

WELCOME 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS!



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2012

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 & 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 a tremendous 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

BIG CHANGES ARE COMING OR ARE ALREADY HERE (CONTINUED)

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

- 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
- 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

- 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, Italian, Spanish)
 - Art (Studio Art)

SCHEDULING PROCESS FOR GRADE 8

- November/December - Communication between students, teachers, parents, and guidance counselors regarding 8th grade placement begins
- March - Tentative recommendations for accelerated science placement (Earth Science) are made and parents are notified by the science department
- 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 9 required Regents exams
 - 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
- Connect academic strengths to career Interests

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. Late bus is available
- Come to 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)
- Encourage reading time (magazines, 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

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION



Thank you for coming!