

2023-2024 Edition



Making the 5th to 6th Grade Transition

Lewis F. Mayer Middle School

2100 Campus Drive.

Fairview Park, OH 44126

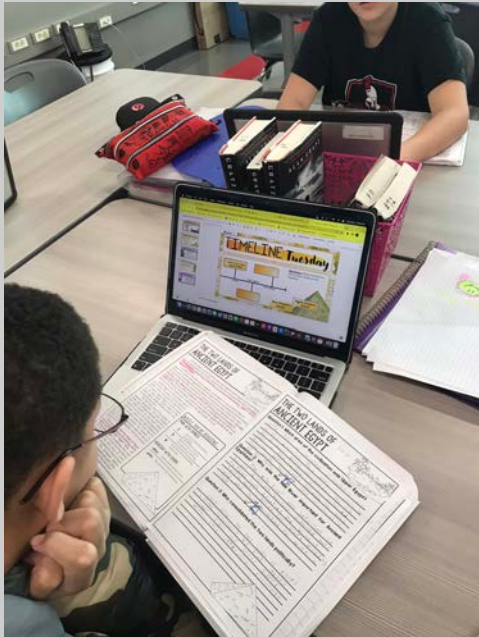
Phone: 440.356.3100

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01 Our Vision

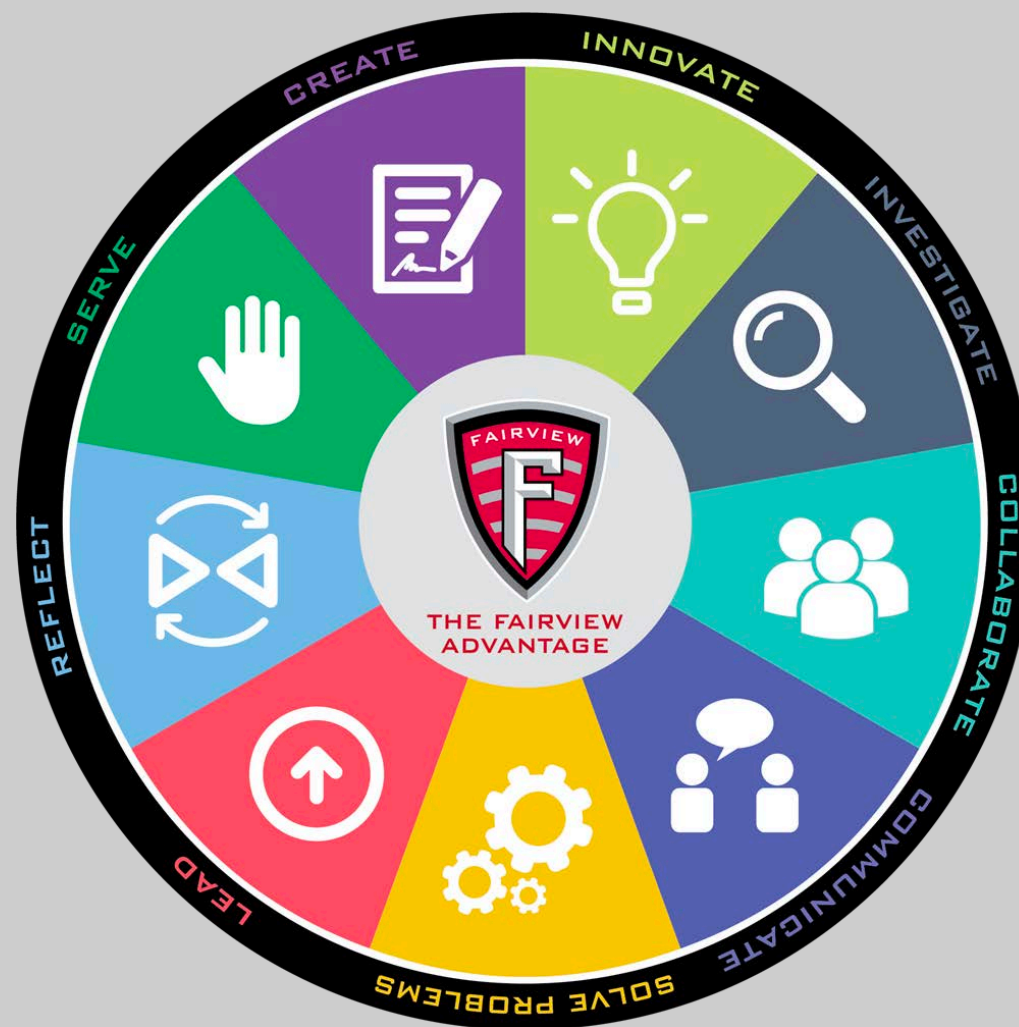
A community united, empowering each other to learn differently, care deeply, and aspire to excellence.



02 | The Fairview Advantage

Mission: We will provide our students with The Fairview Advantage, a framework for student success, by delivering exceptional services and academic programs that challenge the mind and instill the joy of learning and promote responsible citizenship.

Create
Innovate
Investigate
Collaborate
Solve Problems
Lead
Reflect
Serve



03 The Fairview Advantage

All core courses emphasize projects and design processes of the Fairview Advantage.

Doing Projects vs. Project Based Learning

Traditional Unit with Culmination Project



Project Based Learning Unit



04 Measuring Student Progress

- At the middle school, students need to acquire knowledge, skills, and study habits that provide a foundation for high school academics.
- **Grading system**: students earn A, B, C, D, F, or Incomplete.
- Students continue working until mastery of the content is achieved.
- Grades are not averaged quarterly but remain “a work in progress” over the course of the year.
- Continuous improvement is key at ALL levels of achievement.



05 Getting Comfortable in Your New School

- All 6th grade lockers are located in the first floor hallway.
- Almost ALL 6th grade classrooms are located in the first floor hallway.
- 6th graders take all their classes with 6th graders only.
- 6th graders have lunch together and at the same time as half of the 8th grade class. 6th and 8th grade students are separated during the lunch periods.
- All middle school students are assigned a mentor period.



06 6th Grade Daily Schedule

| MS | |
|---------------|-------------|
| Warning Bell: | 7:45 |
| 1 | 7:47-8:32 |
| 2 | 8:35-9:20 |
| 3 | 9:23-10:08 |
| 4 | 10:11-10:56 |
| 5 | 10:59-11:44 |
| L1 | 11:47-12:17 |
| L2 | 12:20-12:50 |
| 6 | 12:53-1:38 |
| 7 | 1:41-2:26 |
| 8 | 2:29-3:14 |

- Arrival: 7:00 am Doors Open
- 1st period begins at 7:47
- 7 periods (45 minutes each)
- 30 minute lunch
- 30 minute Mentor Period
- Dismissal 2:26
- Office Hours twice a week after school
- French A and Spanish A - offered 8th period

* Any changes to the daily schedule will be communicated to parents in a timely manner.



07 School Supplies

- School Supply lists are updated annually and can be found [HERE](#)
 - The [Parents Tab on the District Website](#) can be a useful resource for this and many other helpful items.
- Within the first few weeks of school each student will be issued a MacBook for use during the year. Keep in mind:
 - They will need to take this home nightly and charge it.
 - We recommend keeping the charger at home so it does not become lost or stolen.
 - If they forget a computer, they can pick up a loaner for the day.



- Students will have six classes within a school day with six different teachers, six different sets of expectations, and sometimes six different assignments to navigate. Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and home. One key to academic success is finding a system that works for your student in tracking assignments (to-do lists) and prioritizing school and home activities. Teachers will work with students to use their weekly view in the Summit Platform. Think of it as a digital planner; if your students are successful with a paper planner we encourage this as well. Your 6th graders will spend a lot of time throughout the year teaching and demonstrating what good study skills look like.



- All 6th grade students will take:
 - Math
 - Advanced or Regular
 - English Language Arts
 - Advanced or Regular
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - STEAM - 1 semester
 - Health / Physical Education - 1 Semester
 - Music
 - Band
 - Choir
 - Orchestra
 - Broadway Bound



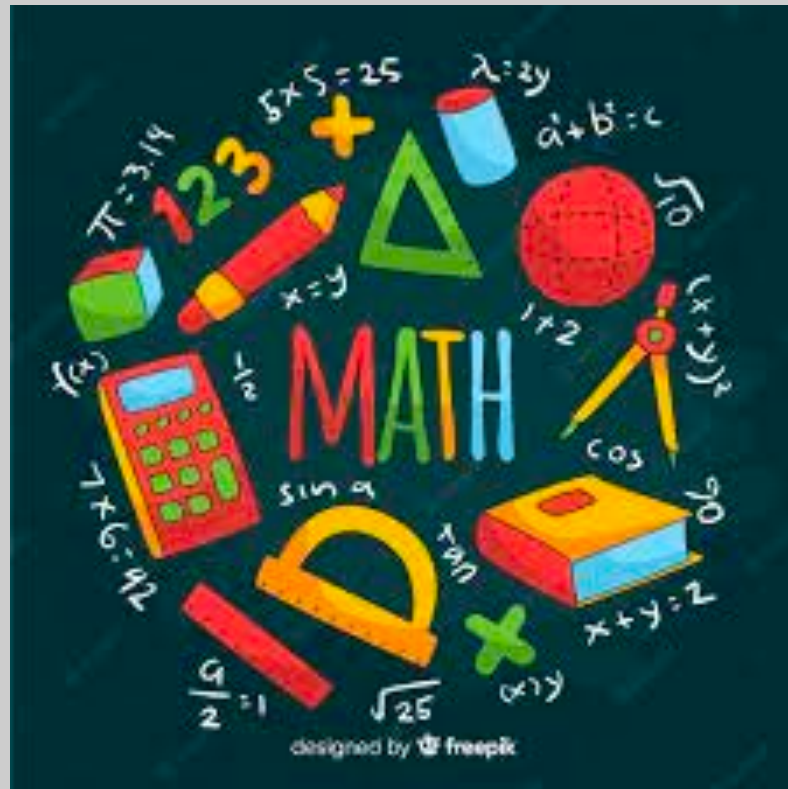
English Language Arts

In your 6th grade students' class, they will work on several foundational reading skills to be able to analyze and identify appropriate strategies to use in a text and explain the effects those strategies have on the readers' understanding of characters' actions, motivations, and personalities. They will build off of this by offering sufficient, credible, relevant evidence to support. To help build a solid foundation of basic language arts skills, several assignments will provide foundational understanding of the skills needed to achieve this goal.



Mathematics

In Grade 6 math, we focus on four critical areas. These include: 1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division; 2) understanding the division of fractions and applying this to the system of rational numbers (including negative numbers); 3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and 4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.



Science

In 6th grade, our students study topics such as scientific inquiry, cells, rocks and minerals, and erosions. They develop their problem-solving skills through hands-on, inquiry-based learning while using a variety of tools such as microscopes and triple-beam balances. A strong focus is placed on collaboration, investigation, and communication.



Social Studies

In 6th grade social studies, we take a look at different ancient civilizations of the eastern hemisphere. We look specifically at the cultures of Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, and China. Throughout the year students will have the opportunity to look at the different belief systems of these cultures as well as what made them successful civilizations.



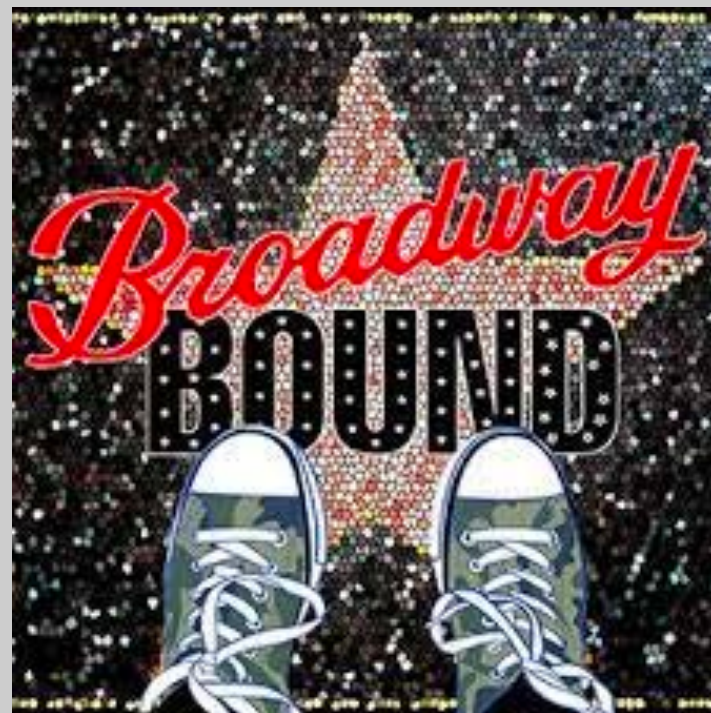
STEAM

Students will explore Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math concepts through a variety of projects and design challenges. Students will be exposed to a variety of technologies such as: coding, robotics, and video game design with tools such as Tynker, Spheros, Ozobots and Bloxels. Students will also be exposed to design challenges where they must work in teams with limited supplies to build things such as, bridges, battle bots, obstacle courses, towers and more.



MUSIC - Broadway Bound

Do you love musicals and theatre and want to know more about this art form? Broadway Bound is a study of musical theatre in America. Students will participate in class activities such as acting, improvisation, singing, and dancing. In addition, students will be introduced to behind the scenes aspects of what it takes to put on and run a Broadway musical. There is no performance requirement for this class outside of class time.



MUSIC - 6th Grade Choir

Choir students are introduced to basic vocal skills and techniques for performing in a choral ensemble. Music selections will consist of a variety of 2 and 3-part music. Students are given opportunities to perform at higher levels as skills improve. There will be a concentration on sight singing and music reading skills. During the fourth quarter, the element of movement and choreography is incorporated, as well as Pop and Broadway vocal



MUSIC - Band

The Mayer Middle School Band will introduce students to large ensemble performance and basic performance techniques on wind and brass instruments. There are three required performances throughout the year. Students may speak with the director if they were not in 5th grade band to discuss audition information as well as private lessons.



MUSIC - Orchestra

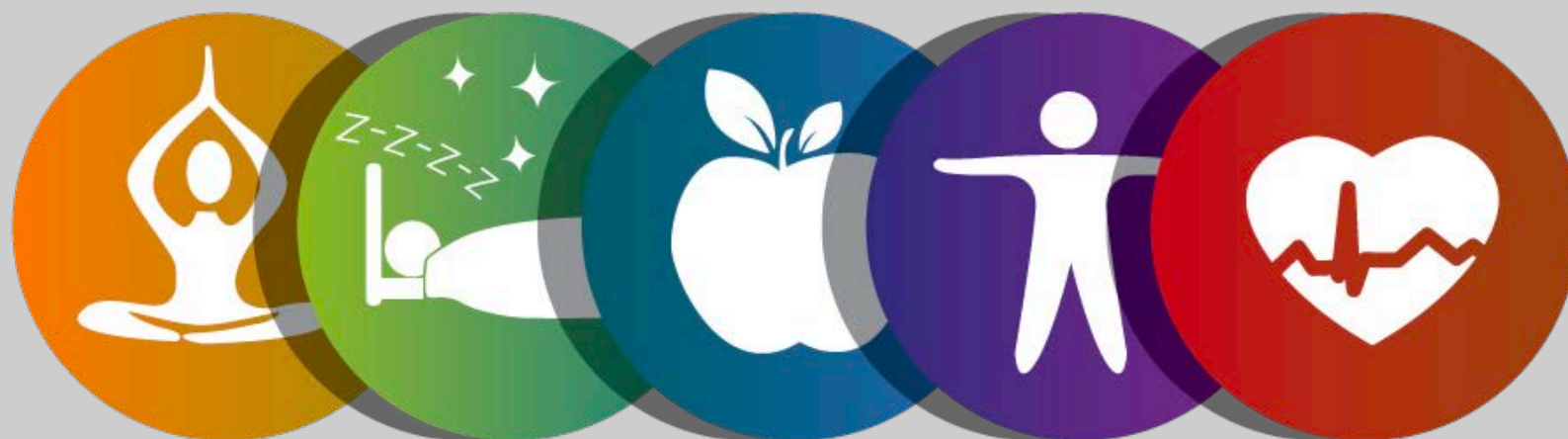
Mayer Middle School Orchestra will introduce students to large ensemble performances and basic performance techniques on string instruments. There are three required performances throughout the year. Students may speak with the director if they were not in 5th grade orchestra to discuss audition information as well as private lessons.



6th Grade Health and Physical Education

Physical Education is organized to include group games, individual, and team sport activities. Motor skill development, lower game skills, and promotion of positive socialization will be the major objectives. The instructional program in sports may include: soccer, volleyball, basketball, softball, and tennis.

Health is designed to help students learn about their changing bodies, to help them sort out emotions, to aid them in maintaining optimum health as a lifelong process, and to show students how to take responsibility for making healthy decisions.



Mentoring

All 6th grade students will be assigned a mentor teacher. Mentoring runs everyday for a 30 minute period. Mentoring is intended to be an anchor in each student's day, where they communicate their goals for the week with parents, as well as receive guidance from their mentor on how to reach their goals or make necessary adjustments to their plans for the week. Students are also encouraged to utilize their mentor teacher as support for all aspects of their lives, as we all go through difficult times, and mentors are expected to provide guidance to their students in how to cope and be successful, despite the obstacles that life can put in our way.



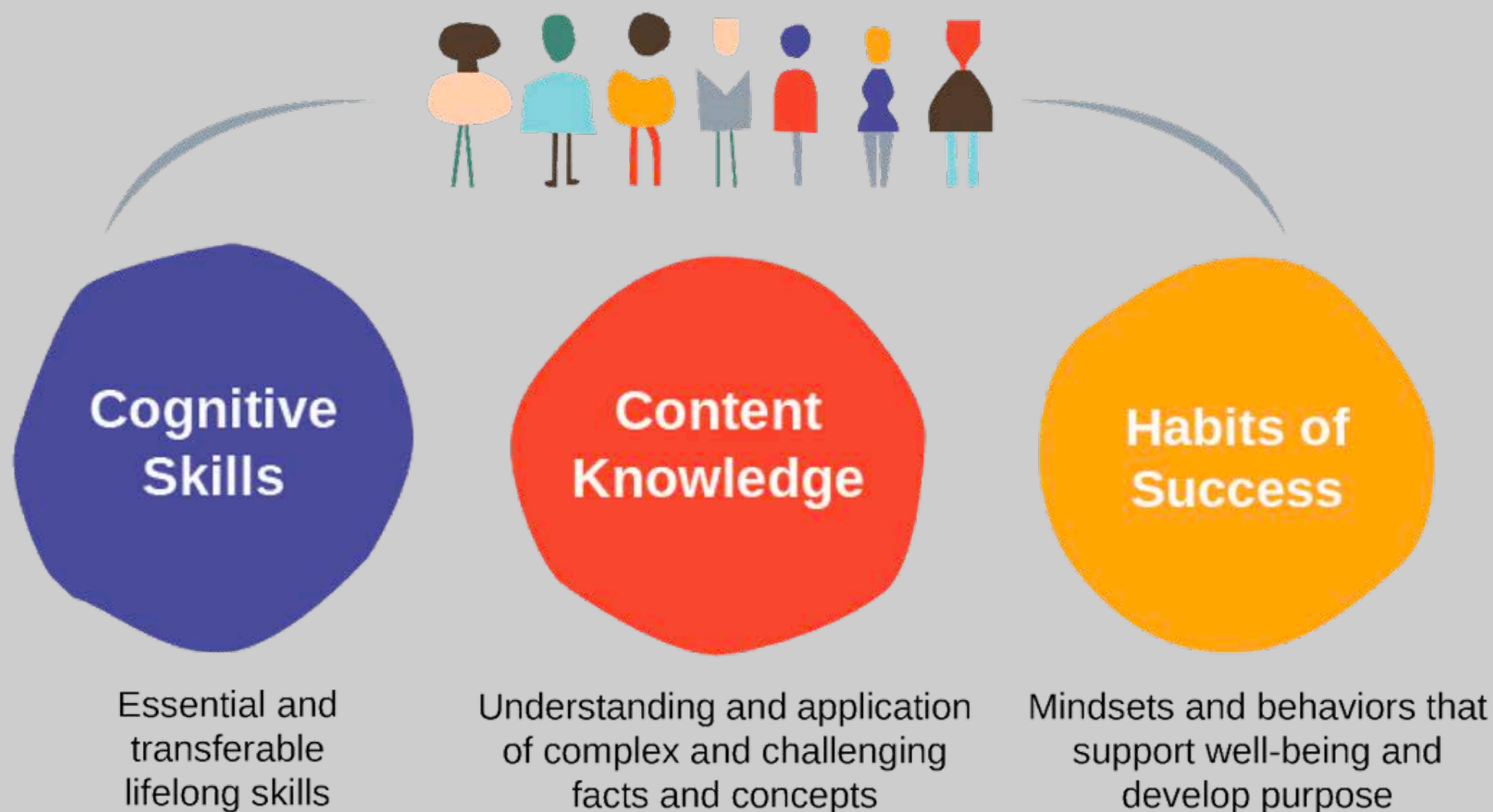
Personalized Learning Platform

We utilize a state-of-the-art personalized learning platform (PLP) to engage our students in project-based learning. Instructional objectives in each discipline align with the Ohio State Standards. Our approach to teaching and learning foster accountability and ownership of our students. They are given ample self-directed learning time (SDL), where they are able to prioritize their work on assignments based on goals that they set on a weekly basis with their mentor.



Personalized Learning Platform

SUMmit LEArNiNg StUDENT OUTCOMES

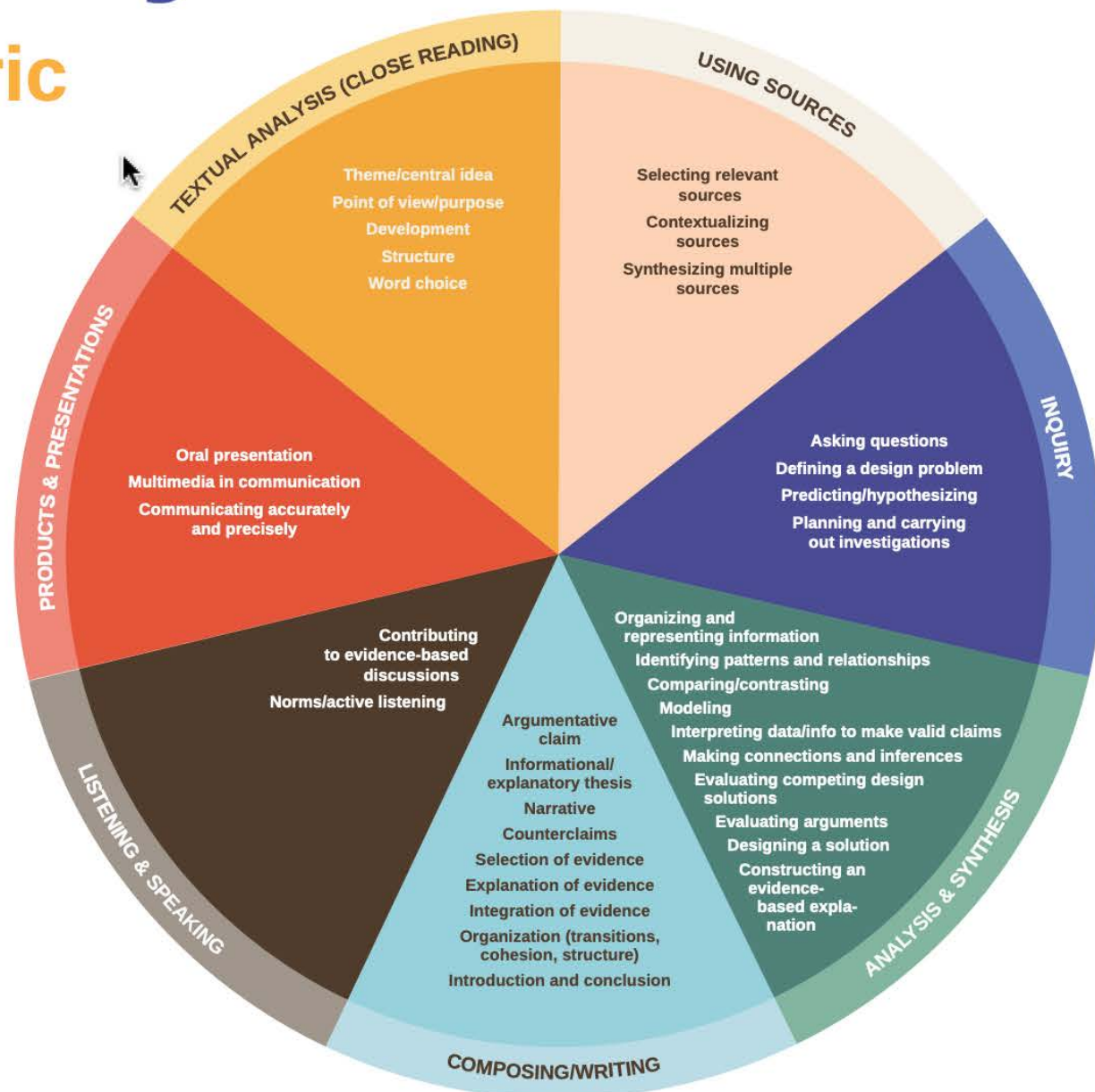


Assessing Cognitive Skill Development

SUMMIT LeARNING™ Cognitive Skills Rubric

The Summit Learning Cognitive Skills Rubric is an assessment and instruction tool that outlines the continuum of skills that are necessary for college and career readiness. Cognitive Skills are interdisciplinary skills that require higher-order thinking and application, such as Making Connections and Inferences and Evaluating Arguments. The rubric includes 36 skills and 8 score levels applicable to students in grades 3 through 12.

Through Summit Learning, students practice and develop Cognitive Skills in every subject and in every grade level. The use of a common analytic rubric for assessment of project-based learning allows for targeted, standards-aligned feedback to students and supports the development of key skills over time.



Habits of Success

INDEPENDENCE and SUSTAINABILITY

curiosity

Being interested in lots of things and wanting to understand more, even if it's challenging

Purpose

Charting a course for life that is meaningful and will have an impact on the world

Self-Direction

Driving forward the actions to achieve goals, with or without help

PERSEVERANCE

Resilience

Bouncing back and dealing with challenging or harmful situations

Agency

Making my own decisions and acting on them

Academic Tenacity

Overcoming distractions and persevering toward longer term goals

MINDSETS FOR SELF and SCHOOL

Growth Mindset

Believing that intelligence can be grown, that people aren't just born with a fixed amount of it

Self-Efficacy

Believing that I can do something successfully

Sense of Belonging

Feeling like I belong in my school community

Relevance of School

Believing that school is valuable and the things I learn are interesting

SCHOOL READINESS

Self-Awareness

Being aware of what I think, feel, do, my strengths and limitations, and of the impact I have on other people.

Relationship Skills

Understanding how others might feel and having the skills to maintain strong relationships with people.

Executive Functions

Directing and maintaining my attention and emotions

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT

Attachment

Having a strong bond with an adult who cares about me.

Stress Management

Figuring out how to become calm and balanced when situations become stressful

Self-Regulation

Directing and maintaining my attention and my emotions

Middle School Clubs

- Student Council
- Builder's Club
- STEM Club
- Book Club
- Power of the Pen
- Ski Club
- Stagecrafters
- Many others as ideas are presented.



School Affiliated Athletics

School sanctioned sports are available in 7th and 8th grade.

Teams include:

- Cross Country
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Football
- Wrestling
- Basketball
- Softball
- Track



27 Lockers

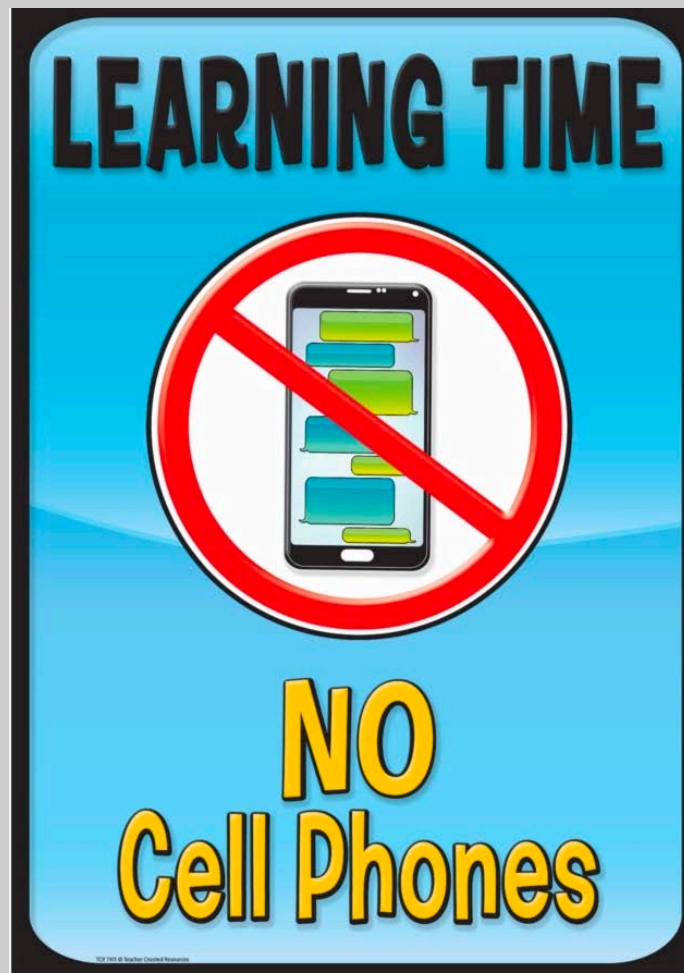
- All students will be assigned an individual locker.
- Locker assignment and combinations will be located in the top right corner of the students' schedule.
- Students are responsible for maintaining the cleanliness of their locker.
- Students must remember their combination.
 - Staff members are always available to assist opening lockers. Combinations can be retrieved in the middle school main office through the school year.

• Organizers, mirrors, and decor are permitted inside of the locker as long as they DO NOT cause damage to the school property.



28 Technology - Cell Phones

- Students may bring a cell phone to school.
- Cell Phones should remain in their locker or designated classroom area.
- FPCS is not responsible for lost or stolen cell phones.



29 Backpacks



- Student backpacks are to remain in their locker during the day.
- Discuss with your student what could help them carry their materials and computers from class to class. Some students prefer a zip-up binder that holds it all or to obtain needed materials as the day goes on.

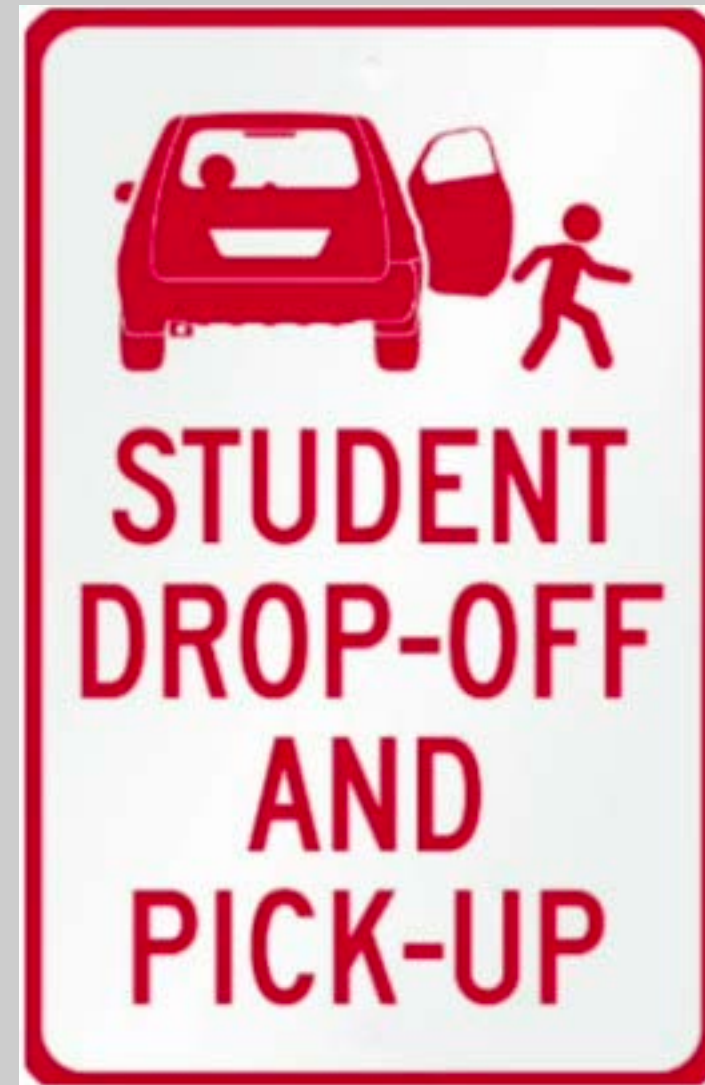


- Students are able to purchase breakfast or lunch during the designated time periods.
- Students are to be in the cafe during the designated lunch period.
- Only the appropriate number of students per table.
- Students are responsible to maintaining a clean space, on the table and below.
- Students are expected to demonstrate good manners and talk in normal tones.
- Students 6-8 are not permitted to have laptops in the cafeteria during lunch



31 Drop-Off and Pick-Up

- Student drop off is through the North campus doors.
- Cafeteria is open at 7:00 and students remain there until 7:40.
- Campus Drive is reserved for transportation buses and vans.
- Walkers may enter through North Doors or Campus Drive.
- Bike racks are located on the north side of the building near the gym entrance.
 - Use a bike lock.
- Appointments: if needing to be picked up or dropped off.
 - Through the Middle School or High School office.



Problem-Solving, Making Good Choices, & Responsibility

It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to LEARN! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. As with everything in life, students will get out of middle school what they put into it.



Problem-Solving, Making Good Choices, & Responsibility

EFFORTS and CHOICES will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports/activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings.

The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful!



Peer Pressure

Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured, or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative.

Examples of positive peer pressure are encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport.

Examples of negative peer pressure are someone encouraging students to smoke, drink alcohol, or skip school.



Peer Pressure

In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful:

1. Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs.
2. Be assertive - tell friends what you like/don't like.
3. Don't use alcohol or other drugs.
4. Avoid situations in which you know you could get in trouble.
5. Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way.
6. Talk with trusted adults about situations that you do not understand and/or that make you uncomfortable.



Making/Choosing Friends

ACT FRIENDLY. Smile a lot, be kind and courteous to others. Compliment people, without being annoying or fake. Always keep your head held high and never cross your arms over your chest or scowl, because that makes you seem mean and unfriendly.

JOIN A CLUB OR ACTIVITY. As simple as it might sound, joining a group or club can really increase your friendship circle. And who knows, you might have a talent for something you aren't even aware of, and you may develop a new skill.

JUST SAY HI! Go up to someone you would like to get to know and say "Hi" and offer a compliment or ask them a few questions. Smiles, but don't be over-the-top friendly or happy!

BE YOURSELF! It may sound cheesy, but the best friends are the ones who know the real you. Don't start wearing different clothes to make friends, just be yourself and see if they're friends potential. It really IS what's on the inside that counts.

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! Eat healthy, take regular showers/baths, and wash your face. A little hygiene can make all the difference.



Making/Choosing Friends

DON'T GOSSIP! If you say mean things behind a person's back, they **WILL** find out. Don't be a gossip; don't spread gossip.

STAY OUT OF THE "DRAMA"! In the middle school, drama is around every corner. One little something said on IM, text message, or social media can ruin your reputation and destroy friendships. Try and be neutral if two groups of people who you're friends with start fighting. Stay away from people who start drama for the fun of it: you could end up getting hurt!

BE OPEN. To new experiences and new people. Keep your opinion open by being open-minded. Middle school is a great place to make new friends.



Bullying

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power - such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity - to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/what-is-bullying>



Bullying

Types of Bullying

VERBAL Bullying is saying or writing mean things. Verbal bullying includes:

- Teasing
- Name-calling
- Inappropriate sexual comments
- Taunting
- Threatening to cause harm

SOCIAL Bullying, sometimes referred to as relational bullying, involves hurting someone's reputation or relationships. Social bullying includes:

- Leaving someone out on purpose
- Telling other children not to be friends with someone
- Spreading rumors about someone
- Embarrassing someone in public

PHYSICAL bullying involves hurting a person's body or possessions. Physical bullying includes:

- Hitting/kicking/punching
- Spitting
- Tripping/pushing
- Taking or breaking someone's things
- Making mean or rude gestures

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/what-is-bullying>



Bullying

Parents, school staff, and other caring adults have a role in preventing bullying. They can:

- Help kids understand bullying. Talk about what bullying is and how to stand up to it safely. Tell kids bullying is unacceptable. Make sure kids know how to get help.
- Keep the lines of communication open. Check in with kids often. Listen to them. Know their friends, ask about school, and understand their concerns.
- Encourage kids to do what they love. Special activities, interests, and hobbies can boost confidence, help kids make friends, and protect them from bullying behavior.
- Model how to treat others. Show kids how to treat others with kindness and respect.

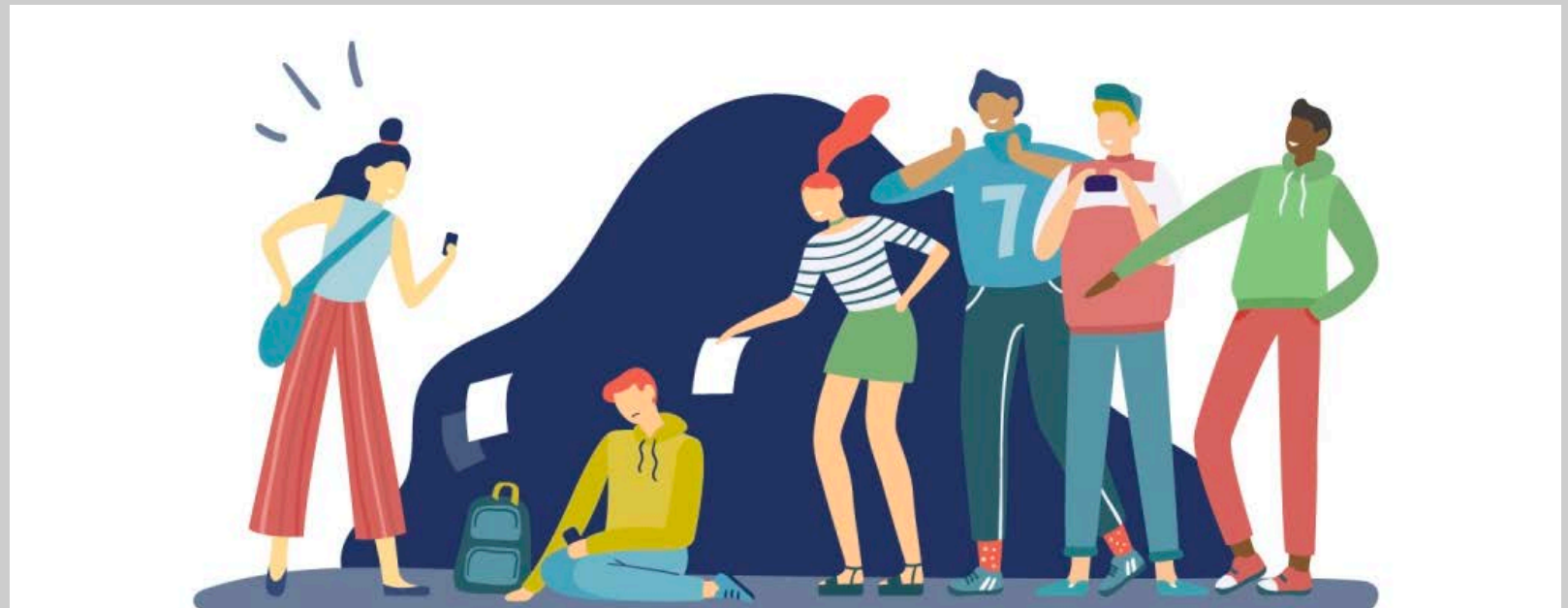
<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>



Bullying

Additional Resources:

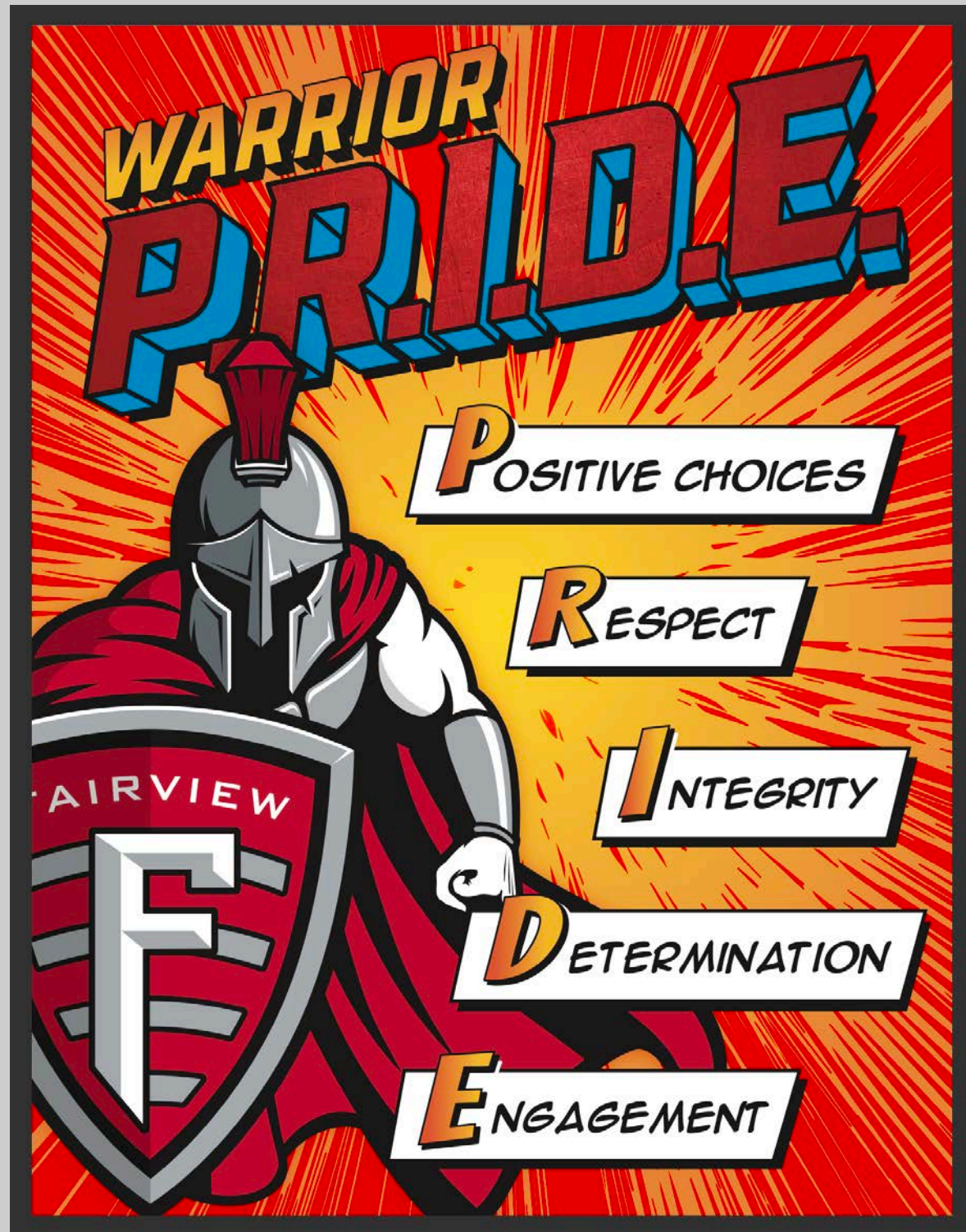
Bullying
Cyberbullying
Prevention
Resources



<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>



PBIS



- Framework put into place to support students and staff that focuses on relationship building, working together & proactively to build/enhance the sense of community in the building.
- Common set of CORE BELIEFS
 - P.R.I.D.E.
- Student recognition will focus on the PRIDE acronym.



The Counseling Office



Your guidance counselor is available to help you in a variety of ways. They believe that relationships are of paramount importance. They use a proactive, collaborative approach to empower students to achieve those unique successes. If you need assistance academically, socially, or need someone to talk to they are a great place to start!



[Link to the FPCS Counseling Webpage](#)

Mayer Middle School Contacts

Campus Principal - Grades 6-12

- Mr. Christopher Vicha - [Email Mr. Vicha](#)

Middle School Associate Principal

- Mrs. Heather Kaminski - [Email Mrs. Kaminski](#)

Counselor - Grades 6-9

- Mrs. Mary Cory - [Email Mrs. Cory](#)

Middle School Secretary

- Ms. Victoria McElroy - [Email Ms. McElroy](#)

Campus Attendance - Grades 6-12

- Ms. Jan Lockwood - [Email Ms. Lockwood](#)



What can you to do help your students **SUCCEED**?

- Assist them in developing GOOD habits.
- Establish a study time and place.
- Encourage your student to attend office hours for extra help!
- Ask them how their day went, good and bad.
- Teach them to ask for help and it is okay to do so!



46 Tips for Parents/Caregivers

- Bring your child to the middle school during August schedule pick up to help them get comfortable in the building and with their locker.
- Attend the 6th grade parent/student orientation in August.
- Encourage your child to participate in clubs/activities.
- Create a consistent supervised study time for your child.
- Encourage your child to ask for help when needed.
- Check in periodically about your child's progress.
- Allow your child to gain a sense of independence and responsibility.
- Encourage you child to advocate for themselves.
- It is important that your child is on time for school. Excessive tardiness may cause them to fall behind.
- Stay in communication with your child's educators through phone or email.
- Finally, DON'T forget that your child is young and there will be bumps in the road. Mistakes will be made, but it's all part of the learning process.



VISIT THE SCHOOL AHEAD OF TIME.

Locate your classrooms. Figure out the best way to get from one classroom to the next. Find the bathrooms, cafeteria, gym, office, nurses office, attendance, guidance, and how to open your locker.

PRACTICE NEW ROUTINES.

Start going to bed and waking up on the school schedule a couple of weeks before school even starts. Determine how you are getting to school and when you need to leave.

**LEARN YOUR SCHEDULE.**

Go over it ahead of time. Figure out a system for remembering which class to go to next and when to visit your locker. Make sure you have a copy of your schedule the first week of school.

GO OVER THE STUDENT HANDBOOK.

Understand the rules and consequences for things like: Internet use, dress code, tardy to school or class, cell phones.