

Middle School

Questions and Answers

What is the difference between Middle and Elementary School?

What to expect:

- Familiar faces
- New faces
- New routines that are quick to learn
- More independence
- More responsibility
- School like you know it - will soon become your new normal!
- Choices - make good ones!

Teams

What is a team?

A team usually is made up of 4 Core Classes - Math, Language Arts, Science and Social Studies and all the students who are in all of those classes.

Most schools have multiple teams per grade.

How do you know what team you are on?

You will find out your team when you go to an Open House or Meet the Teacher Event, usually this happens in the summer. You may also find out closer to when school begins in Powerschools.

About how many kids are in a class?

There are typically about 30 students in a Core Class.

What materials do you bring to your classes?

Your teachers will share a schedule of when you go to your locker. You need to be prepared for class without going to your locker during instruction.

Schedule

What is a typical schedule? Samples:

6th Grade		6th Grade	
8:12 - Announcements	8:15 to 9:05 Core-1st Period (60 minutes)	1st Period 8:15-9:05 (50)	HL/Elective
3	3	4	4
9:18 to 10:18 Core-2nd Period (60 minutes)	9:09-9:59 (50)	2nd Period 9:09-9:59 (50)	HL/Elective
3	4	4	4
10:21 to 11:21 Core-3rd Period (60 minutes)	10:03-10:30 (27)	3rd Period 10:03-10:30 (27)	RIDGE Time
3	4	4	4
11:21 to 11:41 & 11:51 to 12:11 Lunch/Leopard Time 4th Period	10:34-11:24 (50)	4th Period 10:34-11:24 (50)	Core #1
3	4	4	4
12:14 to 1:14 Core -5th Period (60 minutes)	11:28-12:18 (50)	5th Period 11:28-12:18 (50)	Core #2
5	4	4	4
1:19 to 2:08 Elec & H/PE 6th Period (49 minutes)	12:22-1:12 (50)	6th Period 12:22-1:12 (50)	Lunch Warrior Time
3	4	4	4
2:11 to 3:00 Elec & H/PE-7th Period (49 minutes)	1:16-2:06 (50)	7th Period 1:16-2:06 (50)	Core #3
3	4	4	4
	2:10-3:00 (50)	8th Period 2:10-3:00 (50)	Core #4

1 st	7:35 - 8:22
HR	8:25 - 8:30
2 nd	8:33 - 9:20
3 rd	9:23 - 10:10
4 th	10:13 - 11:00
5 th	11:03 - 11:50
6 th	11:53 - 12:40
7 th	12:43 - 1:30
8 th	1:34 - 2:20

How long is a middle school day?

Some Start and Stop times:

MPM, Davis Drive & ARM - 8:15 - 3:00

West Cary - 7:30 - 2:15

Carnage - 7:35 - 2:20

How will I know my schedule?

This is different school to school. Some ways your schedule is shared with you are:

- Powerschools
- Given a copy on the first day of school
- Given a copy at an Open House/Meet the Teacher event.

Semesters vs Quarters

A school year is broken into two semesters.

Semester 1 -includes Quarters 1 & 2

Semester 2 - includes Quarters 3 & 4

Why is the year broken up like this?

1. Some classes are semester long and others are quarter long - it helps with scheduling.
2. Grading is also based on quarters and semesters - gives a start and stop point to assist with determining grades throughout the year.

Switching Classes

How long do we have to switch classes?

Most schools allow between 3 - 5 minutes to change classes.

This includes going to your locker, getting water, going to the bathroom and catching up with your friends!

You get good at this with practice, it gets easier and the teachers are there to help!

What does going to class alone look like?

You won't be alone - each time when you are moving to another class, there will be teammates going with you. The only difference is a whole class of 30 won't be moving to the same place. You will use your schedule to know where you go!

What is the difference between Core Classes and Electives?

Core Classes

- Math
- Language Arts
- Science
- Social Studies

Elective Examples

- Band
- Keyboarding
- Project Revive
- Dance

Grading

From Wake County Packin' Up Guide: "Students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F on their report cards. They may also be assigned a grade of "I" for "Incomplete" if, because of an emergency, they do not complete work by the end of the grading period." You will determine your grade by finding the average of the assignments you complete. Each assignment has different weights, for example, tests count more than a daily check in.

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Below 60

Powerschools

- All Wake County Schools use a tool known as Home Base or referred to as Powerschools Parent Portal.
- This gives parents and students access to attendance, grades, and assignments.
- It helps with everyone stays connected, Students stay on top of assignments, parents can see progress, and teachers can share information from their grade book with parents and students.
- Parents can link multiple children to their sign in with one login.
- To get Powerschools access, parents are required to complete an application available online or through their student's school or website. Email myself or Cindi Warren (Mills Park Elementary Data Manager) for help: cwarren2@wcpss.net
- Visit the link below for additional information: [Powerschools](#)

**Information from this slide comes directly from WCPSS.net

Technology - different schools have specific policies that follow Wake County's technology policy.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

Mills Park Middle School is a BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) school. We believe that BYOD should be used to support learning and enhance instruction. With parent permission, students are allowed to utilize their own electronic devices under the approved supervision of staff members for educational purposes. Policies and procedures will be outlined to parents and students at the beginning of the school year.

BYOD EXPECTATIONS

- Students will need to have permission form to bring a device to school
- Suitable devices include a laptop, Chromebook, tablet or iPad (not a cellphone)
- Students and guardians are required to sign the BYOD contract
- Students are prohibited from using other student's devices
- Devices will be used for instructional purposes only
- Devices will not be used during transition times or other non-instructional times
- Devices are not permitted in the bathrooms or locker rooms
- Devices are expected to be charged at home
- Students' devices are required to be connected to the WCPSS BYOD Wifi network while at school
- School staff reserves the right to change procedures and storage of devices as needed

CELL PHONE POLICY

Cell phones are allowed on campus but we ask that they are properly stored in a backpack, locker or out of sight. Students are asked to use a laptop, Chromebook, iPad or tablet, not a cellphone, to follow our BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy in the classroom for instructional purposes. We remain committed to providing digital learning experiences and giving our students a break from social media. We ask for our parent's support in this endeavor to ensure that Mills Park Middle School is a place to focus on learning and building authentic relationships.

Students have permission to use the telephone in our Student Services office when needed.

Salem is proud to be a BYOD school. This means that all phones and other personal devices may be used when teachers incorporate this technology into their lesson plans. At all other times during the school day, including lunch and in between classes, cell phones must be off and out of sight.

You do not **NEED** a phone.

At WCMS, Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) is available to students to support learning, enhance instruction, and provide the best possible outcome for student success. Students are given the opportunity to bring their own electronic device to school to assist them with their academic success. Students are not required to bring devices to school and will be provided opportunities to work with school-owned technology if they do not have a personal device available. These devices will be used at the discretion of individual teachers, specialists, and administrators to enhance lessons and learning. Therefore, please remember electronics, particularly cell phones, can be stolen easily. Students need to take special care to secure these items. Please note that WCMS is NOT responsible for those items being lost, stolen, or damaged, however, any instance of theft should be reported. Students must have a signed BYOD form on file, to use their device during instructional time.

Link to other BYOD policies: [Davis Drive Middle](#)

Homework

In middle school, students have homework to complete every night, presentations to give in class, and big group projects to turn in. It is the foundation for future tests. You will be held accountable for correctly completing homework.

- Find a homework buddy on their team to ask about assignments and missed work when they are absent.
- Several middle school teachers have websites you can access for assignment information.

*Information has been taken from the “Packin’ Up guide.

Core and Elective Courses HW Tips:

- Both types of classes will have homework.
- The amount of the homework depends on the course and teacher.
- It is important you use your time wisely, find spots in your day to fit in homework with your other activities.
- Always ask for help when you need it.
- Sports and outside activities are not an excuse to not do your homework.
- Get help with time management if you are finding it difficult to fit in your homework.
- Some schools have time during your lunch block to work on homework and ask ?’s.

Dress Code - Wake County's Policy:

To help keep our students focused on learning without distractions, we expect each one to dress appropriately. Our [Student Dress Code](#) prohibits disruptive, provocative, revealing, profane, vulgar, offensive, obscene or unsafe clothing or bodily appearances. Here are some examples. Don't wear:

- exposed undergarments
- see-through or excessively short, tight or revealing clothes
- bare midriff shirts
- clothing with lewd, indecent or vulgar messages or illustrations
- clothing that advertises products or services illegal to minors
- head coverings
 - Head coverings are allowed if they are an expression of a sincerely held religious belief (e.g., hijabs or yarmulkes) or cultural expression (e.g., geles) or to reasonably accommodate medical or disability-related issues (e.g., protective helmets).
- chains, spikes or other accessories that could be perceived as or used as a weapon
- clothing that violates the school system's policies against gang and gang-related activities

Principals may use their discretion in implementing the dress code, including making reasonable accommodations on the basis of your student's religious beliefs or medical conditions. The [Wake Young Men's](#) and [Young Women's](#) Leadership Academies have specific uniform policies.

For more information, see [Board Policy 4309-G.1-5: Code of Student Conduct](#).

PE and Health

Non Magnet Schools will have PE or Health Daily. Magnet Schools include PE into their elective choices.

Most Schools have a rotation schedule where you go to PE for a specified number of weeks then rotate to health.

Schools will have a PE “uniform” they will share with you the first week of school. This may be a specific color of shorts or t-shirt and footwear. You do not take a shower at school when you participate in PE.

Notes are generally required by doctors when you cannot participate due to an injury or illness after 2 days of not participating.

Girls and boys are assigned to locker rooms. Most schools have you provide your own combination lock for your gym locker and it does not stay on the locker.

Healthful Living Topics

Health Education

The focus is for students to develop the skills and knowledge needed to maintain a healthy lifestyles.

Topics that are included:

- Mental/Emotional Health
- Personal & Consumer Health
- Interpersonal Health & Relationships
- Heart Health
- Nutrition & Physical Activity
- Alcohol, Tobacco, & Other Drugs
- Character Education
- Environmental Health & Safety

Physical Education -

Students will will focus on improving the following skills: Social Health, Physical Fitness, Team Building, Integrity, Sportsmanship, Cooperation, Leadership

Possible Education Units -

- Flag Football
- Basketball
- Floor Hockey
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Table Tennis
- Badminton
- Bowling
- Cooperative Games
- Team Games

Lockers

Most schools offer a locker to keep your books and materials. You will also use a locker when you are in PE.

*We will practice opening combination locks at our next live meeting and I will post some tips on my website. If you forget your combination, your homeroom teacher should have it for your main locker, or you may have to ask a PE teacher to cut it off if it is on a gym locker.

*Once you can safely go to the store, purchase a combination lock and practice. Don't forget to store the lock with the combination when you aren't using it so you don't forget the combination.

Tips for Maintaining an Organized Locker

1. Keep subject material together.
2. Try to color coordinate subject material.
3. Keep trash out of your locker.
4. Take notebooks and folders home to organize them.
5. File papers where they should be, do not just put them in locker.
6. Keep locker "extra's" to a minimum and only keep what you need.
7. Do not share your locker combination with others.

Transportation

Getting to school and back home is very similar to Elementary School.

- Schools will have procedures in place for you to get to your bus or to carpool.
- Many schools allow you to walk or ride your bike to school.
- Remember to follow the rules, your behavior on school busses is just as important as it is in the school building.

Tips if you walk or ride your bike to school:

1. Before school begins, plan out your path with an adult. Make sure you are using the appropriate crosswalks and you are following traffic laws.
2. Remember, there are many cars and busses going to the same place you are, people are watching what you are doing - be safe and careful.
3. Never be in a rush, this is when accidents can happen.

Lunch

Where you sit in the cafeteria depends on the procedures of the school you go to.

What to expect:

- There will be rules to follow.
- Make sure you use that time to eat your lunch and only not socialize.
- Do your part with cleaning up your area and help out your team with cafeteria jobs.
- You can purchase or bring your lunch.

County School Meal Information

- Here is the [link to School Meals - Wake County](#)
- Your lunch number will be the same. It is also called your Student ID number.
- Your account balance will transfer to 6th grade if you stay in Wake County.

Clubs and Sports

Clubs - Most clubs gather after the school day and are optional. Check out your middle school at the start of the year to see what clubs they offer.

Some club choices MAY be:

- Student Council
- Battle of the Books Club
- Book Club
- Chess Club
- Science Olympiad
- Dance Team and/or the Step Team

Sports - Per Wake County Policy, 6th graders cannot participate in Sports, however there are some clubs that are also sports.

Managers - Most of the coaches in middle school will reserve the role of team manager for an eager 6th grader. Being a manager is a big time commitment and could take away from other activities. If you are interested, see the teacher that coaches the sport early in the school year.

Friendship Questions and Concerns

- Be ready to make new friends while keeping your old ones. Invite new people into your friendship circles to build these new relationships.
- If you experience bullying - stand up and speak out. Please report this to your parents, teachers, counselors and/or principals. They want to know.
- If you see something that upsets you, report it to the closest staff member. (Fight, bullying, aggressive argument)
- If you have friendship troubles - seek out help from the school counselor and your parents.

- Introduce your parents to your new friends and help them get to know them as well.
- The golden rule goes a long way - if you are not liking how someone is being treated, stand up for that person and model how you want to be treated in how you handle the situation.
- If you see someone who looks like they need a friends, introduce yourself and ask them to join you.

Other Questions

Attendance - [Wake County's Attendance Policy](#)

School Counselors - All Wake County Schools have counselors. When you get to Middle School, you will have a specific counselor assigned to you. They will help you just as your elementary school counselor has helped you. Remember to say hello to your counselor and get to know them. They are there to help you.

School Supplies - You will be instructed when to bring these to school. Don't try to bring everything at once.

Field Trips - as long as Wake County approves students going on field trips, most middle school grades go on them.

School Maps - most schools do not have a map, but you will learn your way around quickly. Lots of school staff will be in the halls during transitions to help you get from place to place. Just take a deep breath and ask for directions!

Middle School is an exciting time. You may feel nervous or even scared at times, but give it a few days and you will settle in. Remember, you have support to help you transition!

Resources

Links to Middle School Websites

[Alston Ridge Middle School](#)

[Carnage Middle School](#)

[Davis Drive Middle School](#)

[Mills Park Middle School](#)

**[MPM Welcome Video](#)

[Salem Middle School](#)

[West Cary Middle School](#)

Other Resources:

[Packin' Up - Wake County's Middle School Transition Guide](#)

[Wake County Middle School Program Planning Guide](#)

[Mrs. Stavrakakis' Counselor's Corner - Website](#)

*Most of the information from this presentation was taken directly from the links above.

Still have questions??

Students: Email Mrs. Stavrakakis using your Wake County Student Email address and either request a google meet session with her or ask your questions directly in the email

Parents: Email Mrs. Stavrakakis and let her know if you would prefer an email or phone call back.

*I'm very happy to meet with small groups to talk about Middle School if there are questions.