
STRUTHERS MIDDLE SCHOOL

September 2017

PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Welcome to Struthers Middle School. A special welcome to our fifth-grade students and to any new students in our district. We hope you enjoy your experience at SMS and become actively involved in curricular and extra-curricular activities.

We are excited to begin another year and look forward to making it a rewarding and memorable one for the students. The custodial staff has done an excellent job preparing the building for the new school year. Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members to SMS for the 2017-2018 school year: Mrs. Lambert (7th grade language arts), Mrs. Tomko (art), Mrs. Morris (paraprofessional), and Mrs. Durick (paraprofessional).

We look forward to working together with you to help your children reach their full potential.

Thank You, Mr. Vecchione and Mr. Gelonese.

ENRICHMENT/ADVISORY

This school year there will be a daily 20-minute period for enrichment/advisory. Every child will have enrichment four days a week in their main academic subjects. There will be a rotating schedule based off their block schedules.

Advisory period will take place every Friday. Advisory period will be addressing the social needs of the middle school child. Some of the topics include character building, making wise choices, goal setting, positive attitudes, etc. The advisory period is an important component of the middle school concept.

INTERVENTION

During the school day students may be pulled from a special class to receive intervention. Lists are created based on AIR scores, previous grades, and teacher recommendations. Intervention will begin the week of September 11. For questions regarding intervention, please contact Mr. Vecchione at 330-750-1064, ext. 41411.

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday, August 31 – September 4 – No School

Friday, September 9 – Student Forms/Fees Due

Monday, September 20 – Picture Day

Wednesday, September 27 – Fundraiser Begins

Wednesday, September 28 – DC Parent Meeting

SMS Math Curriculum

The Struthers City School District has adopted Carnegie Learning for sixth through 12th grade. Carnegie Learning is aligned with the most current math education standards. It is based on a scientific understanding of how people learn, and a real world understanding of how to apply that science to conceptual math understanding as well as deeper learning skills like creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and communication.

Carnegie Learning combines consumables, textbooks, intelligent 1-to-1 math tutoring software, and differentiated learning approaches that will enable our students to feel invested, accountable, and confident. They feel safe enough to learn from their peers as well as from their own individual experiences, challenges, and successes. They become problem solvers, critical thinkers, and curious, resilient learners, able to apply knowledge to other subjects, to other learning environments, and the wider world around them.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The Struthers City School District adopted *Ready Gen* for fourth and fifth-grade language arts and *My Perspectives* for sixth through twelfth grade English Language Arts last school year. Both programs will be resources that will enhance our English Language Arts programs. Both programs are a blended print and digital curriculum that promotes student ownership, social collaboration and student choice. The students will read classic and contemporary texts, have meaningful discussions and think critically to build knowledge. There are five or six units each with multi-genre texts where students will be engaged in whole-class, small-group and independent learning. We look forward to expanding on these two innovative programs this school year.

PROGRESS BOOK

Parents can access their child's grades on Progress Book Parent Access. The link is found on the district website. If you do not remember your user name or password, please click on *Can't access your account?* below the green sign-in button. If you do not have an account, please contact the middle school office.

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FREE/REDUCED LUNCH APPLICATIONS 2017-2018

In order to qualify for free and reduced lunch this year, you will need to complete and return your new application by September 30. If you received a Direct Certification letter (in the mail this summer from Dru Clyde, Director of Food Services for Struthers City Schools) stating your child has already been approved for free lunch, **DO NOT** fill out a new application. You may just sign and return the Fee Waiver form.

If new forms are not completed and turned in by September 29, your child will have to pay **REGULAR PRICE** for breakfast and lunch. Breakfast is served from 7:30 AM – 7:50 AM.

Regular Price:

Breakfast-\$1.50 Lunch-\$2.50

Reduced Price:

Breakfast-\$.30 Lunch-\$.40

You may complete an application at any time during the school year if your financial situation changes.

ONLINE LUNCH ACCOUNTS

Struthers City Schools has an online web-based payment system that allows parents to manage lunch accounts for their child/children. The links can be found on the district website www.strutherscityschools.org, under Student – Student Management Data System. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Struthers Middle School offers a wide array of curricular and extra-curricular activities. In the fall, our student-athletes compete in football, volleyball, cross country and cheerleading. In the winter, our basketball teams take the court, and in the spring, our track team is off and running. We also encourage our students to join some of the other activities which include: Book Club, Environmental Club, Yearbook, Pep Club, Math Counts, TAPS, Robotics Club, PANDA, and English Festival. For more information, please contact the middle school at 330-750-1064.

SMS COMMUNICATION

Struthers Middle School is looking for alternate ways to share information about the school and activities throughout the year. Please call 330-755-8201 and select the following prompts to access this information.

- Press 3 for Public Events and Building Announcements.
- Then press 2 for information for the Middle School.
 - Then press 1 for Sporting Events
 - Or press 2 for Club News
 - Or press 3 for Building Announcements
 - Or press 4 for the Lunch Menu.

HOMEWORK HOTLINE

Each classroom teacher has a homework hotline where he/she will leave the class work for that night or week. The homework hotline phone number is 330/755-8201. Press 1 for the homework line and then input the five-digit teacher codes. Grade levels will send home a list of their extensions. An employee directory can be found on our website.

DROP-OFF PROCEDURE

Students walking to school or arriving by car should plan to arrive at school by 7:50 AM. Parents who are driving students may enter the parking lot using the entrance on Wilson Street nearest 5th Street and drop off children as close to the end of the building (band room) as possible. By doing this, we can get more cars into our lot and off the street. This will also help the line move faster. Thank you for your patience during drop-off.

At 7:45 AM, we will open the north door (door facing Wilson Street) to allow students to enter. This will enable you to drop off your child on Fifth Street or Wilson Street and avoid having to pull into the parking lot.

LATE ARRIVAL/EARLY RELEASE

If a student arrives after 11 AM, he/she is to be marked absent for a half of day. Any time prior to 11 AM, he/she will be marked late/tardy. If a student leaves prior to 8:50 AM, he/she is marked absent for the entire day.