

# WELCOME SIXTH GRADE PARENTS!



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2013

# BRIEF OVERVIEW

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- **Introduction and Welcome**
  
- **Topics Discussed:**
  - **Student Support Services**
  - **Transitioning into Middle School**
  - **Grades 7 & 8 Units of Study**
  - **Accelerated Courses**
  - **Scheduling Process for Grade 7**
  - **Guidance Direct**
  
- **Q & A Session**

**Kitty R. Klein**

Director of Guidance, K-12

**Phil Lowe**

Guidance Counselor

# SOME ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

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- What should I be doing to help prepare my child for seventh grade?
- What courses is my child required to take?
- Does my child's current 6<sup>th</sup> grade performance have a major impact in his/her placement for grade 7?
- When should I be concerned (if at all) about courses taken at the middle school that may appear on my child's high school transcript?
- Is there a program available to students that allows them to formulate connections between academic interests and future careers?

# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

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- 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

# ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

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## ■ 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

# NYS MIDDLE SCHOOL UNITS OF STUDY (GRADES 7 & 8)

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- 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
- Family and Consumer Science - 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

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

# SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR GRADE 7

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- December – A letter is mailed home from the middle school principal, Mr. Amato to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade parents, requesting the selection of language.
- February – Course placements for grade 7 are entered into our data management program so that staffing decisions can begin.
- June - Final determination is made regarding course placement (including accelerated math placement), based upon final grades earned.

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE.....

## (COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS)

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- Students registered in accelerated courses at the middle school earn credits towards their high school diploma and courses are listed on the high school transcript.
- Connect academic strengths to career Interests (Guidance Direct)

# GUIDANCE DIRECT

## PLAN FOR YOUR FUTURE!

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- Available to all Huntington Students
- College, Career, and Scholarship Search Engine
- Student ID and Password set-up  
[www.guidancedirect.com](http://www.guidancedirect.com)

School ID: 8472430

School Password: W17S1215

-Click on 'Create New Account'

- Take The Interest Profiler Today!

# WHAT'S AVAILABLE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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- **Extra help** - offered Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00-3:30. A late bus is also available.
- **Scheduled Team Meetings** — teachers meet in a group with both the student, parent, and guidance counselor.
- **Support Services** — Weekly progress monitoring, group counseling sessions, quarterly follow-up, and individual meetings.
- **After School Activities** — Students may choose from an array of after school clubs and activities, including interscholastic sports.

# QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

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Thank you for coming!