

WELCOME 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS!



TUESDAY, MARCH 6TH, 2012

TONIGHT'S AGENDA

- **Introduction and Welcome**

Kitty R. Klein

Director of Guidance, K-12

- **Topics to be Discussed:**

Cathy Cain and Phil Lowe
Guidance Counselors

- **Student Support Services**
- **Transitioning into Middle School**
- **Grades 7 & 8 Units of Study**
- **Accelerated Courses**
- **Scheduling Process for Grade 8**
- **Planning for High School**
- **Guidance Direct**
- **Role of the Student, Parent, and Counselor**

- **Q & A Session**

TRANSITIONING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Physically
 - Noticeable Changes
 - Feelings of Inadequacy
 - Brain and Body Development

TRANSITIONING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

- Academically
 - Cognitive Development
 - Appropriate Placement
 - Managing Time
 - Organization

TRANSITIONING INTO MIDDLE SCHOOL (CONTINUED)

- Socially/Emotionally
 - Managing distractions
 - Adolescent Pressures
 - Meeting new people/friends
 - New Growth Opportunities
 - Peer Pressure
 - Developing Autonomy

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

- Guidance Counselors
 - Phil Lowe (Grade 7)
 - Cathy Cain (Grade 8)

- Social Workers
 - Kathryn Costa
 - Vilma Matos (Bi-lingual)

- School Psychologists
 - Mary DiBenedetto
 - Nina DiGioia

- Administrators
 - John Amato (Principal)
 - Kenneth Parham (Assistant Principal)
 - Directors and Department Supervisors

NYS MIDDLE SCHOOL UNITS OF STUDY

GRADES 7 & 8

- English language arts - two units of study
- Social Studies - two units of study
- Science - two units of study
- Mathematics - two units of study
- Technology Education - one unit of study
- Home and Career Skills - three quarters of a unit of study
- Physical Education
- Health - one half unit of study
- The arts - one half unit in visual arts and one half unit in music
- Library and Information Skills - one period per week
- Languages Other Than English (LOTE)
- Career Development and Occupational Studies

ACCELERATED COURSES

- At J.T. Finley Middle School, we offer accelerated courses in the following areas:
 - Mathematics (Integrated Algebra)
 - Science (Earth Science)
 - World Language (French, Italian, Latin, Spanish)
 - Art (Studio Art)

SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR GRADE 8

- December - Communication between students, teachers, parents, and guidance counselors regarding 8th grade placement begins
- March - Tentative recommendations for accelerated science placement (Earth Science) is made and parents are notified by the science department
- June - Final determination is made regarding course placement, based upon final grades earned

PLANNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL

- Students registered in accelerated courses have the opportunity to earn credits towards their high school diploma
- Students are required to obtain 22 credits in order to graduate from high school
- Diploma options include:
 - Advanced Regents Diploma
 - Regents
 - Local (students with special services)
- Connect academic strengths to career Interests (Guidance Direct)

GUIDANCE DIRECT

PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!

- Available to all Huntington Middle and High School Students
- College, Career, and Scholarship Search Engine
- Student ID and Password set-up
www.guidancedirect.com

School ID: 8476971

School Password: F62S7592

-Click on 'Create New Account'

- Take The Interest Profiler Today!

ROLE OF THE STUDENT

- Attend school on time and be prepared with books and homework
- Follow rules and policies (both in class and in the building)
- Communicate with teachers, counselors, and parents if and when questions/concerns arise

ROLE OF THE PARENT

- Check homework on a daily basis
- Communicate with your child about school, activities, and interests
- Know when progress reports and report cards are mailed (approximately every five weeks)
- Reach out to the school and request a team meeting (as needed)

ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

■ Help Students:

- Develop an educational plan that's realistic and appropriate to obtaining goals
- Recognize and utilize academic strengths so that they can make effective decisions
- Analyze the interrelationships of interests and abilities
- Learn how to make healthy choices
- Improve responsibility
- Resolve conflicts

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



Thank you for coming!