

CAMP MIDDLE SCHOOL
Thursday, August 22, 2019
8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dear Parents,

We at Houghton Middle School realize that in all of their years of school, students may face no harder transition than moving from elementary school to middle school. The changes are so great--from having one teacher to having several; from a base in a classroom desk to a base in a locker in the hallway--that it is no small wonder that many new sixth graders begin their middle school years filled with anxiety and apprehension.

Camp Middle School is a half day camp where incoming sixth graders and their parents will have a chance to “learn the ropes” of middle school life. Students enrolled in Camp Middle School will have the opportunity to:

- Meet their teachers and other staff
- Receive their schedule
- Find their classes
- Practice their locker combination
- Review important policies & procedures

Parents who attend will:

- Review important policies & procedures
- Meet their teachers and other staff
- Discuss “Life in the Middle Ages”
- Review the curriculum & daily schedules
- Tour the school
- Have the opportunity to purchase math supplies (calculator & template, \$15 total)
- Hear about Band & Choir opportunities
- Ask questions
- Review bus routes

Camp Middle School will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the auditorium with registration starting at 8:10. Camp Middle School concludes at 11:30.

Attending Camp Middle School should help make the transition to middle school easier for you and your soon-to-be sixth grader! See you on Thursday, August 22nd!

The Camp Middle School Team

Camp Middle School

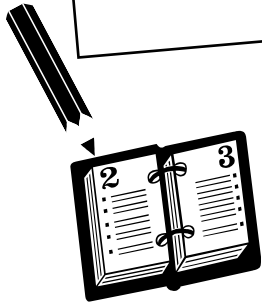
Houghton Middle School—6th Grade Orientation
Thursday, August 22, 2019 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Registration begins at 8:10 a.m.

STUDENTS:

- School tour & scavenger hunt
- Meet the teachers and staff
- Practice your locker combination
- Meet your homeroom

PARENTS:

- Review classroom expectations
- Middle School matters
- Get your questions answered
- Purchase Math template & calculator (\$15)
- Bus schedule
- Get your questions answered



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
NOW!

Sixth Grade Core Classes

Math 6

This course is a continuation of the Chicago School Mathematics Project curriculum presented in grades 1-5. Topics will include data collection; formulas and graphing; rational number uses and operations; scientific notation; rates; ratios and probabilities; and algebra and geometry topics. In addition, games and projects will help students expand their mathematical thinking and problem solving skills.

Language Arts 6

Language Arts emphasizes the connections between reading, writing, speaking, listening, and grammar while covering the two main genres, fiction and non-fiction, and their subgenres. Within each genre, authors' use of literary terms will be introduced and student writing will reflect the understanding of these terms. Writing will include poems, personal narratives, stories, journals, research papers, letters, and other creative writing. Students will use the writing process when working towards final drafts. A variety of oral presentations and speeches will be given.

Science 6

This course covers life, physical, and earth science concepts. The focus of life science is ecology. Physical science deals with forms of energy and changes of state. Earth science concepts include the rock cycle, soil formation, and plate tectonics.

Social Studies 6

Social Studies 6 provides students with a general overview of the countries of the Western Hemisphere. Land, climate, economy, culture, and government analyze each country. This general framework makes it easy to compare countries. Various places of interest and events will be highlighted. Supplemental material will be used to teach more in-depth. Students will learn basic economic terms and concept. They will be challenged to make appropriate connections to their lives.

S.T.A.R. (Students Taking Active Responsibility)

All sixth grade students take this advisor/advisee course. Using a variety of activities including role-playing, students discuss topics such as organization and responsibility, conflict resolution, and community involvement. Each marking period students set a goal to work on. Homeroom "S.T.A.R." teachers monitor students' progress. Silent reading period and time for individual help in other subjects is provided. This year we will also focus on reading and vocabulary strategies and reading for information.

Sixth Grade EnCore Classes

Full Year Classes

Band 6 (Full year - Monday, Wednesday, Friday)

This class is open to anyone with a genuine interest in playing a band instrument. We will perform a minimum of three concerts per year. Each student is required to practice their instrument in order to be successful. The emphasis during class is building good playing habits while studying a variety of styles of band literature.

Choir 6 (Full year - Tuesday, Thursday)

Beginning choir is open to anyone with a genuine interest in learning how to sing and read music.

Nine-Week Classes

Art 6

This is an introductory art course where students will explore a variety of two and three-dimensional forms of visual expression with a focus on the “elements of art”: line, form and shape, texture, color, pattern, composition, and movement. Students will learn skills in evaluating, judging, and appreciating art as well as learning how to express their individual feelings through skillful handling of a variety of art media. Included will be drawing, painting, and weaving.

F.A.C.S. 6

In this Family and Consumer Skills class, sixth graders will cover simple food preparations and basic hand sewing skills will be introduced.

Physical Education 6

Activities will include the President’s Challenge Fitness Testing for strength and endurance, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and skill-related fitness; personal conditioning including rowing, swimming, introduction to weight and resistance training; and outdoor skills such as cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and hiking. We will also play a variety of individual and teams sports as well as water sports.

Tech Explorations 6

This class will allow the students to improve on their computer skills. Students will learn the basics of Google Drive and discuss digital citizenship.

Camp Nesbit Activity

The Camp Nesbit program is a three-day outdoor educational experience for sixth grade students. Students are exposed to numerous environmental experiences. These activities are designed to supplement classroom learning. Students have an opportunity to put into practice the things that they have been taught in school and at home. This camping experience is tentatively scheduled for October. Specific dates will be released as soon as they are known.

6th Grade Course Selection Form

Student Name _____

Reminder to Parents: Please be sure to update the office with any address, email or phone number changes over the summer. New proof of residency must be provided for any address change. Changes may be sent to kwaite@hpts.us or call 482-0450 Ext. 1090.

Will your student be returning for the 2019-20 school year? Yes No

If not, where will you be moving? _____

Required Core Courses:

- Math 6
- Language Arts 6
- Science 6
- Social Studies 6
- S.T.A.R.

Required EnCore Classes:

EnCore class offerings are subject to change.

- Art 6
- F.A.C.S. 6
- Physical Education 6
- Tech Explorations 6

Study Hall/Band/Choir

Band and Choir are offered during the Study Hall. If a student signs up for both Band and Choir, the student will have no study hall. If nothing is selected, a study hall will automatically be assigned.

Schedule changes for Band and/or Choir will only be allowed during the first two weeks of school and the week prior to the new semester in January.

Choose 1:

Option 1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Option 2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Option 3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Option 4 <input type="checkbox"/>
Study Hall every day (no Band or Choir)	Band (Mon/Wed/Fri) and Study Hall (Tues/Thurs)	Choir (Tues/Thurs) and Study Hall (Mon/Wed/Fri)	Band (Mon/Wed/Fri) and Choir (Tues/Thurs)

I understand and agree with the above course selections.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Please return to your 5th grade teacher by Friday, May 24th. If you have any questions or concerns please contact Mrs. Rundman at 482-0450 Ext. 1160 or via e-mail at krundman@houghton.k12.mi.us.

Sixth Grade Schedule 2019 – 2020

Time	Class
8:10 – 9:06	First Hour (Core Class)
9:11 – 10:05	Second Hour (Core Class)
10:10 – 11:04	Third Hour (StudyHall/Band/Choir)
11:07 – 11:32	(4 th Hour ½) S.T.A.R. (In Homerooms)
11:32 – 12:02	LUNCH
12:04 – 12:33	(4 th Hour ½) S.T.A.R. (In Homerooms)
12:38 – 1:32	Fifth Hour (Core Class)
1:37 – 2:31	Sixth Hour (Core Class)
2:36 – 3:30	Seventh Hour (EnCore Classes)

Houghton Middle School 6th Grade Things You Need to Know

Camp Nesbit – This year Camp Nesbit dates for the fall 2019 will be announced as soon as we know them. Parent cost will be approximately \$65.00 per student. Please send a white t-shirt with your child for an art project.

Camp Middle School – Held on Thursday, August 22nd from 8:30 a.m. – 11:30. Registration is from 8:15-8:30. Orientation begins promptly at 8:30. It is an opportunity to get comfortable with the Middle School, meet your teachers and get your class schedule! The calculators and templates for Math will also be available to purchase at this time for \$15.00.

Core Classes – Core classes are the four basic school subjects: Math, Social Studies, Language Arts and Science.

EnCore Classes – These are the non-Core classes: Art, Family and Consumer Skills (F.A.C.S.), Physical Education, Tech Explorations, Band and Choir.

Homerooms – Students are assigned a homeroom and travel together to Core classes and STAR. We do not accept requests for specific homeroom teachers, as they are only with that teacher for two class hours a day and possibly study hall.

S.T.A.R. – Stands for Students Taking Active Responsibility. See the Course Booklet for more information.

Assignment Books – Students are provided at the beginning of the school year and they are expected to use them throughout the year. Students should write down their daily assignments in them. They are also referred to as agenda books or planners.

Houghton Middle School Website - www.hpts.us provides the daily homework assignments, faculty and staff, academic information, student handbook, calendar, photo gallery, athletics and special events.

Scoop Board – The Scoop Board is a bulletin board located in the 6th grade area that posts the daily homework and other important information.

Homework – Students have homework in 2 – 3 subjects on most days. Some teachers provide work time in class. Teachers try to coordinate tests and quizzes to fall on different days. Students are marked down for late work.

Study Hall – This is a 1-hour study session each day. It is held in one of the Core classes and you have the opportunity to go to the library or ask teachers for help.

Honor Roll – The Honor Roll is a list of students that have earned a B average or better in all classes. The Honor Roll is published twice yearly in the newspaper. Honor Roll students are recognized at the Academic Award Assembly each May.

Lunch – Students can purchase a lunch (menu available online) or bring their own.

GRIT – GRIT is the Middle and High School Positive Behavior Acronym that stands for Goals, Respect, Integrity and Teamwork

Middle School Month – This takes place in March. The Middle School Senate sponsors a ton of fun activities.

MS/HS Library – 6th grade students will attend Library Orientation and will receive a library card. Students can access the Library before school, after school until 4:00 p.m. at lunchtime and during study hall, using a pass.

Lockers – Every student will have their own lockers and combination. All books, supplies and jackets will be stored in the lockers. Students should keep their combinations private. Students are expected to keep lockers clean and organized.

Electronics – Students can use electronics before school (until 8:00 a.m.), at lunch in the multi-purpose room, after school (3:30 p.m.) and with teacher permission. When not in use, electronics should be stored off and in lockers.

Absences - Our most successful students are on time and in school. They miss fewer than 5 days per marking period. If you need to be absent, tardy or early pick-up, your parents must call the attendance line at 482-0450. Students must sign in and out of the office.

Tardiness - A tardy is defined as any time you report to any class without a valid excuse after the second bell has rung. If you are late for a class, you will be marked tardy. The only exception to tardiness is when a student has a pass. One lunchtime detention is assigned for three tardies in a marking period.

Physical Education – Sixth grade PE students will be assigned a locker and combination lock. They are expected to change clothes in the locker room. Swimming is a part of the PE curriculum.

Rooms You Need To Know

Door #9 is the MS Entrance

To the left of the Middle School Entrance – MS Office (Ms.Filpus & Mrs. Waite)

MS Counselor's Office (Mrs. Rundman)

600 – Computer Lab (Mrs. Laplander)

601 – Science (Mr. Belmas)

602 – Language Arts (Mrs. Laplander)

603 – Social Studies (Mr. Nolan)

604 – Math (Ms. Marttila)

605 – Resource Room (Mrs. Hoduski & Mrs. Wiitanen)

601 – Art (Mr. Belmas)

110 – F.A.C.S.(Mrs. Sayen)

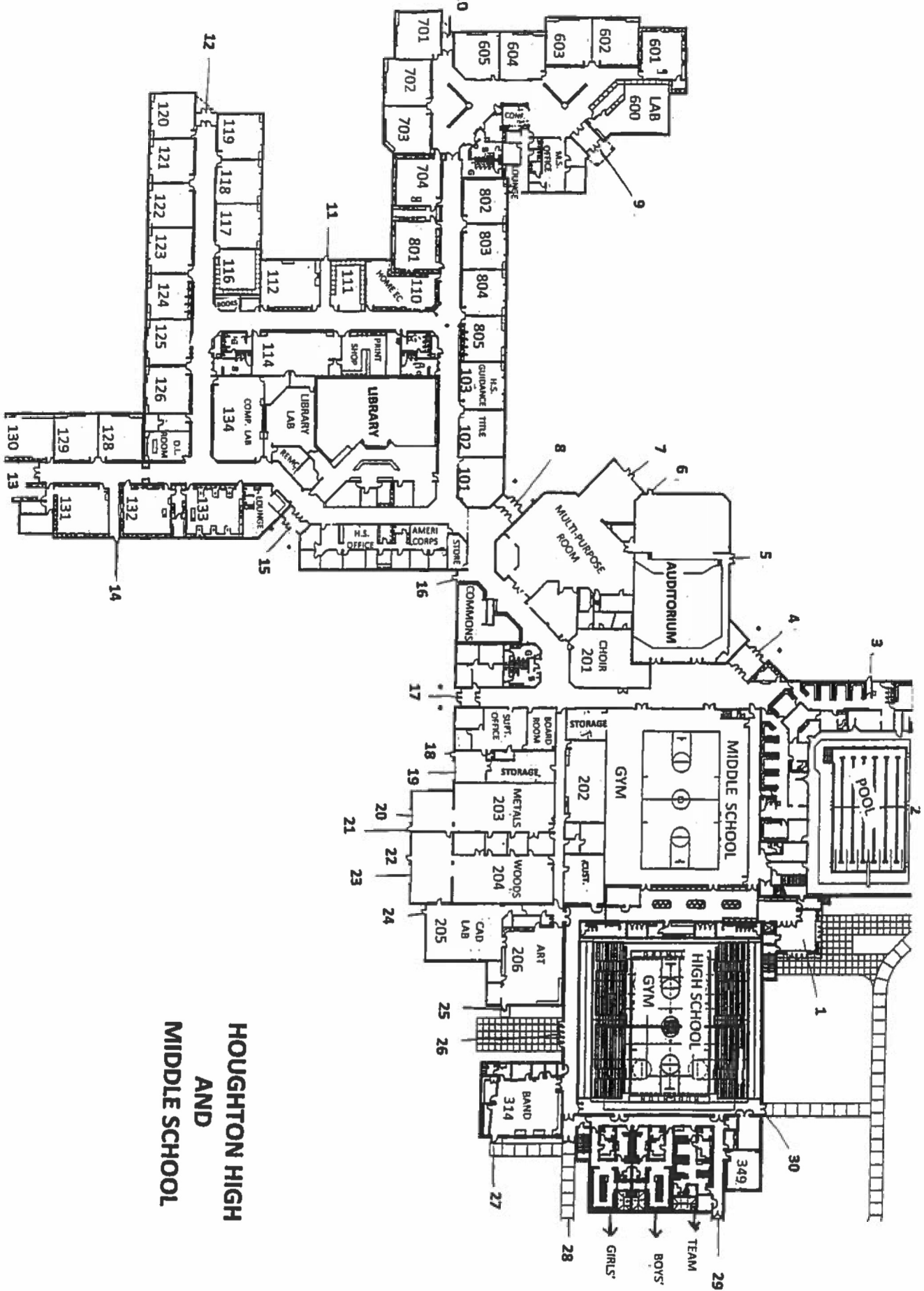
314 – Band 6 & Choir 6 (Mrs. Fontaine)

Auditorium – For Assemblies

Gym & Natatorium – Physical Education/Swimming

Media Center – Library

Multi-Purpose Room – Lunch Room



**HOUGHTON HIGH
AND
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

FAQ'S ABOUT 6TH GRADE BAND AND CHOIR

1. What if I've never played an instrument or sang a note before?

Don't worry. This is why we have band and choir. I can teach you.

2. How much will band cost?

Instruments fall into two categories. School owned instruments are baritone, tuba, oboe, tenor sax, baritone sax, French horn, percussion, and string bass. Individually owned instruments are flute, clarinet, alto sax, trumpet, and trombone. School owned instruments are \$50 per year, every year. Individually owned instruments are \$80 three times per year, guaranteeing that you will own the instrument once it is paid in full. If your instrument takes more than one year to pay in full a 20% fee is added to the total cost. If you choose to pay it in full by the end of the first year, there will not be an extra fee. Scholarships are available for those in need.

3. Will band and choir require homework?

If you think that practicing your instrument or voice is homework, than yes these students will have homework. I look at it as they are learning a new instrument and are gathering a valuable experience that they are not going to get anywhere else.

4. Can my child do both band and choir and be successful?

Of course! Both classes require approximately 15 minutes of practice per day. If a child is struggling to meet these goals, they can be pushed until the weekend.

5. Can my child join later (at the semester) if we are unsure now?

They can, but it will be more difficult for them. Everyone is starting at the same place right now, and we are going to have fun listening and learning from each other. If you choose to start later, they will be behind and more likely not to stick with it.

6. What if I join and then we change our mind and want out?

I require students to put in one full year.

7. Will we have an opportunity to try the instrument of choice?

I will send an email to the list serv for instrument fittings in August. If a conflict arises, we can fit you during the first week of school.

8. When do we get our instruments?

Most instruments will be ordered as soon as possible. Instruments usually come in during the week of Camp Nesbit.

9. What if I need to talk to the teacher?

Kelly Fontaine is the band director and choir teacher. Please contact by email kfontaine@hpts.us or phone at 906-482-0450 ext. 1530. I look forward to having your child in the band and choir programs at Houghton. We strive for excellence here. We will make you proud.