

South Fayette Middle School

Orientation 2022-23



South Fayette MS Administration & Administrative Assistants

Megan Colaiacovo

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Rebecca Bruce

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**rkbruce@southfayette.org/
msattendance@southfayette.org**

Attendance Secretary

**Dr. Kevin Maurer,
Associate Principal**

Ext. 224

ksmaurer@southfayette.org

 @KevinSMaurer

**Dr. Erin Crimone
Principal**

Ext. 427

ehcrimone@southfayette.org

 @CrimoneErin

@SFMSLions--Twitter, @sfmslions--Instagram



South Fayette MS School Counselors, Nurse, Social Worker, Food and Nutritional Services

School Counselors

Justina Perrott

Ext. 605

jrperrott@southfayette.org

Students with last names A-G

Taylor Hendal

Ext. 239

tfconnors@southfayett.org

Students with last names H-O

Michael Perrott

Ext. 219

maperrott@southfayette.org

Students with last names P-Z

Social Worker:

Tanner Jones

Ext. 425

tbjones@southfayette.org



South Fayette MS School Counselors, Nurse, Social Worker, Food and Nutritional Services

Nurse:

Misty Menarcheck

Ext. 259

mlmenarcheck@southfayette.org

Food Service Director:

Tricia Wood

Ext. 279

pawood@southfayette.org

Middle School Kitchen Leader:

Lisa Bonnaure

Ext. 227

labonnaure@southfayette.org



Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

In partnership with the community, the mission of the South Fayette Township School District, a leader in innovation, is to elevate academic, artistic, and athletic excellence of the whole learner by inspiring the strength to be dynamic, ethical, and empathetic citizens who flourish in a global society.

Vision Statement

South Fayette Township School District will radiate excellence through future-focused, innovative, diverse, and high quality learning opportunities.



Portrait of a Lion Learner

Portrait of a Lion Learner

- ★ *Community Builder*
- ★ *Curious and Critical Thinker*
- ★ *Continuous Learner*
- ★ *Courageous Seeker*
- ★ *Compelling Communicator*
- ★ *Compassionate and Productive Leader*
- ★ *Collaborative Contributor*



6th Grade Team

Bobby Ruffolo- Math

Rachel Davis- ELA

**Liz Windisch- Social
Studies (S1)**

Melissa Shober- Math

Ben Laughton- ELA

**Natalie Guiser- Science
(S1)**

Nicole Bianco- Math/Sci

Bridget Amato- ELA/Soc

Darcy Kotts- Math/Sci

Sarah Pruss- ELA/Soc



7th Grade Team

David Taylor- Math

Angela Hoffman- ELA

Alissa Beinecke- Science
(S1)

Marie Piccirilli- Math

Brenna Sisinni- ELA

Patrick Oney- History (S1)

Kristine Geraud- Math

Amy Shimkoski- ELA

Sean Richman-
Sci/History

Charlotte Austin-
Math/Sci

Stephanie Harris- ELA/Soc



8th Grade Team

Bethany Balta- Math

Melissa Gielata- ELA

Dena Hoffman- History

Joe Becker- Science

Josh Picozzi- Math

Brooke Speakman- ELA

Matt Bacco- History

Scott Litwinovich- Science

Josh Patterson- Math

Renee Goedert- ELA

Scott Philipp- History

Matt Popovic- Science



Special Area Team

Jessica Horzempa- Chorus/Music

Jeanne Tupper- Orchestra/Music

Adam Wazenegger- Band/Music

Nancy D'Angelo - Aquatics

Billy Finnerty- Phys Ed

Joe Rossi- Phys Ed

Diane Lally- Art

AJ Mannarino-Tech Ed

Alexandra Toras- F&CS

Frank Kruth-STEAM

Beth Kress- Reading Specialist

Lynette Lortz- Python

Lisa Donovan- Public Speaking/Enrichment

Mindy Clayton- Media Literacy/Librarian



World Languages Team

Mariaelena Amato - Spanish

Laura Wagner - Spanish

Amy Minnetti - German

Claire McCourt - French



Learning Support Team

Christine Thomas- 6th Grade Learning Support

Laura Nagel- 7th Grade Learning Support

Jeremy Hall- 8th Grade Learning Support

Hunter Barnhart- 6th-8th Grades Learning Support

Nicole Canofari- Life Skills & Autistic Support

Courtney Mitchell- Speech & Language Therapist

Cindy Nix- ESL




6th Grade Schedule

8:00 – 8:07	Homeroom
8:07 – 9:27	Block 1
9:30 – 9:40	Block 2 begins
9:43 – 10:26	Special 1
10:29 – 11:12	Special 2
11:15 – 12:25	Block 2 continues
12:28 – 12:58	Lunch
1:01 – 2:21	Block 3
2:25 – 2:52	Activity Period
2:52 – 3:00	Dismissal



6th Grade Schedule

22-23 Trimester 1

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
61-62(A-B)	S1	260A-1	Science 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	01/14/2023
63(A)	T1	554A-11	STEAM	Kruth, Frank	A317	08/24/2022	11/24/2022
64(A)	T1	560A-13	Phys-Ed 6	Rossi, Giuliano	Gym	08/24/2022	11/24/2022
65-66(A-B)	22-23	060A-4 	Language Arts 6	Laughton, Benjamin	B302	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
67(A-B)	22-23	004-1	Lunch 6	Crimone, Erin	Cafe	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
68-69(A-B)	22-23	360A-8	Mathematical Functions 6	Shober, Melissa	B301	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
HR(A-B)	22-23	100-6	Homeroom 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
63(B)	22-23	503-6	Spanish 6	Amato, Mariaelena	A212	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
64(B)	S1	564-14	Consumer Sci-6	Toras, Alexandra	A218	08/24/2022	01/14/2023

22-23 Trimester 2

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
61-62(A-B)	S1	260A-1	Science 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	01/14/2023
61-62(A-B)	S2	170A-9	Social Studies 6	Windisch, Elizabeth	B309	01/14/2023	07/01/2023
63(A)	T2	562A-21	Art-6	Lally, Diane	A219	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
64(A)	T2	559A-23	Aquatics 6	Cremonese, Sara	Pool	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
65-66(A-B)	22-23	060A-4 	Language Arts 6	Laughton, Benjamin	B302	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
67(A-B)	22-23	004-1	Lunch 6	Crimone, Erin	Cafe	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
68-69(A-B)	22-23	360A-8	Mathematical Functions 6	Shober, Melissa	B301	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
HR(A-B)	22-23	100-6	Homeroom 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
63(B)	22-23	503-6	Spanish 6	Amato, Mariaelena	A212	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
64(B)	S1	564-14	Consumer Sci-6	Toras, Alexandra	A218	08/24/2022	01/14/2023
64(B)	S2	561A-24	Music-6	Wazenegger, Adam	A210	01/14/2023	07/01/2023

22-23 Trimester 3

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
61-62(A-B)	S2	170A-9	Social Studies 6	Windisch, Elizabeth	B309	01/14/2023	07/01/2023
63(A)	T3	553-31	Indust Tech 6-E	Mannarino, Anthony	A114	03/24/2023	07/01/2023
64(A)	T3	615A-33	Health 6	Finnerty, William	A111	03/24/2023	07/01/2023
65-66(A-B)	22-23	060A-4 	Language Arts 6	Laughton, Benjamin	B302	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
67(A-B)	22-23	004-1	Lunch 6	Crimone, Erin	Cafe	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
68-69(A-B)	22-23	360A-8	Mathematical Functions 6	Shober, Melissa	B301	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
HR(A-B)	22-23	100-6	Homeroom 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
63(B)	22-23	503-6	Spanish 6	Amato, Mariaelena	A212	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
64(B)	S2	561A-24	Music-6	Wazenegger, Adam	A210	01/14/2023	07/01/2023

22-23 Semester 1

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
61-62(A-B)	S1	260A-1	Science 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	01/14/2023
63(A)	T1	554A-11	STEAM	Kruth, Frank	A317	08/24/2022	11/24/2022
63(A)	T2	562A-21	Art-6	Lally, Diane	A219	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
64(A)	T1	560A-13	Phys-Ed 6	Rossi, Giuliano	Gym	08/24/2022	11/24/2022
64(A)	T2	559A-23	Aquatics 6	Cremonese, Sara	Pool	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
65-66(A-B)	22-23	060A-4 	Language Arts 6	Laughton, Benjamin	B302	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
67(A-B)	22-23	004-1	Lunch 6	Crimone, Erin	Cafe	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
68-69(A-B)	22-23	360A-8	Mathematical Functions 6	Shober, Melissa	B301	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
HR(A-B)	22-23	100-6	Homeroom 6	Guiser, Natalie	B306	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
63(B)	22-23	503-6	Spanish 6	Amato, Mariaelena	A212	08/24/2022	07/01/2023
64(B)	S1	564-14	Consumer Sci-6	Toras, Alexandra	A218	08/24/2022	01/14/2023

22-23 Semester 2

Exp	Trm	Crs-Sec	Course Name	Teacher	Room	Enroll	Leave
61-62(A-B)	S2	170A-9	Social Studies 6	Windisch, Elizabeth	B309	01/14/2023	07/01/2023
63(A)	T2	562A-21	Art-6	Lally, Diane	A219	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
63(A)	T3	553-31	Indust Tech 6-E	Mannarino, Anthony	A114	03/24/2023	07/01/2023
64(A)	T2	559A-23	Aquatics 6	Cremonese, Sara	Pool	11/24/2022	03/24/2023
64(A)	T3	615A-33	Health 6	Finnerty, William	A111	03/24/2023	07/01/2023
65-66(A-B)	22-23	060A-4	Language Arts 6	Laughton, Benjamin	B302	08/24/2022	07/01/2023

Day A**Day B****61-62: Block 1 -**
(8:07 - 9:27)**61-62: Block 1 -**
(8:07 - 9:27)**65-66: Block 2 -**
(9:30 - 9:40)**65-66: Block 2 -**
(9:30 - 9:40)**63: Special 1 -**
(9:43 - 10:26)**63: Special 1 -**
(9:43 - 10:26)**64: Special 2 -**
(10:29 - 11:12)**64: Special 2 -**
(10:29 - 11:12)**65-66: Block 2 (con't) -**
(11:15 - 12:25)**65-66: Block 2 (con't) -**
(11:15 - 12:25)**Lunch**
(12:28 - 12:58)**Lunch**
(12:28 - 12:58)**68-69: Block 3 -**
(1:01 - 2:21)**68-69: Block 3 -**
(1:01 - 2:21)**Activity Period**
(2:25 - 2:52)**Activity Period**
(2:25 - 2:52)

7th Grade Schedule

8:00 – 8:07	Homeroom
8:10 – 8:53	Special 1
8:56 - 9:39	Special 2
9:42 – 11:01	Block 1
11:04 - 11:49	Block 2 begins
11:52 - 12:22	Lunch
12:25 - 12:59	Block 2 continues
1:02 – 2:21	Block 3
2:25 – 2:52	Activity Period
2:52 – 3:00	Dismissal



8th Grade Schedule

8:00 – 8:07	Homeroom
8:10 – 9:07	Block 1
9:10 - 10:10	Block 2
10:13 – 11:13	Block 3
11:16 – 11:46	Lunch
11:49 – 12:49	Block 4
12:52 – 1:35	Special 1
1:38 – 2:21	Special 2
2:25 – 2:52	Activity Period
2:52 – 3:00	Dismissal



Advisory Program

- ★ Student-centered program to connect students with each other and with an adult in the building
- ★ Every student has an advisory group with a selected adult
- ★ Details about 6th grade and new students choosing an advisor will be coming soon
- ★ Advisory dates and times will be announced in the coming weeks



Teaming

- ★ Creates an individualized academic environment for students
- ★ Enables teachers to share best practices for curriculum, instruction, assessment, and for individual students
- ★ Fosters collaboration and communication for students
- ★ Broadens friend groups and social interactions
- ★ Offers team meeting times for parents/families
- ★ Creates an identity for students and provides a sense of belonging



Parent Drop Off

- ★ **Morning Drop-off in front of the building**
 - Please pull to the farthest position along the curb in front of the building (nearest to stop sign by pool).
Please do not wait to drop your child off in the center nearest the entrance.
 - Drop-off should occur between 7:35 AM and 8:00 AM.
Tip: Drop off prior to 7:55 to avoid traffic build up



Parent Pick Up

- ★ 2:50 PM- Students called for parent pick up
- ★ Parents/guardians need to park in the swim/practice field parking lot and walk to the front of the building for the assigned time.
- ★ Parents are *not* permitted to park along the curb during this time due to accessible transportation needs.
- ★ SF Staff will greet you and coordinate the sign-out process.



Bus Drop-Off and Pick-Up

★ Bus Transportation

- Every student will be assigned a bus number and bus stop for transportation to and from school
- Bus drop off and pick up is in the rear of the building
- Students will report to lockers, then 6th and 7th grade to the auditorium and 8th grade to the cafeteria upon arrival to school
 - Breakfast is available in the cafeteria for all students
- Questions regarding bussing, contact the transportation office 412-221-4542 ext 417



Lockers

- ★ Each student will be issued their own locker
- ★ Students will receive locker combinations and locations on the first day of school
 - Teachers will provide opportunities for students to practice opening lockers during first week of school



Lunch

- ★ On the first day of school, students will have the opportunity to choose their own seat--teachers will assist in the process
- ★ For safety reasons, seating charts are created based on the student seat selection



Traveling in the Building

- ★ Students should walk on the right side of the hallways
- ★ Stairwells are one direction only and signage has been posted
- ★ Staff will assist in helping students navigate properly and safely through the building



STUDENT TOURS

★ 8th Grade Tour Guides

- Ashley Fleming
- Carrie Fisher
- Harshith Ghanta
- Annie Grella
- Safina Khiji
- Penelope Kichta
- Eli Miller
- Payton Pearson
- Eli Pugliese
- Sydney Pugliese
- Mckenna Uhrin



HEALTH OFFICE INFORMATION

★ Nurse, Misty Menarcheck

- Health Forms
- Orders for Medications
- Inhalers
- Epi-pens
- Emergency Forms



PowerSchool Parent Portal

- ★ Access to your child's grades, attendance, etc.
- ★ Email access to your child's teacher
- ★ Grades are live at all times
- ★ If you have not already done so, please register online at www.southfayette.org by clicking on the PowerSchool link under "Quick Links" at the bottom left of the page

<http://powerschool.southfayette.org>



Canvas

- ★ Canvas is the learning management system for educators and students.
- ★ Canvas is an icon for students in Class Link
- ★ Students' courses will already be populated in Canvas.
- ★ They should access their teachers, videos, and resources through their courses available in Canvas.



Canvas

★ 6th Grade Team Teacher,
Ms. Bianco

★ Resource will be shared with all
families via email at the start of the
year and will be posted on our
SFMS website

Helpful Resources

Use the following resources to help your child
have a successful school year!

1.) [Canvas](#)

Click [HERE](#) to learn how to become an
observer on your child's Canvas Page.

2.) [6th Grade Homework Link](#)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1q4f-ouhixRfs99a30E2okmXCWnQXs63F>

3.) [PowerSchool](#)

<https://powerschool.southfayette.org/public/>



Structure and Organization

- ★ Develop a set time and place for homework and studying to keep your child prepared and organized
- ★ Homework can be written assignments, reviewing learned material, or independent reading
- ★ Check Canvas daily for assignments, videos, daily information, and class resources
 - Proactive approach to assignment completion



Structure and Organization

- ★ Use a planner, agenda, or calendar to track assignments, projects, and assessments.
- ★ Plan ahead by balancing extracurricular participation with school work.
- ★ Use Powerschool to monitor your child's progress
 - Recommendation: review weekly, with your child present, as part of the homework routine
 - Reactive check of assignment completion



Communications from Middle School

★ School Messenger

- “MS Office” as sender
- Messages are sent to two emails registered in PowerSchool

★ Link to Weekly Announcements

- Sent via School Messenger on the last day of each week
- Can be accessed daily via the website



Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

- ★ List of clubs will be found on the MS website
- ★ Sign-up links announcements by sponsors
- ★ Activity bus at 4:30PM
Monday-Thursday



Getting Involved

- ★ Review electronic communications that come from the Middle School (uses email account registered with PowerSchool)
- ★ Parent Advisory Council quarterly meeting dates are on the district calendar
 - First meeting October 12th at 9:00AM
- ★ Student-Led Conferencing (Fall or Anytime!)



Laptops

- ★ Laptops should remain free from stickers, magnets, etc.
- ★ Students are not permitted to download applications or software.
- ★ The laptop belongs to the school and students should be using the device for educational purposes only.
- ★ Proper care of laptops is essential to avoid fees for drops and damage to laptops



Laptops

- ★ Annual Device Forms and Payment
 - Done via “My School Bucks”
 - Email sent to all district families from “District Office” on Monday, August 8th
 - Follow instructions in email to sign “Device Loan Agreement and Responsibilities” and pay annual \$25 fee
 - Complete prior to first day of school on August 24th



Technology Practices

- ★ Know your child's passwords
- ★ Per the Student and Family Handbook, cell phones are not permitted to be used during the school day. When in the building, students' phones must be turned off and stored in their lockers
 - All students needing to go home due to illness must go through the nurse's office



Technology Practices

- ★ Consider turning off all screens (student phones, televisions, other devices) an hour before bedtime
- ★ Create a routine of charging laptops overnight and in a common area (i.e. kitchen, living room, etc.) instead of in students' rooms



Water Bottles

- ★ **Students are permitted to bring a water bottle to school.**
 - **Water bottle must have the student's first and last name marked on it.**
 - **Transparent bottles are preferred.**
 - **Water bottles are not to be shared between students.**



Attendance

- ★ Parents/Guardians should provide a written note or email to Mrs. Bruce as an excuse if a student is absent from school.
- ★ When in doubt, communicate with Mrs. Bruce, and we will help sort it out and work through it with your family!



Friendships & School Connections

- ★ Friendships often change during the middle school years.
- ★ Help your child identify his or her passions and interests.
- ★ Encourage participation in various clubs, sports, arts, music, and activities.
- ★ Participation in school sponsored activities can be a great way to broaden peer relationships and provide a support network through the middle school years.



Friendships & School Connections

- ★ **Research shows:**
 - **Students are more likely to succeed when they feel connected to school**
 - **Young people who feel connected to school are less likely to engage in risky behaviors**
 - **Increased connection to school promotes motivation, engagement, emotional well-being, and academic performance**



Responsibility

- ★ Students learn responsibility from their actions and consequences only when they take accountability.
- ★ It is best to avoid making excuses or trying to fix problems for our children.
- ★ Some of life's greatest lessons come from making mistakes and facing adversity.



Final Thoughts

- ★ Happy New Year Celebration on August 24th
- ★ Positivity and communication are keys to success!
- ★ School, family, and community partnerships

“Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.” -Marian Wright Edleman

“The New Year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written” -Melody Beattie



Feedback

Please consider providing feedback about tonight's orientation by accessing the Google Form through the link or QR Code below:

<https://forms.gle/kjWphc1DxUAHX1mCA>

