



## **ACADEMIC INFORMATION**

### **PURPOSE**

The pre-adolescent period is a distinct and crucial period of individual development. Our educational program is designed to develop personally responsible and confident adolescents who will be able to identify and cultivate their own unique giftedness which allows for opportunities for self-actualization and service to their greater community by developing these essential life skills:

- Master a set of essential skills, knowledge, and understandings that lead to successful integration into local, national, and global communities.
- Design and utilize research, analyze, and independently solve real world problems.
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and the larger school community.
- Develop positive relationships, honor views of others, and advocate for self and others.
- Explore and then pursue diverse academic, artistic, and technical disciplines.
- Set and achieve clear realistic goals and pursue personal passions.
- Lead a healthy lifestyle based on positive choices.

### **BASIC SKILLS**

Our basic skills program is the foundation of our school curriculum. The basic skills area of the curriculum includes language arts, social studies, mathematics, science, and reading. All students participate in this program. Emphasis is placed on the development of concepts and skills.

**BASIC SKILLS TEACHERS (TEAM TEACHERS) MEET DAILY IN TEAM PLANNING SESSIONS AND CAN USE THIS TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL PARENT AND STUDENT CONFERENCES.**

### **EXPLORATORY & WELLNESS PROGRAMS**

Exploratory activities provide an opportunity for students to investigate a variety of activities in the aesthetic arts, practical arts, and modern languages. The sequence involves experiences in these areas with the eventual opportunity for some student selection of electives. The Wellness program is a combined curricular offering of health, physical education, and fitness.

## **EXPLORATORY ROTATION SCHEDULES**

1 <sup>st</sup> Rotation	August 22 – October 3
2 <sup>nd</sup> Rotation	October 4 – November 15
3 <sup>rd</sup> Rotation	November 16 – January 12
4 <sup>th</sup> Rotation	January 16 – February 28
5 <sup>th</sup> Rotation	March 1 – April 20
6 <sup>th</sup> Rotation	April 23 – May 31

## **CONTACT (ADVISEMENT)**

The Contact concept is an educational program designed to focus on the intellectual, academic, social, emotional, physical, and ethical development of students in the middle grades. The Contact program provides a structured time where special activities are designed and implemented to prepare adolescents to appreciate others, to become more personally responsible, to learn to resolve conflicts peaceably, and to improve communication skills. The program is intended to provide consistent, caring, and continuous adult guidance at school through the organization of a supportive and stable peer group that meets regularly under the guidance of a teacher.

The Contact program helps bridge the gap between the self contained elementary school and the independent world of high school. It offers middle school students the best of both worlds because it provides every student with an advisor or teacher who has a special concern for the student as an individual while providing instruction that encourages independence and personal growth needed by that student to be successful at the high school level.

## **CONTACT-CITIZENSHIP GRADING RUBRIC**

Each component of the grade will be assessed on a scale of 0 to 4, the most favorable being 4 and 0 reflecting a lack of this component.

**RESPECT** - Showing regard for self, others, property, rules and authority.

4                      3                      2                      1                      0

**COOPERATION** - Working together to accomplish a task or goal.

4                      3                      2                      1                      0

**ATTITUDE** - Positive outlook and willingness to participate in classroom activities.

4                      3                      2                      1                      0

A	11 to 12 points
B	8 to 10 points
C	5 to 7 points
D	2 to 4 points
F	0 to 1 point

## **REPORT CARDS, PROGRESS REPORTS, CONFERENCES 2006-2007**

The tentative dates for report cards, progress reports and parent conferences are listed below. However, parents and students are encouraged to contact the teachers to arrange conferences as needed. For the complete middle school calendar, please refer to the end of the handbook.

<b>Wednesday, September 27</b>	<b>Progress Reports Mailed</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 25</b>	<b>Report cards sent home with students</b>
<b>Wednesday, October 25</b>	<b>Parent Conferences 5:00-8:30 p.m. (M-Z)</b>
<b>Thursday, November 2</b>	<b>Parent Conferences 5:00-8:30 p.m. (A-L)</b>
<b>Friday, November 3</b>	<b>Parent Conferences 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Tuesday, November 21</b>	<b>Progress Reports Mailed</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 10</b>	<b>Report Cards Mailed</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 7</b>	<b>Parent Conferences (A-L) 5:00-8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Thursday, February 15</b>	<b>Parent Conferences (M-Z) 5:00-8:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday, March 16</b>	<b>Report Cards Mailed</b>
<b>Friday, April 27</b>	<b>Progress Reports Mailed</b>
<b>Friday, June 8</b>	<b>Report Cards Mailed</b>

Academic grades will be given in all subjects. The grading scale in grade book program will round grades up at .5 (i.e. 89.5 = A-) and be computed as follows:

A = 93-100  
A- = 90-92  
B+ = 88-89  
B = 83-87  
B- = 80-82  
C+ = 78-79  
C = 73-77  
C- = 70-72  
D+ = 68-69  
D = 63-67  
D- = 60-62  
F = 59 and below