

Middle School Orientation
Tuesday, August 22, 2023
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. Mrs. Rundman, the 6th -9th grade School Counselor, has visited the classrooms and addressed the students' questions and eased their worries about the move from the elementary to the middle school.

We know that 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.

Middle School Orientation is a half day session where incoming sixth graders and their parents will have a chance to "learn the ropes" of middle school life. Students 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

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

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

The 6th Grade Middle School Team

Middle School Orientation

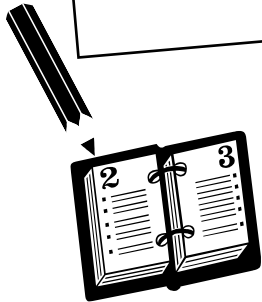
Houghton Middle School—6th Grade Orientation
Thursday, August 22, 2023 8:30 a.m.—11:30 a.m.
Registration begins at 8:10 a.m.

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



MARK YOUR
CALENDARS
NOW!

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.

If not, where will you be moving? _____

Required Core Courses:

Math 6
Language Arts 6
Science 6
World Geography 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, Choir and study hall are offered during third hour. If a student signs up for both Band and Choir, the student will not have a 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	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<input type="checkbox"/> Study Hall every day (<u>no</u> Band or Choir)	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall	Study Hall
<input type="checkbox"/> Band (Mon/Wed/Fri) and Study Hall (Tues/Thurs)	Band	Study Hall	Band	Study Hall	Band
<input type="checkbox"/> Choir (Tues & Thurs) and Study Hall (Mon/Wed/Fri)	Study Hall	Choir	Study Hall	Choir	Study Hall
<input type="checkbox"/> Band (Mon/Wed/Fri) and Choir (Tues & Thurs)	Band	Choir	Band	Choir	Band

I understand and agree with the above course selections.

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature Date

Please return with your registration packet.

Sixth Grade Schedule 2023-2024

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.
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

Fortune Lake Camp – This outdoor learning experience typically falls at the end of September/beginning of October. More details will be shared as we move closer to the date.

Middle School Orientation– Scheduled for Tuesday, 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 S.T.A.R. We do not accept requests for specific homeroom teachers, as students 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.

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, athletics and special events.

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-period 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 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 have an 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 may be 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)

Across the Middle School Entrance - MS Counselor's Office (Mrs. Rundman)

600 – Science/Math (Ms. Zenner)

601 – Science (Mr. Belmas)

602 – Language Arts (Mrs. Laplander)

603 – Social Studies (Mr. Nolan)

604 – Math (Mrs. Trewartha)

605 – Resource Room

601 – Art (Mr. Belmas)

110 – F.A.C.S.

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

Auditorium – For Assemblies

Gym & Natatorium – Physical Education/Swimming

Media Center – Library

Multi-Purpose Room – Lunch Room

FAQS 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 \$100 per year, every year. Individually owned instruments are \$100 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, then yes these students will have homework. We are learning a new instrument and are gathering a valuable experience that we are not going to get anywhere else.

4. Can I 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, practice can be pushed until the weekend.

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

You can, but this is challenging. Everyone is starting at the same place right now, and we are going to have fun listening and learning from each other. If one starts later, you will be behind and less likely to succeed.

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

Students are required to complete one academic year if they choose to sign up.

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

I will send an email to the listserv 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 end of September or early October.

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

Kelly Fontaine is the 6-12 grade band director and grade 6 choir teacher. Please contact me 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.

10. What if I don't have an instrument? Instruments can be rented through the school. If you own an instrument, bring the instrument to Mrs. Fontaine to inspect the playing condition.