

Welcome to Memorial Junior School's Fifth Grade Parent Orientation



May 8, 2014

Fifth Grade Parent Orientation

May 8, 2014

Tonight's Agenda

7:00 – 8:00 Presentation in the Auditorium

8:00 – 8:30 Classroom visitation

Classroom visitation times are broken down by elementary school. Please follow the below schedule.

- 8:00 – 8:10 - BMS parents visit academic classrooms
 - MTV parents visit special/applied arts classrooms
 - SDS parents tour building and visit Health Office
- 8:10 – 8:20 - BMS parents visit special/applied arts classrooms
 - MTV parents tour building and visit Health Office
 - SDS parents visit academic classrooms
- 8:20 – 8:30 - BMS parents tour building and visit Health Office
 - MTV parents visit academic classrooms
 - SDS parents visit special/applied arts classrooms

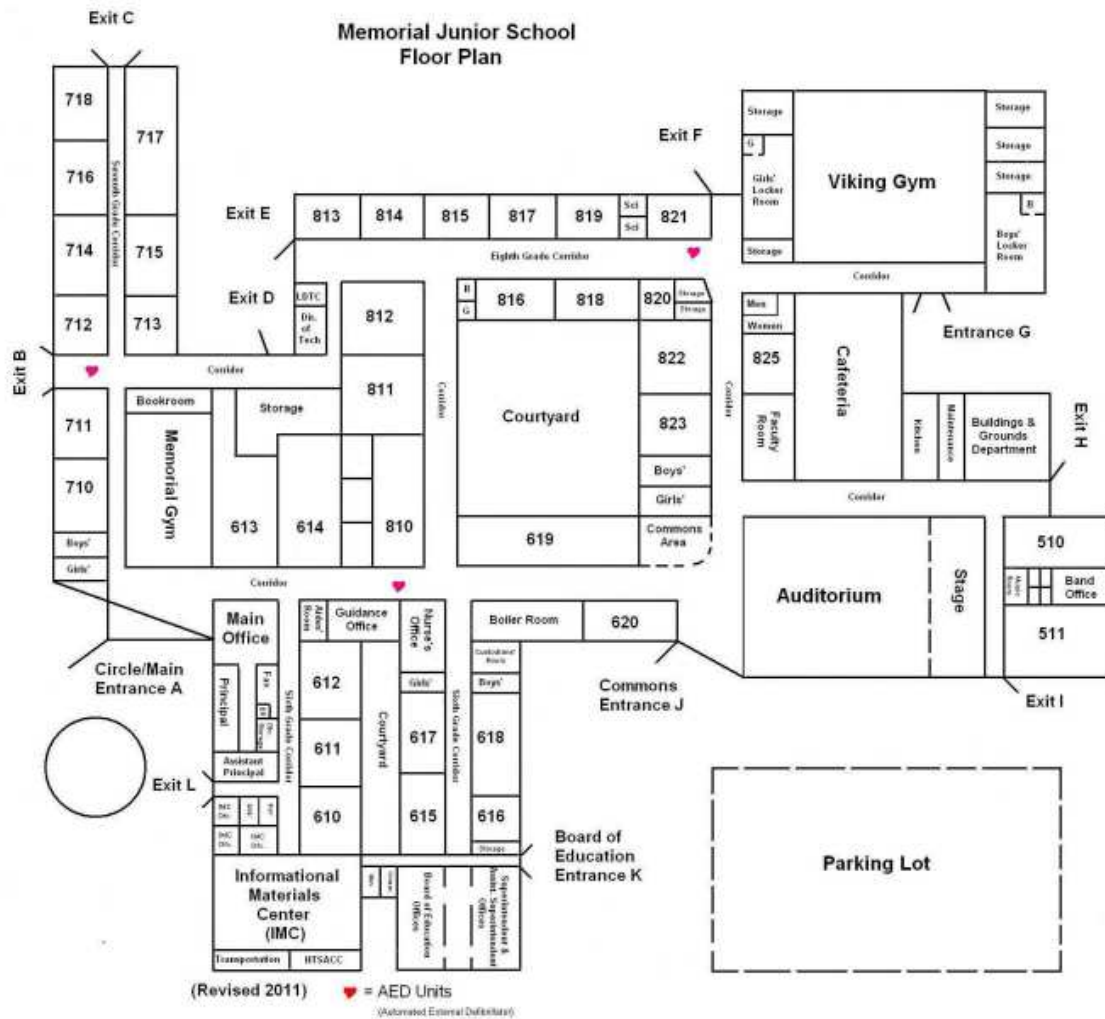
Room Locations

Academic Classrooms

615 – Language Arts Literacy
618 – Science
610 – Social Studies
611 – Math
825 – PACT

Special/Applied Arts Classrooms

617 – World Languages
823 – Health/P.E.
613 – Cont. A&D
810 – Technology
619 – Art
811 – Computer Applications
510/511 – Music/Band
Guidance Office – Guidance/ICS



Contact Information

Main Office:	973-515-2427
Guidance Office:	973-515-2434
Nurses Office:	973-515-2431
Absentee Line:	973-515-2417
Athletics:	973-515-2439

School Website

<http://www.hanovertwpschools.com>

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VISION STATEMENT:

A Community That Inspires Excellence!!

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our Mission Statement is to provide a solid foundation for future success. Children will be challenged to think critically, assume responsibility, contribute to their community, and care about others as well as themselves. Each child's unique abilities will be developed within a nurturing environment through the offering of excellent and innovative academic, athletic, and artistic experiences.

The Memorial Junior School Instruction Program

The instructional program of Memorial Junior School is based upon the generally accepted needs of early adolescents. The unique functions of the middle school may be summarized as follows:

I. Integration

To provide learning experiences in which pupils may use the skills, attitudes, interests, ideals, and understandings previously acquired in such a way that these will become coordinated and integrated into effective and wholesome pupil behavior.

To provide all students with a broad, general, and common education in the basic knowledge and skills that will lead to wholesome and well-integrated behavior, attitudes, interests, ideals, and understanding.

II. Exploration

To lead pupils to discover and explore their special interests, aptitudes, and abilities as a basis for decisions regarding educational opportunities.

To lead pupils to discover and explore their specialized interests, aptitudes, and abilities as a basis for present and future vocational decisions.

To motivate pupils and provide opportunities for them to develop a continually widening range of cultural, social, civic, vocational, and recreational interests.

III. Guidance

To assist pupils in making intelligent decisions regarding present educational activities and opportunities and to prepare them to make future educational and vocational decisions.

To assist pupils in making satisfactory mental, emotional, and social adjustments in their growth toward wholesome well-adjusted personalities.

To motivate and prepare pupils to participate as effectively as possible in learning activities so that they reach the maximum development of their personal powers and qualities.

IV. Differentiation

To provide differentiated educational facilities and opportunities suited to the varying backgrounds, interests, aptitudes, abilities, personalities, and needs of pupils, so that each pupil may realize, most economically and completely, the ultimate aims of education.

V. Socialization

To provide learning experiences designed to prepare pupils for effective and satisfying participation in the present complex social order.

To provide a gradual transition program between elementary school and high school that addresses the needs of pre-adolescent students.

VI. Articulation

To provide learning experiences designed to prepare pupils to adjust themselves and contribute to future developments and changes in that social order.

VII. Character Development

To provide learning experiences designed to help students foster their beliefs, principals, habits, and behavior with a focus on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

The Middle School

The middle school presents a unique challenge to the student and to those concerned with his/her education and development. The student comes to the middle school with an ever-widening interest in himself/herself and in those about him/her. It is the school's responsibility and privilege to guide him/her, not only in the education of his/her mind, but also in the determination of personal standards of achievement and worth.

Belief Statement: Early Adolescent Needs

To grow and flourish in a school setting, early adolescents need:

- To participate in an academically challenging, comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes higher levels of thinking skills (problem solving, decision making, cognitively challenging tasks) and where each child's full potential is met.
- To participate in a program of study that provides diverse activities, both in and out of the classroom, using a full range of learning strategies and experiences, and which makes use of community resources and opportunities for community service.
- To be in a responsive environment that provides safety, support, and opportunities for positive relationships with, and mutual respect for one's peers.
- To develop positive self-esteem, to acquire age-appropriate social skills, and to assimilate societal values.
- To meet clearly defined expectations within a structured environment and develop increased accountability, autonomy, and responsibility that acknowledges both the student's own need for independence and space, and that of others.
- To be in a safe environment that fosters physical and emotional well being and understands their developmental, social, physical, and intellectual changes.
- To identify with appropriate adult role models.
- To see a positive relationship between school and home.

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Social Studies

Social studies in sixth grade is focused on ancient civilizations. We learn about early cultures of the Stone Age, Egypt, Mesopotamia, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Arabia. In addition to these ancient civilizations, students spend time learning about culture, including a look at the five major world religions, and geography. As technology continues to develop, and we grow more global, it is vital for us to learn about and understand other cultures of the world. To accomplish this task, students will complete numerous hands-on activities that include GPS technology, WebQuests, History Alive curriculum, and cyber-museum visits. Students also spend significant time discussing current events and looking at the world in which we live.

Science

Science is a process of applying observations and intuitions to situations and problems, formulating hypotheses and drawing conclusions. This development of the thinking process is the core of the 6th grade curriculum. These skills are introduced and built upon throughout the year in an Earth Science Curriculum. The units that we will study this year include: Earth's Resources, Plate Tectonics, Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Reshaping the Land, Oceanography, Weather and Climate, and Astronomy. In the laboratory, students will observe proper science safety procedures and precautions. They will understand how scientists use models to explain the use of maps, tables, and graphs. Students will communicate their own observations/data through lab activities, presentations, models, posters, and reports.

Language Arts Literacy

The 6th grade language arts literacy program is designed to expose the students to a variety of literature and develop their writing skills within the Common Core framework. The students will read a variety of novels, ranging from historical to realistic fiction, as well as short and full-length nonfiction texts. Close reading, comprehension, literary techniques, vocabulary, critical thinking, and study skills will be taught through the literature units. Connections are made between readings and other areas, such as science, social studies, and current events. Special emphasis will be given to understanding main idea, detail, text organization, author's purpose, inferences, and predictions. Language arts classes for 6th graders are designed to teach the effective use of language in oral and written communication. Each student will be encouraged to develop thinking and organizational skills to apply in writing various genres such as essays and narratives.

Math

The Memorial Junior School mathematics program is designed to address the new Common Core State Standards. The new standards include rigorous content to develop higher-level skills, application of prior knowledge, and are aligned with college and work expectations. The goal is to develop mathematically proficient students who will apply math to solve problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace. These standards are internationally benchmarked to help students succeed in our global economy and society. The sixth grade will be the final year for concentration on computation skills with rational numbers and more concentration on word problems. Each grade offers a challenging accelerated course. Placement in the accelerated classes is based primarily on the recommendation of the fifth grade teachers. The entire mathematics program is enhanced by access to online study tools.

PACT - Program for Academically Challenging Thinking

PACT is an enrichment program, challenging students to develop their logical, critical, and creative thinking skills. Each year's curriculum is based on a theme, chosen to expose students to more advanced topics. Past topics have included the United Nations, Environmental Education, and the World of Business. AT MJS, students who are in this program have PACT for one semester, five days a week, for a full class period.

Special Education

Memorial Junior School offers a continuum of services to address the needs of classified students. Under the in-class support model, Resource Center (special education) teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to provide modifications and accommodations that enable a classified student to be successful in the general education curriculum. Resource Center replacement instruction is available for students who, because of their skill level or other learning needs, will benefit from small group instruction in Reading, Language Arts and/or Math. Students with more intensive learning needs may attend a Language and Learning Disabilities class for one or more academic subjects. Speech/language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are also available for students who require these services based on their Individual Educational Plans. Other supports and services may also be provided based on each student's individual needs.

Child Study Team members (Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant, School Psychologist and School Social Worker) provide case management for classified students. They work in close cooperation with administrators, guidance counselors, the school nurse and other school personnel to meet the learning and psychological needs of all students in the building.

Guidance Department

The Memorial Junior School Guidance Department is primarily concerned with the social, emotional, and physical growth of all students in our school. It is the function of this department to attempt to remove all obstacles and assist with the problems that may interfere with this growth. Students should feel free to take their problems to our guidance counselors. Students will benefit from the educational and vocational guidance that will assist them when planning for high school. The counselors will provide guidance class instruction, on a cycled basis, for students at each grade level. The guidance office also serves as the MJS attendance office. See the attendance procedures on the website.

Character Education Program

The focus of the 6th grade character education program is to transition the kids into middle school and give them an opportunity to make new friends. The program's purpose is to foster courage, responsibility, confidence, and self-awareness among students, and build open human relationships in a nurturing environment through structured opportunities with staff acting as mentors and child advocates. During the course of the program, students learn about the six pillars of character (trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and citizenship) and complete a community service project.

Applied Arts and World Languages

Music Enrichment

Sixth grade music enrichment involves the study of 20th century American Music. Students will be exposed to Ragtime, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, the Jazz Age, as well as the history of Rock & Roll, Heavy Metal, Punk Rock, Grunge and Rap. They will also study beat and rhythm and how it is incorporated into music.

Band

The band program enhances the student's knowledge of music, by learning how to play various instruments and being a part of an ensemble group. Any student is invited to join the band program, regardless if they have played an instrument before. During the 6th grade year, the students start to learn various rhythms, key signatures, and different styles of music. The band meets three times a week, with one full band period, and two mini classes. The students also meet in a small lesson group, which is directed to their ability. This meets once a week on a rotating basis. The students perform at three evening concerts throughout the school year.

Chorus

The choral program provides students with an opportunity to participate in a vocal ensemble that performs at least twice a year. In a given year, choral students will sing anything from contemporary/modern to classic/traditional, while learning about the social & historical contexts surrounding the music. In the process, students will develop their singing voices, as well as the technical and interpretive skills that will yield a greater sense of musicianship and vocal proficiency (phrasing, dynamics, articulation, nuance, diction, intonation, sight-reading, proper breathing/support, audition techniques, etc.)

Contemporary Art and Design (CA&D)

The sixth grade students have Contemporary Art & Design three days a week for one marking period. In this class, the students learn healthy food choices by understanding the Food Pyramid through a creative and decorative project that promotes wellness and a healthy active lifestyle; life skills and artistic talent. Students are given hands-on demonstrations of sewing techniques and create a hand-sewing project.

Guidance

The guidance program in sixth grade exposes students to various lessons regarding conflict resolution, peer relationships, and active communication skills. In addition, the program will also help your child, adjust to the middle school environment, and provide anti-bullying strategies.

Computer Applications

The computer applications program for sixth graders provides students with an opportunity to learn the proper keyboarding techniques through the use of the Type to Learn program. Students will learn the basic features of Microsoft Word and how to properly format documents of several types. In addition, students will be exposed to information regarding how to evaluate Internet sources and complete Internet research. Internet safety will also be discussed with the students.

Technology Education

Technology education in sixth grade meets five days a week and provides students with exciting opportunities to apply problem solving and critical thinking skills to technological problems. Students research, design, draw, construct, and test solutions to challenges related to inventions, transportation, communication and electrical technology. Sixth grade students will design and build a project as well as create a portfolio that includes the steps involved in creating and constructing the project.

Health and Physical Education

The PE department's goal is to create opportunities that instill the importance of physical activity and life-long learning. Through the use of team building activities, cooperative challenges and physical fitness tasks all students are given the opportunity to participate to the best of their ability while understanding the benefits of an active lifestyle.

The 6th grade health education program focuses on three parts of wellness that include social, physical and mental/emotional wellness. Specific topics include communicable diseases, harmful effects of tobacco and family life education.

Art Education

The sixth grade students have Art 3 days a week for one marking period. The sixth grade curriculum centers around the Elements of Design. Knowledge and understanding of the use of line, shape, color, value, texture, and space are imperative for all artists. The students also do several assignments dealing with color, color theory, and design. Students will paint a color wheel that consists of 12 colors first, and next a more complete color wheel, mixing 25-30 colors. The element of form is used when the students work in three dimensions, using clay. Students learn the four hand building techniques, and create simple sculptural forms. Students also have the opportunity to use a pottery wheel. All work is bisque and glaze fired.

World Language Education

French and Spanish are each offered as a three-year program. The 6th grade program in both languages is an exploratory, two day per week, 25-minute class. In 7th and 8th grades, students are enrolled in either the French or Spanish high school track program. These classes meet 5 days per week for a full 50-minute period.

Instructional Media Center (IMC)

The Memorial Junior School IMC is open every school day from 7:45 AM to 2:55 PM. The IMC is a center for learning and reading in our middle school. It is the goal of the IMC to provide varied types of information and instructional assistance to the students and staff of Memorial Junior School. Research and computer skills are taught by our library media specialist in conjunction with the classroom teacher. Computers and laptops are available in the IMC.

Memorial Junior School Extra-Curricular Activities

Philosophy:

Realizing that socialization makes a rich contribution to the total education, Memorial Junior School provides a diverse range of extra-curricular activities for our students to get involved. We have activities that challenge students physically, mentally, and creatively. Listed below are some of the wonderful programs we offer for our students.

Athletics

All students are eligible to participate in a program of sports regardless of academic grade level. Some of the sports require coaches to hold tryouts for team selection while others allow for all interested students to participate. The sports programs offered at MJS are outlined, by season, below.

Fall

Soccer
Cross-Country
Field Hockey

Winter

Basketball
Wrestling

Spring

Softball
Baseball
Track & Field

Activities/Clubs

Many different activities/clubs are offered during the school year. Some of these activities last for a couple of months, while others run throughout the entire school year. All students are eligible to participate regardless of academic grade level. Announcements will be made once the school year get started regarding which clubs will be meeting.

Memorial Junior School

Fifth Grade Parent Orientation Information Sheet

As you meet the 6th grade teachers, please complete the following information sheet. This information will ensure that you and your child have time to prepare for what is ahead in 6th grade.

Math

Names of 6th grade Math teachers your child may have:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name of Math textbook _____

Supplies needed for Math

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Additional information on Math

Science

Names of 6th grade Science teachers your child may have:

1. _____
2. _____

Name of Science textbook _____

Supplies needed for Science

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Additional information on Science

Social Studies

Names of 6th grade Social Studies teachers your child may have:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Name of Social Studies textbook _____

Supplies needed for Social Studies

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Additional information on Social Studies

Language Arts Literacy

Names of 6th grade Language Arts Literacy teachers your child may have:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Name of Language Arts textbook _____

Supplies needed for Language Arts Literacy

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Additional information on Language Arts Literacy

Applied Arts

Teachers your child may have for:

Technology _____

Contemporary Art and Design _____

Art _____

Music _____

Band _____

Computers _____

World Languages _____

Guidance _____

Health/Physical Education _____

Additional information on Applied Arts Classes
