
Welcome to Elm Middle School

**Incoming 7th Grade Parent and
Student Orientation**

Middle school is a new experience for parents and students:

- New routines
 - New schedule
 - New responsibilities
 - Changes in your child: physical, social, intellectual, emotional
-

Be prepared for middle school:

- **Get ready for occasional conflicts with your child.**
- **Think about what is really important to you.
(Hairstyle? Homework? Curfew? Crabbiness?)**
- **Know ahead of time what areas are non-negotiable for you.**

Tips to help you and your student with the academic adjustment to middle school:

- Break down tasks into small parts. Keep on top of long-term projects.
- Help your child by setting small goals to accomplish each day. Middle school students need lots of structure.
- Enforce the use of the daily planner/assignment notebook and the “Homework Hotline” to get daily work done.
- Use the Power School parent portal regularly to check grades. Set up e-mail notifications.

More tips...

- Don't hesitate to remind your student about appointments and due dates. Think ahead about things like materials that are needed for projects and assignments.
- Check the Elm website for school announcements, newsletters, and printable forms. Not everything that we give to students makes it home.
- This phase will not last forever, but middle school students need help in this transitional period when they are experiencing a lot of life changes.
- It will last for about a year.

Tips to help you and your student with the social and emotional issues of middle school:

- Be willing to listen, but realize that your middle school student has a growing need for independence and privacy.
- Long-time friendships may fall apart during middle school. Peer conflicts and hurt feelings are very common as kids move in different directions from childhood friends.
- Taking sides or intervening in their peer disputes is not appropriate, and usually does not help.
- Peer disputes are different from bullying.

More tips...

- All friendships have ups and downs. Middle schoolers have lots of spats and falling outs, but often the friends make up in a short period of time.
- Be very aware of the technology that your child is using, and monitor their use of cell phones, texting, and social networking sites (Facebook and MySpace).
- Know who your child's friends are, where they are, and who they are with.

Elm Middle School

We are committed to:

- Engaging every student in a meaningful and challenging curriculum in an environment that fosters respectful and supportive relationships among students, faculty, families, and the community.

Teams at Elm

- The team teachers meet together each week to discuss curriculum and student needs.
- The curriculum is the same from team to team.
- There is no difference in the academic levels of the teams.
- There is no significance to the team your student is assigned to.
- Most students change teams and teachers in eighth grade.

Elm's daily schedule: A "Modified Block" schedule

"A" Day			"B" Day	
Exploratory	30 minutes		Exploratory	30 minutes
Math	80 minutes		Math	80 minutes
PE	80 minutes	↔	Music	80 minutes
Lunch	30 minutes		Lunch	30 minutes
Advisory	30 minutes		Advisory	30 minutes
Language Arts	80 minutes		Language Arts	80 minutes
Science	80 minutes	↔	Social Studies	80 minutes

School Day

- Buses arrive between 7:40 – 7:50 a.m.
- Students enter the building at 7:45 a.m.
- First Bell rings at 7:52 a.m. – All students should be in building.
- Class begins – 7:55 a.m. (Students are tardy if they are not in class)
- Class ends – 3:05 p.m.
- After school activities – 3:15 to 4:05 p.m.
- Late Bus – 4:10 p.m. (All students can ride the late bus, which will drop off at your neighborhood elementary school).

Exploratory (first thing in the morning):

Some of the Exploratories are:

- Team Building
- Current Events
- CSI
- Yoga
- Math Boot Camp
- Mind Benders
- Chess
- Suduko
- Academic support



Academic Advisory (happens in the middle of the day, before or after lunch):

- Teachers set academic goals with students
- Teachers monitor progress
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) learning program
- Main home/school contact
- Students can work on missing work
- Students can request help
- Students can complete homework

Athletics at Elm:

Sports physicals are required before students may participate in tryouts. Get one this summer. It is good for one calendar year. Parent insurance is required for participation in athletics.

■ Girls

- ❑ Softball (Fall)
- ❑ Volleyball (Fall)
- ❑ Basketball (Winter)
- ❑ Soccer (Spring)

■ Boys

- ❑ Softball (Fall)
- ❑ Soccer (Fall)
- ❑ Basketball (Winter)
- ❑ Volleyball (Spring)

Extracurricular Clubs



- Student Council
- Art Club
- Math Club
- Science Club
- Yearbook
- Cheerleading
- Pom poms
- NJHS

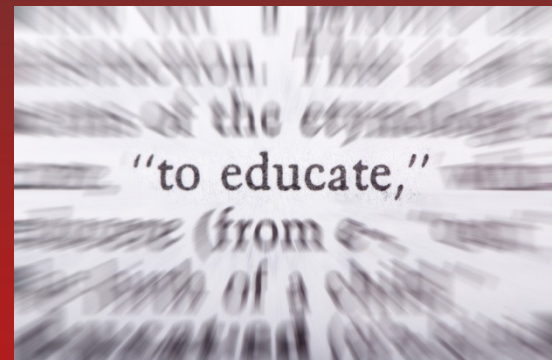
Elm is a PBIS school

(Positive Behavior Interventions and Support)

What is PBIS?

Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a proactive approach to establishing the behavioral supports and social culture and needed for all students in a school to achieve social, emotional, and academic success.

Schools applying PBIS begin by establishing clear expectations for behavior that are taught, modeled, and reinforced across all settings and by all staff.



Elm Middle School Expectations

- Respect yourself
- Respect others
- Respect property
- Be there; be ready



Thank you for coming.



Principal: Dr. Kassie Porreca

Assistant Principal: Mr. Adam Parisi