

# WELCOME TO MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL



Principal: Gus Harju  
Dean of Students: Robb Hurt  
Counselor: Melissa Vader  
6th Grade Educators: Amy England  
& Courtney Berry

# Who Are We At Mill Creek Middle School?

We are the...

“Best” Middle School in the state because we ranked among the top 40% in the state - U.S. News and World Report!

We have...

Rigorous curriculum, caring staff, and full fledged offerings of middle school athletics!

We...

Reward students for positive behavior!

# WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MIDDLE SCHOOL?

We hope this presentation will cover all the questions you have about middle school!



Be sure to ask us if you still have questions!

# What time does school start and end?

- Mill Creek Middle School opens at 7:20 am and classes begin at 7:40 am.
- Students who arrive before 7:20 am should wait inside the double doors.
- Please do not drop your student off before 7:20.
- School ends at 2:30 pm.



# Where do I enter the building?

- The School Street lot is for parent drop off  
- Please watch your speed and be courteous of other drivers.
- The Betty Street lot is for staff and busses.
- The main office door (off of the Betty St. lot) is the only door open after school begins.

**Betty Street Lot:**  
**Buses**

**Main Office Entrance**



**School Street Lot:**  
**Parent Drop Off**

# Where are my classes?

- Our building is separated into three wings by grade level.
- Almost all of your classes will be in the 6th grade wing.
- You might have one or two classes in other areas of the building.

# What will my schedule be like?

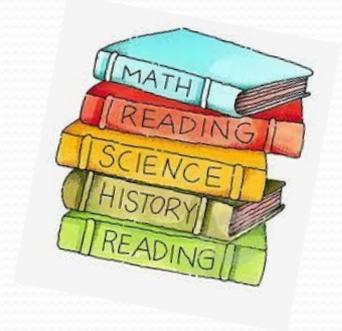
- At Mill Creek, you will have six class periods, each about 1 hour long.
- You will have 4 minutes to pass between each class. (This is plenty of time! 😁)
- You will have 30 minutes for lunch.

# What kinds of classes will I have?

All students at Mill Creek take two types of classes.

## ■ 4 Core Classes:

- Language Arts, Math, Science, & Social Studies.
- Students take all four cores each year.
- These classes are all year long.



## ■ 2 Rotation Classes:

- Band, Choir, Computers, Art, Physical Education, Digital Skills, Math 4 Life, & Explorations.
- All students will take Explorations.
- Explorations is a class which helps with the transition from an elementary to a secondary setting.

# Sample Schedule

<b>Period</b>	<b>Quarter 1</b>	<b>Quarter 2</b>	<b>Quarter 3</b>	<b>Quarter 4</b>
1st	Science 6	Science 6	Science 6	Science 6
2nd	Math 6	Math 6	Math 6	Math 6
3rd	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 6	Language Arts 6
4th	Explorations	Math 4 Life	Computers	Explorations through Literature
5th	PE	PE	Art	Art
6th	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6	Social Studies 6

**Note:**

Choir students will take Choir as a full-year class during 4th period  
Band students will take Band as a full-year class during 5th period

# How do I sign up for Choir or Band?



## ■ Choir:

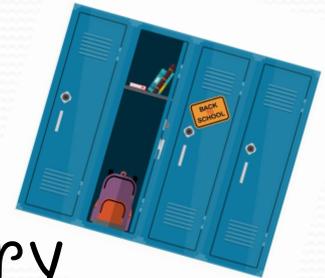
- The 6th grade Choir is visiting Pine Island May 6 and 7
- Look for a permission slip to come home on these days to sign up for Choir (returned to Mrs. Hite)
- We have permission slips available tonight if your child wants to sign up now!

## ■ Band:

- An information form with QR code to sign up went home with students on Monday
- We have extras here today that you can scan to sign up!
- An instrument selection event will occur at Pine Island later in May - look for further communication from the school

# What if my locker doesn't work?

- We work hard to make sure all lockers are working correctly prior to the first day of school. Teachers and other school staff are present in the hallway on the first days of school to help.
- Ask your teachers for help; they are very understanding at the beginning of the year.
- Practice opening a combination padlock.



# When and where do I eat lunch?

- The cafeteria is located in the common area. The common area includes the gymnasium and cafeteria.
- Lunch periods all occur between 11:00 and 12:30. 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes all eat separately.
- 6th Graders have a Split Lunch during 4th Hour.  
(Half hour of class -- LUNCH -- Half hour of class)
- We do not have recess, but we try to go to the gym or outside when weather permits.



# What kind of supplies do I need?

- You will need many of the usual school supplies: pencils, red pens, colored pencils, notebooks, folders, glue, etc . . .
- You will also need a backpack and pencil pouch to keep your things in.
- You will be issued a planner at the beginning of the year to help you stay organized and keep track of assignments.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Suggested Supply List

The following are some basic supplies that will be needed for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Each teacher will distribute a specific supply list for their class in the fall.

- 4 - 1.5 inch 3-ring binders or folders (One for each core class)
- 4 Spiral notebooks (Science, Social Studies, 2 for Language Arts)
- 2 Book Covers (Science, Social Studies)
- High quality #2 pencils or mechanical pencils - all assignments *must* be completed in pencil!
- RED Correcting Pens
- Colored pencils
- Glue Sticks
- Erasers
- TI-30xIIS calculator (Math)
- Ruler & Protractor (for at home)
- Dry Erase Markers
- Headphones



# How can I stay organized?



- Some students have different folders or binders for each class and swap them out between classes.
- Other students have one binder with different folders for each class that they carry with them all day.
- It may be helpful to have a HOMEWORK folder to keep track of homework each night.
- Need help getting organized? You will work on these skills in Explorations and Advisory!

## What are the rules like at Mill Creek?

- Students have the right to learn, and teachers have the right to teach.
- Work as hard as you can to do the right thing.
- Take care of each other.



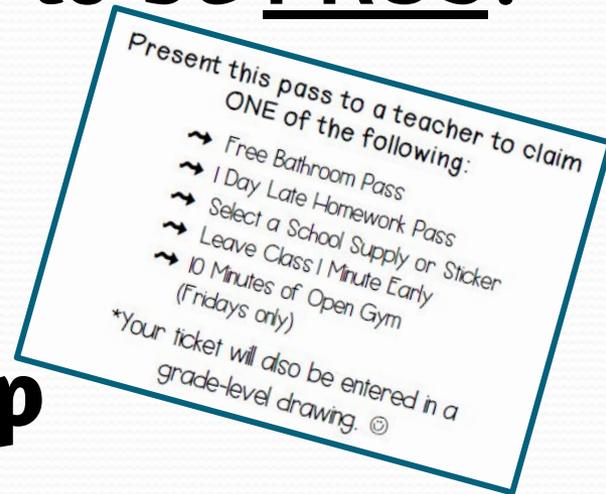
**PRIDE! Personal Responsibility In Daily Effort**

# What are the rules like at Mill Creek?

At Mill Creek, we want you to be PROS!



Be Prepared  
Show Respect  
Take Ownership  
Act Safely



These are the school-wide Expectations  
at Mill Creek that can earn you  
**PROS Passes!**

# Monthly PBIS Celebrations

Each month, students who are following the school-wide expectations and being Panther PROS will have the opportunity to celebrate!

- New Criteria each month  
(No Detentions, No Tardies, etc.)
- Possible Celebrations:

- ◆ Movies
- ◆ Choose Your Own Adventure  
(Chromebook Room, Movies, Art, Board Games, Open Gym, Origami, etc.)
- ◆ Sock Hop



**What Else  
do I Need  
to Know?**

# The Dress Code

- We want to teach students to prepare for the work force and society.
- No coats during the school day.
- No hats or hoods on during the school day.
- Clothing should not be overly baggy.
- No crop tops, spaghetti straps, or too-short shorts & skirts.
- No excessively torn or ripped clothing.
- Student dress should never have the potential to distract others from the learning process - please be very careful of written language on clothing.



# Attendance Policy



- Research shows that students who miss 5 or more days of school in the middle grades are at greater risk of not being prepared for high school
- Even if your absence is excused, you are still missing important information when you are not here!
- By law, students who are habitually absent **MUST** be reported to the Truancy Office
- Excused Absences: illness, doctor/dentist appointments, family emergency, religious observations, funeral, death in the family
- Unexcused Absences: missing the bus, no ride, skipping class

# Tardy Policy

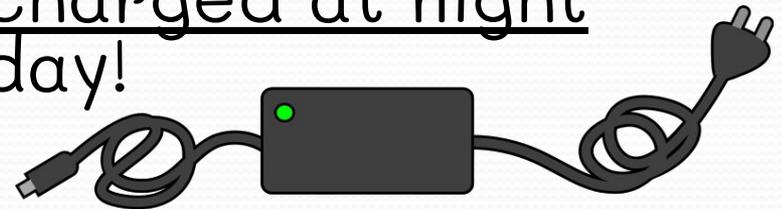


- Students are expected to be in class on time
- Warning Bell
- Any tardy is considered unexcused when a student arrives to class late without a pass
- After three tardies from the same class, students begin serving consequences:
  - 3-5 tardies -> lunch detention
  - 6-8 tardies -> after school detention
  - 9+ tardies -> parent meeting, consequences determined by administration

# Electronic Use Policy



- Students may have cell phones and other electronic devices at school.
- They have to be turned OFF and kept in the locker during the school day.
- Be careful when bringing valuable items to school.
- Chromebooks need to be charged at night and ready to go the next day!



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Sports

- District Sponsored:
  - > Cross Country - Fall
  - > Sideline Cheer - Fall
  - > Competitive Cheer - Winter 1
  - > Wrestling - Winter 2
  - > Track - Spring
  - > Tennis - Spring
- Students must have an MHSAA Physical to participate.
  - \*After April 15, 2024 for Fall Sports.

Physicals Available at CPHS - May 7th from 6-8pm, \$20

- Contact Robb Hurt with any athletic questions.



# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Extracurricular Activities

## ■ Student Leadership

- Application Process
- Organize Spirit Days & Weeks
- Popcorn Days
- Movie Nights



## ■ Green Team



- Anyone is welcome
- Recycling
- Creating a Michigan Garden in the courtyard
- Awareness lesson & contests

## ■ Drama Club

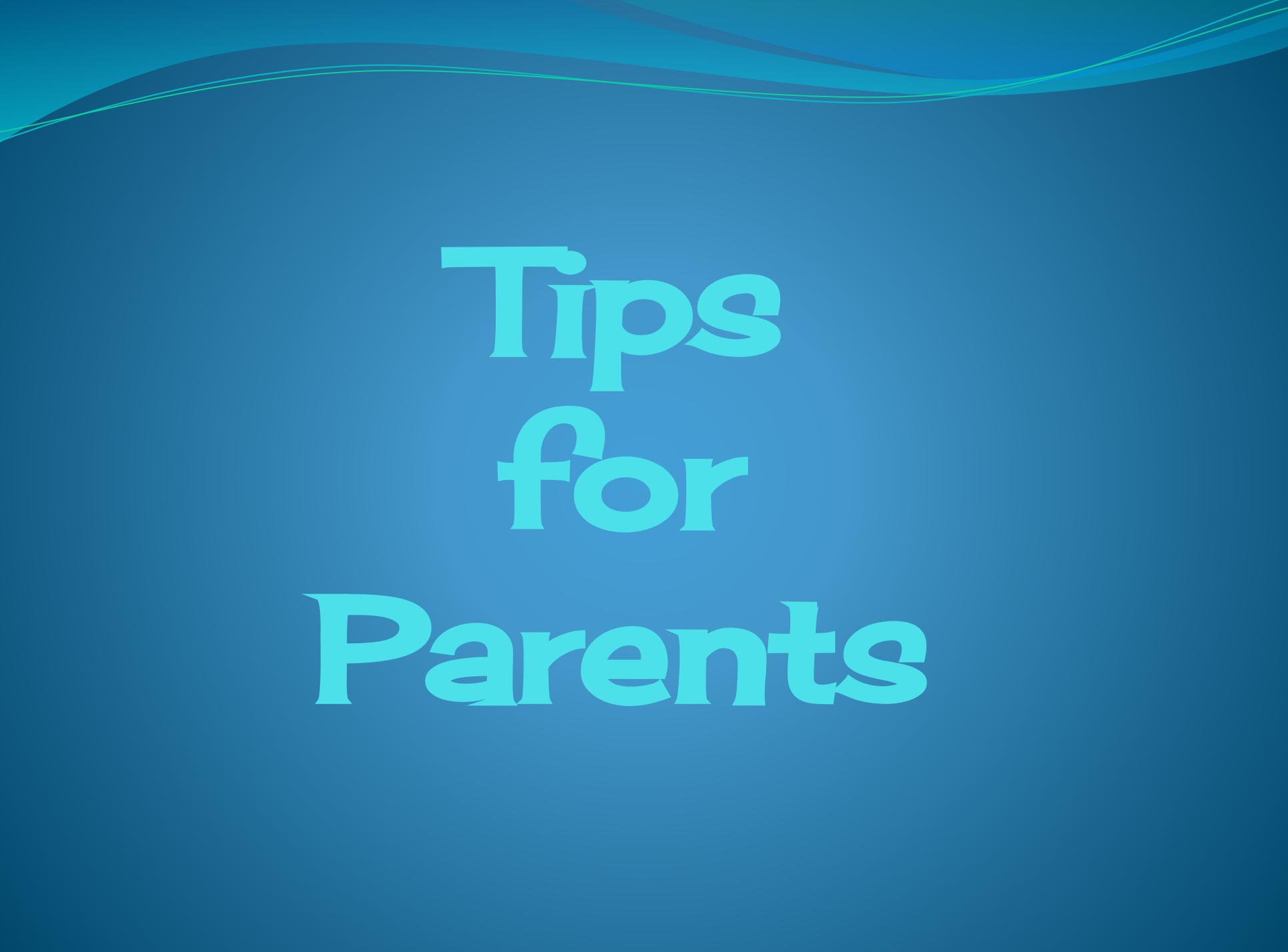
## ■ Rubix Cube Club

We also offer groups that meet during lunch and Advisory.

# School Safety

- Mr. Hurt ensures doors are locked and secure by 8:00 a.m. - this is the first priority every day!
- Backpacks must be stored in lockers.
- Staff members are stationed at the doors every morning and afternoon to monitor students as they enter and exit the building.
- The following drills are conducted yearly:
  - > 5 fire drills
  - > 2 tornado drills
  - > 4 lockdown drills





# Tips for Parents

# Increasing Student Responsibility

- Middle School is a time of increased responsibility.
- Parents and teachers begin the process of giving students more ownership and responsibility for their school work.
- Help your son or daughter become more accountable by having consistent expectations for them to do quality work.



# Supervision



**ATTENTION  
PARENTS!**

- Parental supervision become more important than ever.
- Know where your adolescent is and what he/she is doing.
- Check the places your son or daughter wants to go. Are responsible adults around – adults who will not allow what you do not allow?
- Keep resisting the pressure to base your parental decisions on “what everyone else is doing.” “Everyone else is doing it” is too often an opening for poor choices.
- Help your adolescent understand being “popular” is not what’s important in life. Many people have made a positive impact on the world by being a strong independent person.

# Communication



Google Classroom

- Communicate all concerns and questions you have with teachers as soon as they arise.
- Utilize PowerSchool to keep track of student grades.
- Follow through with communication suggestions by teachers. Example: Remind, Google Classroom
- Encourage your sixth-grader to use their student planner and to share it with you as well.
- Check your email for Bright Arrow communications.

# Social Media



- Pay attention to your student's social media activity.
- Many issues we see at school begin at home on social media.
- Advice: Limit social media usage in the evenings during the school week.
- Encourage your sixth-grader to use their school issued chromebook for school use only!

# Medications & Vaccinations

- Medications at school:
  - Parents must fill out a form & bring the medication in. (It cannot be sent in with your student.)
  - Prescription medications will require a Dr. signature
  - Over the Counter medication will require a Dr. name and phone number
  - Forms can be found on our website.



- Vaccinations required as a 7<sup>th</sup> grader:
  - Tdap
  - Meningococcal

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Opportunity

Set your daughter up for success with GLITTER, a group for girls entering 6th grade next fall.

Snacks, crafts, activities to build self-esteem, positive relationships, and healthy ways to express yourself!



The poster features a green background with a dark green brushstroke at the top containing the word "GLITTER" in white, bold, uppercase letters. Below it, "Meeting Dates" is written in white. The meeting dates are listed on a yellow sticky note graphic. The text on the poster reads: "All meetings will be held in the Program Room at KDL-Comstock Park Branch" and "A heart-shaped graphic made of small gold dots is located at the bottom left of the poster." The meeting dates are: Wednesday 6/12, Wednesday 6/26, Wednesday 7/10, Wednesday 7/17, and Wednesday 7/31.

**GLITTER**  
Meeting Dates

All meetings will be held in the Program Room at KDL-Comstock Park Branch

Wednesday 6/12  
.....  
Wednesday 6/26  
.....  
Wednesday 7/10  
.....  
Wednesday 7/17  
.....  
Wednesday 7/31  
.....



# Contact Us!



- We are here to help!  
Please contact us with any concerns or questions:
  - Gus Harju: [gharju@cpppschools.com](mailto:gharju@cpppschools.com)
  - Robb Hurt: [rhurt@cpppschools.com](mailto:rhurt@cpppschools.com)
  - Melissa Vader: [mvader@cpppschools.com](mailto:mvader@cpppschools.com)
  - Main office: 254-5100