WELCOME 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AND PARENTS!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23RD, 2012
TONIGHT’S AGENDA

- Introduction and Welcome

Topics to be Discussed:
- 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

Kitty R. Klein
Director of Guidance, K-12

Cathy Cain and Phil Lowe
Guidance Counselors
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
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
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
Thank you for coming!