

## Fourth to Fifth Grade Transition

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Sheet

#### ***How can I keep up with school news and events?***

[Daily Announcements and Upcoming Events](#) – This page will give you information on daily schedules and highlight major upcoming events.

[School Calendar](#) – This is your source for all major school happenings, except interscholastic athletics.

[Highschoolsports.net](#) – Area schools, including the Academy, use a common website to share information on practices and games.

[Weekly E-Newsletters](#) – Check your email every Friday for news, information, and links to our website.

#### ***How can you keep up with my child's progress?***

Interim Reports – provided for all 5<sup>th</sup> graders midway through the first quarter. For guidance interpreting grade reports as 4th graders transition to 5th grade, please review [Interpreting Interim Reports](#).

[NetClassroom](#) – This online grade book can be accessed by students and parents. While assignments are announced and recorded during class time, students may double-check assignment details, deadlines, and even download some assignments by using this website.

#### ***How much homework can Middle School students expect?***

On average, 1-1 ½ hours per night. This will likely vary night to night as student progress fluctuates throughout the year, and students learn how to plan long-term assignments.

#### ***What is the Dress Code?***

[The Dress Code](#) is posted on the Middle School page. The goal of this Dress Code is to keep students focused on academics.

#### ***What is Developmental Designs?***

[Developmental Designs](#) is a research-based program aimed at meeting the unique social, emotional, physical, and intellectual needs of young adolescents. The program offers an array of strategies designed to keep young people safe, connected, responsible, and engaged in learning. Some highlights of this program include: Circle of Power and Respect, a time set aside for sharing information; students developing their own behavior guidelines and being responsible for self-control; and when engaged learning strategies.

### ***What are the student-teacher-parent roles in Middle School?***

By the time students start Upper School, they should be independently responsible for their own academic success. Middle School is a time for students to experiment with strategies that will help them be successful.

- Student Role – Do your best the first time and every time! Record assignments, maintain organized lockers, come prepared to class, do your homework, and ask teachers for clarification and assistance when necessary.
- Teacher Role – Create interesting lessons; give assignments to increase student knowledge/promote learning and allow for students to exhibit knowledge; communicate expectations clearly; provide constructive feedback on student work; guide reflection for student performance.
- Parent Role – Support at home; provide a quiet space with a computer and school-related supplies; communicate with the school about family/home situations affecting the ability of your child to keep up academically; validate/verify accurateness of information received at home through the student; read and follow through on information shared in e-newsletters, the Academy website, and through other communications home; assist in acquisition of materials; be available to help when a student has questions or requests an opinion; guide reflection for student performance.

### ***How do teachers monitor student progress?***

5/6 Team Meetings – The 5th and 6th grade teachers meet once every six days to schedule assignment deadlines, test and quiz dates, and discuss student progress. This allows teachers the opportunity to monitor student progress across subjects.

Caution List – Students are placed on the Caution List when they have a C- or lower in a given subject. The student and parents are notified, and students are required to attend one after-school study hall session each week until they remove themselves from the Caution List. (Please review [Student Plan for Caution List Placement](#) for more details.

### ***How does the faculty help students transition to the Middle School?***

4/5 Transition Meetings – The 4<sup>th</sup> and 5th grade faculty meet monthly to discuss student progress, curriculum, expectations, and daily routine at each grade level. By having a good understanding of expectations at each grade level, teachers can help students to make the transition successfully.

### ***How can I learn about the philosophy of teaching in the Middle School?***

Jennifer Klemunes routinely addresses issues and provides advice on her [Head of Middle School page](#). Scroll to bottom for PDFs on past topics.

***What else do I need to know about the Middle School?***

[Meet the Faculty](#) – View biographical and contact information for our faculty.

Curriculum overview – Visit teachers’ mini-sites or review curricula by clicking select subjects from left sidebar of the [Middle School page](#).

Lockers – Students are assigned a locker to house their academic materials and personal belongings during the school day. Many students find locker shelves useful in maintaining a well-organized locker. As the year proceeds, many students fine-tune their organizational scheme for their locker to aid in speedy access between classes. Once every six days, students are scheduled to clean out/organize their lockers. We have a Locker Fairy that visits the lockers once a week and awards a denim day to one student whose locker is neat and well-organized.

[Science Fair Overview](#) – Visit Mr. Perry’s mini-site and click on the Science Fair links to learn more about this neat project.

[After School Study Club](#) – From 3 to 6 p.m. daily, students may attend this club, held in the Middle School classrooms, to work on homework and relax, play physical and board games, and watch school sporting events when they have finished their homework.

PE Dress – Students change clothes for PE class and are assigned lockers in the locker rooms to store clothes between classes.

[MS Sports](#) – Fall: Girls’ Field Hockey, Boys’ Soccer, Cross Country; Winter: Girls’ and Boys’ Basketball; Spring: Girls’ Soccer, Boys’ and Youth Lacrosse, Club Swimming.

[Learning Support](#) – Learning support is available for students on an as-needed basis.

[Supplies List](#)

[School Handbook](#)