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Middle School FAQ's

Middle School Families:

We are looking forward to next school year and providing your children with the best educational experience. Below you will find a list of frequently asked questions regarding our new middle school...

When will the new building be completed and when will the public have access to it?
During the middle transition meeting in early February I indicated that at that time our general contractor was holding fast on a completion date in August sometime. Of course this would be cutting our timeline very close for a smooth opening of the new facility. I am pleased to report that those projections are now into July and with continued good weather we could very well have occupancy as early as June. This is very good news for our transition and will allow us flexibility in the timeline so that all will be set when we open in September.

What grades next year are considered middle school?
The Middle School wing of the new school will house our 6th and 7th grade students in the coming school year. In 2017-18 the Middle School will be made up of 6th – 8th grade students.

Is the new dress code just for middle school or all students that attend that building?
The new dress code is meant just for the older students who are attending middle school. The rationale for this decision is explained in the next question.

What is the purpose of the new dress code policy for middle school?
As we have made our preparations for our new middle school, we paid very close attention to the responses we received in our surveys. We also took cues from our history and looked at reasons why our earlier middle school platform was unsuccessful. An overriding revelation is that parents and especially students want the middle school to have a different and unique atmosphere so that it has a different "feel" compared to the elementary school experience. During our research, we visited other successful Public School Academies and we took note that schools that have elementary, middle school, and high school used different dress code policies to establish the unique identity of these populations. When we talked with students at these schools they told us that it was an important distinction that made them feel special as they advanced in their school years. We were so impressed by this that we brought the ideas directly to our students and they were instrumental in selecting the new colors and choices for the new middle school uniform.

Will there be sports at the new middle school?

This too was discussed at the transition night and information is available on the front page of our website. The easy answer is YES. We now have the facilities to offer after school sports. The biggest question will be how much help and volunteerism can we count on for such things as coaching, refereeing, fund raising, and financial support. I indicated that we would have restrictions on the general budget to support sporting programs as those funds need to be dedicated to the educational platform. I have stated that it is highly likely that there will be fees to participate in after school sports programs. In part, this will provide additional revenues so that needed equipment can be purchased and that some additional staffing can be planned for, but it will nowhere near cover all the additional costs that will be incurred. I cannot stress enough that the amount of sporting activities offered at the school will be dependent on the amount of volunteers that we can secure to help our students.

How many classes for each grade?

The decisions we are making for our Middle School have been researched and we have been listening to all of our stakeholders when making them. Our families want a small safe environment for their children, but they still want all the amenities that they expect from a middle school in Macomb County. This is why we are moving forward with our current grade level population sizes in mind. In other words, we will have enough classrooms to accommodate the amount of 5th and 6th grade students that are currently enrolled. Therefore, we will have three 6th grade classes and two 7th grade classrooms in the new middle school. It is our intent to have the vast majority of our student in our middle school be re-enrolled students, we firmly believe that the high expectations that we have established for our students will be best carried on by students who are familiar with the way Huron Academy operates. This will insure the safe and orderly environment that you have come to expect from us.

Will the middle school offer accelerated classes for advanced students?

As we have already established special programs for our advanced students in the 5th and 6th grade, we will continue to do this for our best and brightest students. As we move forward we will developing special opportunities for our most advanced students so that they will be positioned to enter into high school situations where accelerated coursework is offered. We will continue to explore this in the early years of our middle school development so that our students will be more than ready to enter any county high school.

Who will be the principals in the new building?

Mrs. Lenz will be primarily stationed at the new building and Mrs. Bremerkamp will mainly be at the K-2 building. Mr. Talbot will be splitting his time between both buildings.

What grade levels will be housed at the new building?

The new building will house grades 3-7 next school year.

Will students have different teachers for different subjects in middle school?

The students will have different teachers for different subjects.

What are the class sizes going to be for middle school?

At Huron Academy we have always established a target of 25 students to a class from 2nd grade on. We will be making that the established ratio for our new middle school. If the student population in a classroom rises above that we will include other professionals so that the ratio of students to adults is always at or below that threshold.

What are the color choices for the school uniform?

The students will be wearing black pants / skirts. They will have the choice of purple, red, or royal blue uniform shirts with the Huron Academy logo. We will also offer our middle school students the opportunity to purchase black fleeces to wear in school. These uniform shirts will be offered for purchase by the school. The costs will range from \$15-\$30 for the uniform shirts and fleeces.

What is Advisory?

The goal of "Advisory" will be to establish connections between educators and students while being a support system for a group of students. The students will be assigned by the Huron Academy staff to an "Advisory Teacher". This teacher will meet with their group at least once a day.

Will there be a library?

Yes, we will have a Media Center at the new school.

Will there be before and after school care?

Yes, we will provide before and aftercare for our families. However, the middle school aftercare will look different and may be run something along the lines of a study hall.

Will there be bus transportation between the two schools?

This really is the \$10,000 question and we mean that in a very figurative way. It is our intention to offer bus transportation between the two buildings in the morning and afternoon but it is not in the general education budget to pay for this luxury. In the coming weeks we will be placing a survey in the email boxes of re-enrolling students to see if there is enough interest to develop this program. It will have to be paid for by families that want the service and are willing to make a one-time payment so that it can be provided. Please look for that survey if you have interest in this service.

Will the school hours stay the same?

We plan to have the existing building school hours to remain the same (8:15-3:30) and the new building will begin at 8:45 and end at 4:00.

How many semesters in a school year?

We will be reporting on a quarterly basis.

Will our middle students have lockers?
Yes, we will have lockers in the middle school.

Will you be having an orientation day? When?
Yes, we plan to have an orientation day in August. The actual date depends on when the school building will be finished.

Will Special Education services be provided in the new bldg?
We will have Special Education services in both buildings.

Will there be opportunities for student leadership?
We will continue to provide all of our students with opportunities for student leadership, such as student council or student government.

Best Regards,

The Administration