

# South Fayette Middle School

Parent Advisory Council Meeting

May 7, 2025





## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

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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.

Future-Focused, Student-Centered, Innovation-Driven

# Schedules for 2025-26 School Year

- ★ Student schedules for the 2025-26 school year will be available in mid-August.
- ★ A message from the Middle School Office will be sent when schedules are ready to be viewed in PowerSchool.
  - Until the email from the MS Office is received, schedules are NOT finalized



# Schedules for 2025-26 School Year

- ★ Due to the large number of students and the logistics of scheduling, we cannot honor specific teacher/team requests.
- ★ If you haven't already done so, please be sure to fill out the 6th grade course selection form that went home prior to spring break.



# 6th Grade Parent and Student Orientation

**Save the Date!**

**August 12, 2025  
6:00 pm**



# Promoting Happiness & Success in Middle School



# Schedules for 2025-26 School Year

## Typical Day for a Sixth Grade Student

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
2:25-2:53	Activity Period



# Schedules for 2025-26 School Year

## Core Classes (3 blocks per day/80 minutes each):

1. Math – all year; every day
2. Language Arts – all year; every day
3. Science/Social Studies – 1 semester of each; every day

## Special Area Classes (2 on day A and 2 on day B):

1. World Language Rotation: French – Spanish – German (12 weeks each)
2. Art/Tech. Rotation: Technology Education – STEAM – Art (12 weeks each)
3. Physical Education Rotation: Gym – Health – Aquatics (12 weeks each)
4. Music Course (**choose 1**): Orchestra (prior experience needed) (year), or Band (prior experience needed) (year), or Chorus (year), or combination of Music and Consumer Science (semester each)





# 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



## Teaming AT SFMS

### 6TH GRADE



### 7TH GRADE



### 8TH GRADE





# Teaming AT SFMS

## 6TH GRADE



## 7TH GRADE



## 8TH GRADE



# New Technologies at the MS

## ★ Minga

- Digital hall pass
- Students create and start a digital hall pass when they need to leave the classroom
- Allows for fewer classroom interruptions

## ★ Student Email

- Student email addresses are activated in 6th grade
- Students can email teachers, coaches, club sponsors, and classmates for group projects
- Students will be trained on using SF email early in the year



# Lunch

- ★ During the first week of school, students will have the opportunity to choose their own table/seat--teachers will assist in the process
- ★ Seating charts are created based on the student table selection.
- ★ Student numbers transfer from IS to MS



# 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



# 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
- ★ Become an observer on Canvas & check daily for assignments, videos, daily information, and class resources
  - Proactive approach to assignment completion





# 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 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**



# Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

- ★ Clubs and activities assembly at the start of the year—over 25 clubs available
- ★ Activity bus available at 4:30PM Monday-Thursday



# 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.



# Support Systems at School

## School Counselors:

Justina Perrott–A-G

Taylor Hendal–H-O

Mike Perrott–P-Z

## Social Worker

Tanner Jones

## School Nurse

Misty Menarcheck



# Support Systems at School

## AHN Chill Project™:

Kristy Frohliger–Chill Room Educator

Megan Tierney–School Based Mental Health Therapist

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## Two Components of the AHN Chill Project™:

Therapy and Chill Room





# What is the Chill Room?

Provides mindfulness training to help students reduce anxiety, achieve greater academic success, and encourage better decision making.

## GOALS:

Relax—unwind, calm down

Reset- by learning coping strategies

Return- back to the classroom in 15-20 minutes



# Looking forward to a great year!



**Thank you!**

**Questions??**