support all students and staff in effective use of current and emerging technologies as a pathway for collaboration, critical thinking, communication, and creativity.



Student BYOD Expectations

- Must have permission (BYOD Signed Contract)
- Device may only be in the possession of the owner
- Device is only for teacher-led instructional activities
- Follow BYOD Signal Outside of classroom
- Off-Limit Zones: class changes, restroom, homeroom, lunch or dismissal
- Pictures, video, sound clips or media (Instagram, Snapchat, etc.) of students or staff is prohibited
- You are only allowed to be on the school BYOD Wi-Fi
- Failure to comply with these expectations will result in confiscation of device, and possible loss of BYOD privileges
- When devices are not being used in the classroom, they should be turned off and put away in your locker

Parent BYOD Expectations

- WCPSS Staff is not responsible for loss, theft, damage or charging of device
- The front office will not accept forgotten devices
- Please refrain from communicating with your child through the device during the instructional day
- If you have questions or need help connecting your child's device to the BYOD network, visit the BYOD website
- <http://wcpss.net/heritagems-byod>

School Hours

- The instructional day is from 8:20-3:05.
- Students begin arriving on campus thirty minutes before the tardy bell – allowed into the building at 7:50 AM.
- Breakfast is available from the time kids arrive on campus until the warning bell.
- There is a warning bell five minutes before the tardy bell.
- Homeroom begins at 8:20 with the Pledge of Allegiance, attendance, and announcements.
- Afternoon announcements are made two minutes before we dismiss.
- Dismissal begins at 3:05.
- Walkers need written permission from parents – verified by Student Services

Middle School Daily Courses

- Language Arts
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Healthful Living*
 - Elective
 - Encore
- The State of NC requires Healthful Living daily for all students in Grades Six, Seven, and Eight. Healthful Living is a combination of health, fitness and physical education.

What is Encore?

- Encore is a daily period attached to homeroom that is used for study remediation, enrichment and differentiation (RED). Each team will have activities designed to utilize this time effectively. Encore is approximately 45 minutes at the beginning of the day.
- One day per week can be used for retesting and/or make up work as needed for core and elective classes.

Flexible Block Scheduling

There are no bells after the school day begins. Teachers and students follow a flexible block schedule which allows for:

- fewer students changing classes simultaneously
- common planning time for teams of teachers
- same grade levels in common areas, such as the cafeteria and locker rooms

Time is boldly displayed on each classroom TV.

Extracurricular Activities

- Sixth Grade students are eligible for most clubs.
- Samples include Student Council, Drama, Chess, FBLA, Science Olympiad, FCA, Battle of the Books, Technology Student Association (TSA), Global Citizens, FCCLA, Take A Hike Club
- Only Seventh & Eighth Grade students are eligible for National Junior Honor Society and interscholastic sports.
- The Patriots are members of the WCPSS Eastern Conference for athletics.
- Students who stay after school may ride the Activity Bus that will transport students to general areas.

Electives at HMS

- Computer Skills and Applications (CSA), Advanced CSA, Exploring FACS – family focus and Exploring Engineering & Design I are semester long electives.
- Other electives are nine week classes and include Dance, Visual Composition, Beginning Spanish I and Chorus. Sixth grade electives are for exploration and elective courses are more extensive in Grades 7 & 8.
- Band is a year long course and Beginning Band is only offered in Sixth Grade.
- Some students may be required to take Curriculum Assistance during Encore
- ALP may be required as an elective based on the need for academic intervention

Healthful Living

- This required middle school class is a combination of health and Physical Education. We have implemented a three part rotation including health, PE and fitness.
- HMS students wear PE uniforms which can be purchased at <https://heritagepe17.itemorder.com>. Your order will be sent to school in 3-6 weeks and delivered to your child in homeroom.
- We will no longer sell uniforms in the school store. We recommend placing your order soon.

Teaming

Students in middle school are assigned to academic teams for core classes. The teachers assigned to these teams are responsible for the same students and get to know the students well. Teams have their own identity and their procedures align with the school and system policies. Each team of 3 or 4 teachers will work with students transitioning to middle school and will communicate with parents throughout the year.

Student Services

- Mr. Gregg Graves- ggraves@wcpss.net 919-562-6204; extension 22511.
- The Student Services Department includes school counselors, school psychologist, school social worker, school nurse, academically gifted coordinator, speech language pathologist and related services staff.
- Student Services is accessible to all students and parents. The number for the department is **562-6204; extension 22562.**
 - Guidance Tech- Mrs. Mary Wiggins

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Heritage Ambassadors
- Elective registration at your elementary school using Power School
- Counselor is part of your student's middle school team.
- Classroom, Small Group, Individual Guidance

Attendance

- County Policy
- HMS Expectations:
 - Arrival
 - Dismissal
- When it is necessary for students to arrive after the tardy bell (8:20 AM), students should report to the main office with a signed note. Once a student accumulates 6 unexcused tardies, the child will serve two lunch detentions.
- Make-up work: 1-3 days=1 day for each day out; more than 3 days = 2 days for each day out.
 - Allow 24 hours for teachers to collect assignments
 - Teacher Websites and Power Parent are other resources

What about Assignments and Grading?

- Personal accountability for completion of work on time and prep for tests/quizzes
- Power Parent – Stay abreast of student progress
- Begin discussing with your student about how grades will be different
- 10 pt. Scale:
 - 100-90 = A (not the same as a 4)
 - 89-80 = B (not the same as a 3)
 - 79-70 = C (etc.)
 - 69-60 = D
 - Below 60 = F

HMS Grading Policy

- Only assessments are part of grades
- Homework/Classwork is designed for practice and therefore is not graded. However, feedback is given and it is an important part of the teaching and learning process. Homework still counts!
- Feedback on Behavior/Work Habits is provided separate from grades at least quarterly to students who are struggling in these areas.
- Homework should not exceed 90 minutes/night
- HW may be assigned over weekends at teacher discretion.

HMS Grading Policy

- Retest or test corrections opportunities will be provided at least twice per quarter in each subject (1 before and 1 after interims) for 79% and below. Students may be required to meet certain parameters to qualify.
- Interims are given at the mid point of each quarter
- Power Parent is updated frequently
- Absences = time to make up work

Math Placement / Courses

- **Math 6**

- **What is this?** Grade level math that covers a full year of content
- Covers rigorous content but also allows some time for practice and processing during class

- **Math 6 Plus**

- **What is this?** Covers all sixth grade standards and about one-third of 7th grade standards
- Much faster pace; very little time for practice in class
- Requires student to begin taking ownership of learning.

Math Placement / Courses

- EVAAS Probability of 70% or greater
EVAAS looks at prior testing history on End-of-Grade (EOG) tests to show a probability of Level IV or higher on the EOC for Math I, the first high school course. **AND**
- Level IV or higher on math EOG

OR

- Level IV or higher on math EOG & final grade of “4” in standards based grading for 5th grade
Honors the work of those students currently working with more rigorous content and being successful regardless of EVAAS score

Math Placement / Courses

- Compacted Math 6+ / 7+
- What is it?
 - Covers 2.5 years of content in one school year. It covers 6th, 7th, and half of 8th grade content
 - Accelerative option that does not involve skipping content
 - Requires a student who is ready to both pick up content quickly and at times independently
 - Delivered in a blended model (about 50% online learning)
 - No more than 1 day on any given instructional topic (less for some)
 - Unique student – very motivated and independent with math learning
 - At least 97% EVAAS AND Level 5 on most recent Math EOG
- WAIVERS....

What happens after 6th grade?

If you start with ...	7 th Grade	8 th Grade	9 th Grade	10 th Grade
Math 6	Math 7	Math 8	Math I (HS)	Math II (HS)
Math 6 Plus	Math 7 Plus	Math I (HS)	Math II (HS)	Math III (HS)
Compacted Math 6/7+	Math I (HS)	Math II (HS)	Math III (HS)	Pre-Calculus

- Math II is usually offered as an online course through NCVPS
- It is possible to move between the rows except where it includes skipping content
 - *For example: Student can move from Math 6 to Math 7 Plus with some support.*

Special Education Services

- If your child has an IEP, there will be a transition meeting within the last 30 days of the current 5th grade school year to review the plan and prepare for middle school.
- We are willing to communicate with the sending elementary school on your child's behalf.
- Our department chair will participate in a meeting with the chairs from the elementary schools to transition folders and plans.

Support for AIG students

- Differentiated curricula and instruction
 - Accelerate content for math through course selection
 - LA – one curriculum – we go deeper with content standards
- Collaborative planning for teacher delivered differentiation
- Grouping within the classroom: cluster , flexible
- Services are delivered via pull out and push in
- Flexible Assistance during Encore
- Goal: To create challenging opportunities for optimal growth for the AIG child.

Open House / Schedule Pick Up

Tracks 1, 2, 3 – See HMS website for detailed schedule

Thursday, July 6th

Grade 6

4:00-4:15 - View homeroom list in cafeteria

4:15-5:30 – Core Classes

5:35-6:10 – Gym – purchase items, visit PTA, transportation, lunch accounts, visit student services, etc.

6:15-6:30 – Electives (Dance meet in 1118)

6:35-6:50 – Healthful Living (Auditorium)

- ✓ Meet Teachers
- ✓ Pick Up Schedules, Supply Lists & Bus Routes
- ✓ Purchase Agendas, and Locks
- ✓ Join the PTA
- ✓ Learn about curriculum and expectations from teachers
- ✓ Sign up for Power Parent
- ✓ Sign up to Volunteer

Monday, July 10th

First Day of School

Open House / Schedule Pick Up

Track 4 – See HMS website for detailed schedule

Thursday, July 27th

Grade 6

4:00-4:15 - View homeroom list in cafeteria

4:15-5:30 – Core Classes

5:35-6:10 – Gym – purchase items, visit PTA, transportation, lunch accounts, visit student services, etc.

6:15-6:30 – Electives (Dance meet in 1118)

6:35-6:50 – Healthful Living (Auditorium)

- ✓ Meet Teachers
- ✓ Pick Up Schedules, Supply Lists & Bus Routes
- ✓ Purchase Agendas, and Locks
- ✓ Join the PTA
- ✓ Learn about curriculum and expectations from teachers
- ✓ Sign up for Power Parent
- ✓ Sign up to Volunteer

Monday, July 31st

First Day of School

Bus Stop/Transportation Registration

- New students to HMS from a private, charter, out-of-county or out-of-state schools that will need bus service must register for bus transportation.
- To register you will need your student's identification number.
- Go to <http://www.wcpss.net/transportation>
- Click Bus Rider Registration
- Current Wake County students new to Heritage MS (base or calendar) that have not had bus service, but will need busing for the 17/18 school year, will need to register.
- Bus information is now listed on Power School accounts. Please check your student's bus information prior to start of the new school year.
- Questions--- please call Student Services 919-562-6204 Ext. 22562

Next Steps / Stay Informed

- Follow us on Twitter
- Principal's Message (usually on Fridays) – Messages will be sent via text and e-mail. Text of the message is posted to our website as well.
- 2017-18 school supply listed posted to our website by end of May
- This presentation posted to our website

PATRIOTS



Heritage
Middle School