

# Heritage Middle School

Sixth Grade Orientation



# OUR MISSION

EDUCATE...

EMPOWER...

ENRICH...



# OUR VALUES

- Heritage Middle School will provide a positive working and learning environment.
- Heritage Middle School's students, teachers, and parents will share the responsibility of learning.
- Heritage Middle School will promote educational values and opportunities, as well as positive character traits.
- Heritage Middle School will utilize current and appropriate data to focus instruction.
- Heritage Middle School's community will be a safe, stable, and orderly environment.

# OUR VISION

- **Educate**: Heritage Middle School creates educational opportunities that motivate, inspire, and provide foundations for future learning that advance students' unique talents and meet individual needs.
- **Empower**: Heritage Middle School empowers students to value education, to love learning, to recognize diversity, to know their strengths and weaknesses, and to find real world applications for their learning.
- **Enrich**: Through individual and collaborative endeavors, Heritage Middle School students participate in a variety of enriching activities that foster community connections and diverse perspectives.

# 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!

# 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 30 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, Honors Chorus, Dance Company, Global Citizens and Newbury Club.
- Only Seventh & Eighth Grade students are eligible for National Junior Honor Society and interscholastic sports.
- The Patriots are members of the WCPSS Northern 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, Exploring FACS – Family Focus and Exploring Technology are semester long electives.
- Other electives are nine week classes and include Introduction to Dance, Visual Arts Exploratory, Exploratory Spanish and Music Exploratory. 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 (IEP) or ALP based on EOG test scores.

# 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 in the school store during the year and also at Schedule Pickup/Open House evening.

# 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](mailto:ggraves@wcpss.net) 562-6217
- 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 562-6210.
  - Guidance Tech- Mrs. Mary Wiggins

# WHAT TO EXPECT

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

# Attendance

- County Policy
- HMS Expectations:
  - Arrival (Tardy policy)
  - Dismissal (avoid early checkouts if possible)
- 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/Team 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 correction 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 at least every 2 weeks.
- 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and half of 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> grade?

If you start with ...	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	10 <sup>th</sup> 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.*

# Common Core State Standards

- Are aligned with college and work expectations;
- Are clear, understandable, and consistent;
- Include rigorous content and application of knowledge through high-order skills;
- Are informed by other top-performing countries, so that all students are prepared to succeed in a global economy and society; and
- Are evidence-based.

*Source: <http://www.corestandards.org/about-the-standards/>*



# 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 co-teaching and pull out
- Flexible Assistance during Encore
- Goal: To create challenging opportunities for optimal growth for the AIG child

# Special Education Services

- If your child has an IEP, there will be a transition meeting within the last 30 days of the current 5<sup>th</sup> 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 Special Education department will participate in a meeting with the chairs from the elementary schools to transition folders and plans.

# Open House / Schedule Pick Up

## Tracks 1, 2, 3

Thursday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

4:00-7:15 PM

- Meet Teachers
- Pick Up Schedules, Supply Lists (online) & Bus Routes (online)
- Purchase Agendas, PE Uniforms & Locks (can be purchased online)
- Join the PTA
- Learn about curriculum and expectations from teachers
- Sign up for Power Parent
- Sign up to Volunteer

Monday, July 11<sup>th</sup>

First Day of School

## Track 4

Thursday, July 28<sup>th</sup>

4:00-7:15 PM

Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup>

First Day of School

# Next Steps / Stay Informed

- Follow us on Twitter (heritagemiddle1)
- All Call's (usually on Fridays) - text also posted to our website under "Principal's Message"
- 2016-17 school supply listed posted to our website by early April
- This presentation posted to our website
- Purchase PE uniforms, PE lock and Agenda online beginning July 1 (bring receipt to Open House)

# PATRIOTS



Heritage  
Middle School