

# Welcome to Somers Middle School

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Parent Orientation  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation to Middle School  
March 28, 2019

## Support Staff

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- ✓ Principal  
Mr. Jeff Getman
- ✓ Assistant Principal  
Mrs. Jennifer Spirelli
- ✓ Student Support Staff  
Mrs. Stephanie Kurchack, Dr. Samantha Morrison, Mrs. Kristen Rigaglia
- ✓ Team Leaders  
Mrs. Diane Acampora  
Mrs. Dawn Stanczuk

TEACHERS

TEACHING ASSISTANTS

AIDES

# Middle School Philosophy

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- ✓ Bridging the years between elementary and high school
- ✓ Allow students to grow with support, learn from mistakes
- ✓ Gradually increase expectations foster independence
- ✓ International Baccalaureate – Middle Year's Program

# Performing Arts

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- ✓ **The Band, Chorus, and Orchestra** programs are open to all students.
- ✓ These classes are graded, and meet before school from 7:40am-8:20am.
- ✓ Students who cannot get a ride may take the high school shuttle. There is a shuttle bus from the high school to the middle school.
- ✓ Each ensemble will present two evening concerts in the SMS Auditorium.
- ✓ In addition to our before school rehearsals, Band and Orchestra students attend weekly instrument classes. Just like at SIS, instrument classes follow a rotating schedule during the school day.
- ✓ Band and orchestra students check in with their teachers before attending their instrument classes to get any work they might miss that day.
- ✓ Students who choose to play an instrument and sing will follow a rotating rehearsal schedule.

# Chorus

## Ms. Marie Williams

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- ✓ **6th Grade Chorus** meets on Monday and Wednesday mornings.
- ✓ Some topics covered include correct vocal production, independent part-singing, the fundamentals of music theory and an introduction to sight-singing

# Orchestra

## Mr. Mike Maino

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- ✓ **Orchestra** meets on Mondays and Tuesdays
- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> grade strings classes take place during the school day on Mondays and follow a rotating schedule
- ✓ Playing tests take place once per marking period
- ✓ Chamber Orchestra meets on Wednesdays and is by audition

# Band

## Mrs. Rachel Malara

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- ✓ 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band takes place on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7:40am.
- ✓ All 6th grade instrument classes take place during the school day on Tuesdays and Thursdays. SMS follows a rotating pull-out schedule just like SIS. Make up instrument classes are available.
- ✓ Jazz Band will meet all year on Friday mornings from 7:40am-8:20am.
- ✓ Fife and Drum will take place once a week after school in October and November.
- ✓ Bell Choir will take place once a week after school in November and December
- ✓ Drum Corps will take place once a week after school in September and May.

# The Role of the Counselor

- ✓ Individual Counseling
  - ✓ Group Counseling
  - ✓ Classroom Lessons
    - ✓ Team Meetings
    - ✓ Parent Meetings
- ✓ Source of Information and Referrals



# Common Questions & Concerns that your Child May Have:

- ✓ Will I get in trouble if I am late to class?
  - ✓ How do I open my locker?
  - ✓ What are teams?
- ✓ How much homework will I have?
  - ✓ How do lunch and recess work?
- ✓ How do I speak to my school counselor?
- ✓ Please reassure your child! Children pick up on your vibes.



# Adolescent Development

## ✓ Physical

- ✓ Puberty (lots of changes!!)
- ✓ Concerns about fitting in, looking and dressing like peers
- ✓ Noticing the opposite sex, crushes

## ✓ Social

- ✓ Peer issues, values, character development
- ✓ Group activities are most common (“Everyone else is going...”)
- ✓ Technology Use and Exploration

## ✓ Emotional

- ✓ Development of sense of self (“self-absorbed”)
- ✓ More emotional, moody, anxious
- ✓ Identity development, separation from family

# 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> transition

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5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Night

SMS Counselors Visit SIS

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classes Visit SMS

**Mid August** – Student schedules and school supplies posted

**Summer** – Student Orientation Sessions

July 29, 30, 31 Aug 5, 6

**LIMITED SUMMER ACCESS TO SMS**

# 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Orientation Details

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45 minute group sessions – Schedule will be emailed home and posted online

For students only

Students will...

- ✓ Review a 6<sup>th</sup> grade schedule
  - ✓ Test out their lockers
  - ✓ Tour the building
- ✓ Ask Questions & Receive Answers 😊

# Schedule

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- ✓ 8 period day 8:26- 3:05 (warning bell at 8:23)
- ✓ 47 minute periods
- ✓ 3 minute passing time
- ✓ Periods 1-8 same time every day
- ✓ Students should be dropped off by 8:15

# Lockers

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- ✓ Receive locker assignments during summer orientation – keep combination private
- ✓ Keep all personal belongings locked in locker
- ✓ Backpacks remain in lockers – including string bags
- ✓ Cell phones are permitted, but must be turned off and stored in your child's locker during school hours

# What is the cafeteria like?

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- ✓ Split the grade in half – will be on the schedule
- ✓ Half of the students eat first/ half have recess first – less waiting in line and more room to play
- ✓ Responsible for disposing of their garbage and keeping their area clean
- ✓ Students can sit anywhere they want in the cafeteria

# Health Office with Mrs. Camilli

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## ✓ Medications

- ✓ Prescription & Over-the-Counter medication needed in school requires written doctor's orders and written parent permission
- ✓ Tdap vaccination – VERY IMPORTANT!!! – if we don't get this documentation students don't get lockers at orientation



# PLD Handout..

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- ✓ Will happen during the first couple weeks of school.
- ✓ Can BYOD but need a form and should be touch screen with a stylus. We won't service.
- ✓ If PLD is accidentally broken we...
  - ✓ may replace the first one at no charge
  - ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> time \$75 fee
  - ✓ 3<sup>rd</sup> time \$150 fee and PLD stays in school

# Teams- “We Are Family”

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- ✓ 2 Academic Teams (Red and White)
- ✓ Heterogeneous
- ✓ Math, Science, Social Studies, ELA, and Special Education teacher on each team
- ✓ World Language starts in 6<sup>th</sup> grade – new next year
- ✓ Teachers have team planning every other day
- ✓ AIS, Academic Team Time, ALP, accelerated math, special education, ELL on both teams

# Sample Schedule

- ✓ At SMS, we have 8 period days rotating with A, B, C & D days.
- ✓ There are special schedules for Advisory and Testing.

Per 1: Social Studies

Per 2: ELA

Per 3: Math (several options)

Per 4: LUNCH

Per 5: Science

Per 6: Quad (Art, Tech, Health, Family and Consumer Science) or Phys. Ed/Team Time

Per 7: World Language – Spanish, Italian, French

Per 8: Phys. Ed/Team Time or Quad

# Homework

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- ✓ Homework should be done every night.
- ✓ Homework reinforces what has been learned in class, prepares students for upcoming lessons, teaches responsibility, and helps students develop positive study habits.
- ✓ There will be some projects that require long term planning and time management.
- ✓ Teachers post HW online.
- ✓ If you have concerns about HW, please contact your child's teacher.

# Summer Reading

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- ✓ Students are asked to maintain their reading life over the summer.
- ✓ In order to do this, students should read regularly throughout the summer.
- ✓ Information that further explains this will be made available on the library website by June. ([www.somersschools.org](http://www.somersschools.org))



# Math Pathways...

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6<sup>th</sup> grade → 7<sup>th</sup> grade → 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Acc 6<sup>th</sup> gr → Acc 7<sup>th</sup> gr → Algebra

Acc 6<sup>th</sup> gr → Algebra → Geometry

Last option is for highest achievers 98%ile STAR

# Math Placement Criteria

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5<sup>th</sup> grade Math Average

STAR Math Scores

Mid-Year Every Day Math Assessment

Math Olympiad Scores

Work Habits – strong work ethic and ability to persevere

Passion for math!!!

# Math Placement

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Not a lifetime decision – can accelerate in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

Accelerating means skipping a year of curriculum

Not for everyone – AND THAT IS OK!

Academic Advising Form -if you want placement reviewed



# Thank You....

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- ✓ Presentation will be posted on our website
- ✓ Communication will be done through email
- ✓ We look forward to welcoming your children in September!!!!