Welcome 7th Grade Students and Parents!

Tuesday, March 6th, 2012
TONIGHT’S AGENDA

Introduction and Welcome

Topics to be discussed:
- 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

Kitty R. Klein
Director of Guidance, K-12

Cathy Cain and Phil Lowe
Guidance Counselors
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
Thank you for coming!