WELCOME 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS!

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2014
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 and 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
SOME ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

- How will I know if my child is adjusting well into seventh grade?
- What elective courses should my child be taking?
- Does my child’s current performance have an impact in his/her placement for grade 9?
- When should I be concerned (if at all) about high school courses taken at the middle school?
- Is there a program available to students that allows them to connect their academic interests with future careers?
BIG CHANGES ARE COMING OR ARE ALREADY HERE

You’ve probably noticed changes both **BIG** and **SMALL** in your child over the last year or so. At times, you may wonder what stranger is living under your roof…………

Novelist Anne Lamott says that these years involve a “change-over from dog to cat”

Younger children are:
- Friendly
- They pretty much do what parents say and they actually like them
Suddenly, they are aloof
- They have minds of their own
- Parents probably are no longer their best friends

All these changes are perfectly normal. They’re a natural part of growing up.
AT THIS AGE, MANY CHILDREN ARE.....

Disorganized

Forgetful

Emotional

Explorers

Anxious for independence
STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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

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

- School Psychologists
  - Mary DiBenedetto
  - Nina DiGioia

- Administrators
  - John Amato (Principal)
  - Kenneth Parham (Assistant Principal)
  - District 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
At J.T. Finley Middle School, we offer accelerated courses in the following areas:

- Mathematics (Common Core Algebra 1 Honors)
- Science (Earth Science Regents)
- World Languages (French, Italian, Modern Latin, Spanish)
- Art (Studio Art)
SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR GRADE 8

- November/December - Communication between students, teachers, parents, and guidance counselors regarding 8th grade placement begins.

- May - Tentative recommendations for accelerated math, science, and art will be made and parents will be notified by the department supervisors.

- June - Final determination is made regarding course placements, based upon final grades earned.
PLANNING FOR HIGH SCHOOL
(COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS)

- Students registered in accelerated courses 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 - 65 and above on 8 required Regents exams and a LOTE checkpoint B exam
  - Regents - 65 and above on 5 required Regents exams
  - Local (students with special needs)
- Diploma Distinctions include:
  - Mastery in Math - 3 math Regents exams with an 85 and above
  - Mastery in Science - 3 science Regents exams with an 85 and above
  - Honors Designation – overall average of 90 and above of the required Regents exams
  - State Seal of Biliteracy - TBD
- Connect academic strengths to career Interests (Guidance Direct)
GUIDANCE DIRECT
PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!

- Available to all Huntington 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 extra help - offered Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-3:30. Speak with your teacher. A late bus is available.

- Come to school on time and be prepared with books and homework.

- Follow rules and policies (both in class and throughout the building).

- Communicate with teachers, counselors, and parents as 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 posted on the parent portal/mailed (approximately every five weeks).
- Reach out to the school and request a team meeting (as needed).
- Encourage reading time (magazines, fiction and non-fiction books, etc.).
ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

- Assist 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
- Improve responsibility
Thank you for coming!

Please feel free to email us your feedback

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