

# **SOUTH OLDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**6403 West Highway 146**

**Crestwood, KY 40014**

**Phone: (502) 241-0320 Fax: (502) 241-1438**

**Website: [www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms](http://www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms)**

**Email address: [soms@oldham.kyschools.us](mailto:soms@oldham.kyschools.us)**

Austin Hunsaker - Principal  
Chris Rairick - Associate Principal  
Whitney Koeppen - Associate Principal  
Candy Thomas - Literacy Coach

Kelly Baum - Office Manager  
Staci Alvey - Director of Guidance  
Katie Ackert - Guidance Counselor  
Kara Storm - Media Specialist/STC

Austin Hunsaker, SBDM Chairperson  
Gina Babbit, SBDM Parent Representative  
Jeff Spurlock, SBDM Parent Representative  
Michele Holbrook, SBDM Teacher Representative  
Lucas Mattera, SBDM Teacher Representative  
Kelsey Edelin, SBDM Teacher Representative  
TBA, SBDM Minority Parent Representative

Proudly serving Camden Station, Crestwood, and Kenwood Station Elementary schools, SOMS is recognized as one of the highest performing middle schools in the state of Kentucky. Offering a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum, SOMS is a 2006 “Schools to Watch” a re-designated 2009 “Schools to Watch”, a 1999/2000 Kentucky Blue Ribbon School of Excellence, a 1999/2000 National School of Excellence, and a 2012 NCEA•ACT Higher Performing School. In addition, we are accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Kentucky Department of Education.

We are extremely proud of the expertise and experience of our staff. OCS consistently has high percentages of teachers who meet the federal government’s Highly Qualified Teacher requirements and who hold National Board Teacher Certification. We respect parents’ rights to know about the qualification of their children’s teacher and welcome inquiries about teacher credentials. Please contact the Personnel Director at 502.241.3500 for additional information.

Padres y apoderados tienen derecho a conocer las cualificaciones y credenciales de los profesores de nuestras escuelas. Si usted desea mayor información sobre los profesores de su hijo, por favor contacte director de personal. Teléfono 502.241.3500.

The policies and procedures contained in this handbook are the result of a concerted effort on the part of the faculty, administration, and site-council. This information has been carefully prepared and presented to inform you of school expectations while helping you adjust to our school, and encouraging you to become an integral part of SOMS.

**OCBE requires that every student in all schools must present proof of residency each school year to enroll.**  
*(This includes a major utility bill, such as LG&E or water bill. A driver’s license or cable bill is not acceptable.)*

Our primary focus is to ensure our students have a positive and rewarding middle level experience while striving to achieve their highest potential in preparation for high school. We take great pride in our school and the many achievements of our students. We look forward to 2020-21 with great expectations. Please contact us any time we may be of service.

#### DAILY SCHEDULE

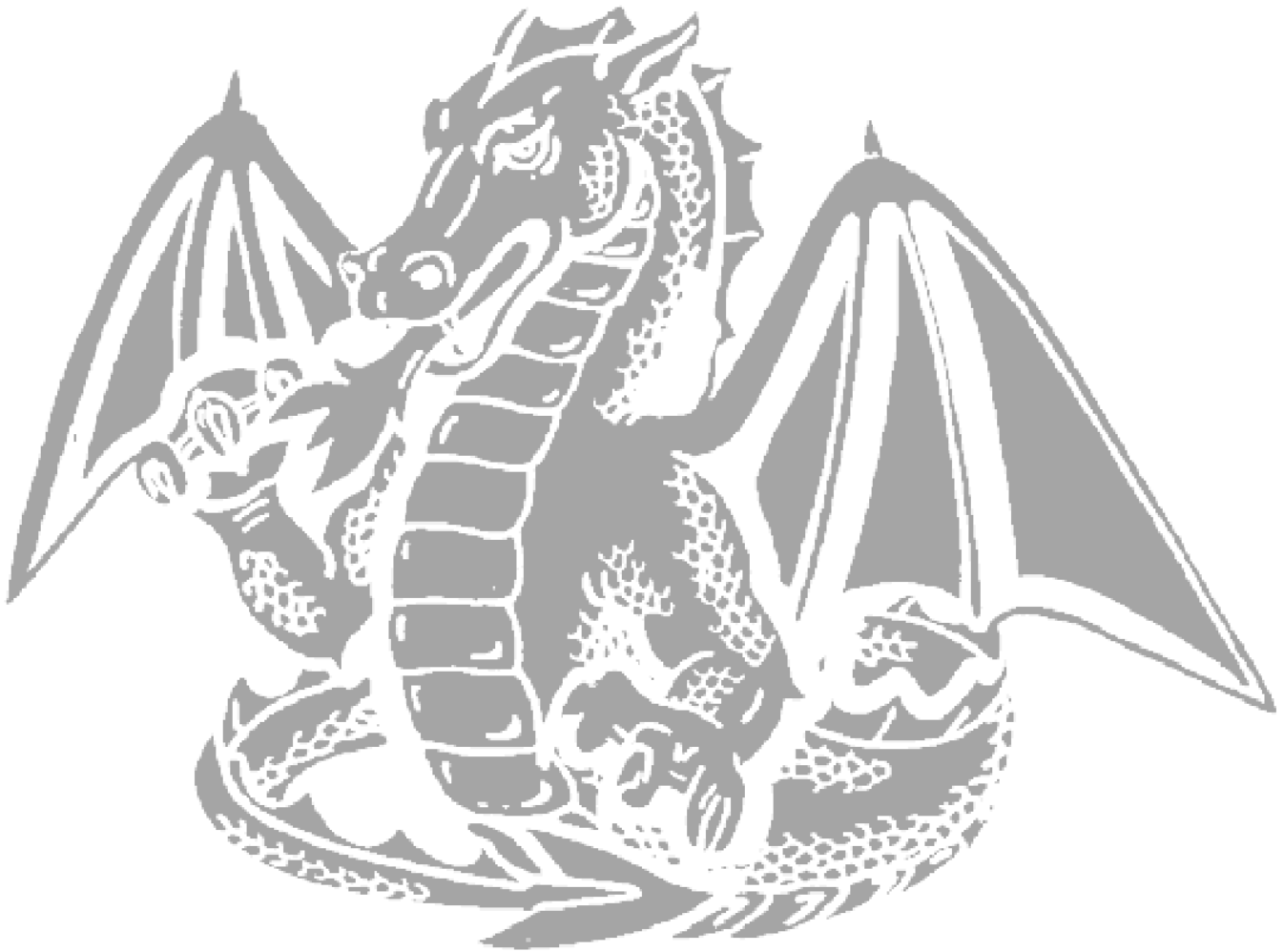
8:15 A.M. Building Opens (*Students Report to first block class*)

8:45 A.M. Tone to Start School

3:41 P.M. Walkers are dismissed

3:42 PM Car Riders are dismissed

3:45 PM Bus riders are dismissed



## ***Our Vision...***

“Our vision is for our students to be safe, responsible and respectful leaders who think critically, accept challenges and embrace diversity.”

---

## ***Our Belief Statement:***

---

As facilitators of our vision for students, we believe that:

- Trust** is fostered when our commitment to our shared values is reflected in our actions
  - A **Positive** attitude creates a ripple effect for our SOMS family
  - Respecting** every individual honors their inherent value and creates a positive learning environment
  - Helping **ALL** students embrace **high expectations** promotes confidence to reach their absolute potential
  - Holding each other **accountable** to support ALL students to reach their full potential is essential to their learning, and OUR success
  - Problem Solving** involves embracing adversity and staying focused on a positive outcome
- 

**EVERY CHILD, EVERY DAY!!!!**

***SECTION 1 - ACADEMICS AND AWARDS***

---

**Grade Scale**

Team grading policies and procedures will be included in team packets. Progress reports are distributed at 6 week intervals throughout the school year. Grades are assigned according to the following grading scale.

<b><u>Academic</u></b>		<b><u>Effort</u></b>
A - Excellent	90-100	A - Excellent
B - Good	80-89	B - Satisfactory
C - Average	70-79	C - Needs Improvement
F - Failure	Below 70	F - Unsatisfactory

In each class, a course syllabus will be given to students/parents outlining the curriculum to be taught, as well as homework and student expectations for successful completion.

**Missed Work Due to Illness**

In the event a child misses 3 or more days of school due to illness, parents have the option of requesting that the student's work be collected from his/her teachers. The work will be collected and kept in the office for the parent to pick up. ***One full day's notice should be given when this request is made.***

**Missed Work Due to Unexcused Absences**

All class work missed during an unexcused absence or suspension may be made up for full credit.

**Textbooks/Instructional Materials**

Students will have access to textbooks and instructional materials. If a student loses, destroys or damages materials, he/she shall be required to account for such loss or damage as a means of fostering respect for public property. It is the student's responsibility to see the bookkeeper to pay any fine(s).

**Physical Education**

All students will be required to have appropriate clothing for physical education. All P.E. outfits must meet school dress code. An approved uniform is one that, in the opinion of the instructor, is suitable to the wide range of physical education activities in which the student will participate during the class. Students are also required to have athletic socks and shoes. Parents, please stress the importance of your child dressing out each day for participation in P.E. Each student is assigned a locker in the gym locker room. These lockers should always be used to store personal belongings during gym class.

School districts are not required to provide medical/accident insurance for injuries while engaged in school activities education. For this reason, it is strongly recommended that all students have adequate and appropriate health insurance coverage or purchase the school insurance for a cost of \$8.00.

**Technology**

Computers, printers and a variety of other technology applications are available for student use. We believe that technology should be used regularly by students to research, analyze and present information. Due to the increased use of printers and age of existing equipment, a technology fee, the cost of which is included in the Student Fees, will be assessed to all students. This money will continue to be spent to help offset the growing expenses in this area.

**Student Recognition**

Our goal is to promote a strong emphasis on students attaining a high academic standard along with good conduct and school attendance. We hope to build self-esteem in our students by recognizing their efforts and hard-earned achievements.

---

***SECTION 2 - ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS***

---

### **Gifted/Talented Students**

South Oldham Middle School staff will differentiate instruction to meet the unique learning needs of those students identified as gifted through the Oldham County Board of Education's formal identification process. Students will work with the SOMS gifted/talented coordinator to write goals for a Gifted Student Services Plan (GSSP). The gifted/talented coordinator will be available to work with gifted/talented students and help teachers plan and implement extension activities. Progress reports will be provided to parents twice each school year. A written description of the middle school gifted/talented program is available from the principal. Parents interested in whether their children may qualify for the opportunities offered by this program should contact the Gifted/Talented Coordinator in the school's office.

### **Community Service Program**

South Oldham is proud to offer some students the opportunity to be a part of the Community Service Program. We have identified a number of helping positions students can fill. Services are conducted during the normal school day (during Arts and Humanities) and are supervised by a staff member. (Examples: Library Assistant, Teacher's Assistant, Office Aide, Classroom Tutor, Student Recycling Program Director, etc.) Contact the office for additional information. A permission letter will be sent home requiring a parent signature before a student can be placed in the Community Service Program. PLVS/AH class requirements can be waived on a case by case basis by the principal/designee to allow students to work in the program.

### **Limited English Proficient Students**

English as a Learned Language (ELL) is offered through the Oldham County Board of Education. For placement and testing requirements please contact the school Guidance Department.

---

## ***SECTION 3 – ATTENDANCE AND TRANSPORTATION***

---

### **Attendance/Tardy Policy**

Students have three (3) days after an absence to turn in either a parent note or a doctor's note to the office requesting the absence be excused. ***After three (3) days, no attendance records will be changed.*** If a student is late to school, he/she must check in with the office and get an admittance slip before being admitted to class.

- **Doctor's Note Only Status:** After a student accumulates a total of eight (8) absences that have not been excused by a physician's note, the school will require a physician's authorization or other credible proof for each subsequent absence.

**Truancy Referrals:** Any child who has been absent from school without valid excuse for three (3) or more days, or tardy on three (3) or more days, is truant. Any child who has been reported as truant two (2) or more times is a habitual truant. Any student who is truant may be referred to the Department of Pupil Personnel (DPP). The DPP shall serve written notice of the violation on the parent/guardian/custodian giving the student one (1) day to terminate the violation. If the violation continues, the DPP may pursue court action against the parent and student to remedy the violation. For purposes of establishing a student's status as truant, the student's attendance record shall be cumulative for an entire school year.

See OCBE Policy 9010-AR to review complete policy.

### **Class Tardies**

Students are expected to be in class on time. Students who do not meet this expectation will receive disciplinary action.

### **Early Dismissals**

***Any time a student is to have an early dismissal, he/she must bring a note to the office before 1<sup>st</sup> block,*** and an administrator will determine whether the dismissal is excused or unexcused. An early dismissal slip will be issued to the student. It is the student's responsibility to show his/her teacher the early dismissal slip. The teacher will then

release the student to report to the office for dismissal. *A parent/guardian must come to the office to sign out the student.*

If an adult other than the custodial parent is to pick up the student, that person must be on the Emergency/Enrollment Form. The school will require identification of any adult who comes to get a student and the school reserves the right to refuse to release to anyone other than the custodial parent.

- For dismissal/arrival information before/after a break or holiday please see OCBE Policy 9010.01-AR.
- Early dismissals will be documented on the student's report card as a tardy. (T- excused/Y- unexcused).

### **After School Transportation**

***Transportation should be pre-arranged. Students who remain for an after-school activity MAY NOT LEAVE THE SCHOOL CAMPUS UNLESS ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT, GUARDIAN OR SPONSOR/COACH.*** Sponsors of after-school activities will supervise groups in designated areas until parents pick up students. Students who repeatedly lack transportation within a reasonable amount of time after an activity has concluded may be dismissed from those activities. Phone calls and faxes are not secure ways of making pick up arrangements for students.

### **Bus Note-Requirements**

1. Your child's first AND last name.
2. The first AND last name *of the child your child is riding home with.*
3. **The destination address.**
4. **The bus number your child will be riding home on.**
5. Note must be received no later than 2:00pm so it may be given to student during announcements.
6. MUST be written or faxed (***no phone calls or emails.***)
7. For your convenience, we have provided a "Bus Assignment Change Form" for you on our website under "Parent Info".
8. **The Transportation Department may, at any time, put a hold on any or all buses for additional riders.**

### **Trip Policy**

If parents plan a family trip necessitating the absence of students from school, they must send written notification to the principal or assistant principal at least five days prior to the trip. After showing the front office the trip note, the student will be asked to have all teachers sign the note, and the note is to be returned to the office by the student. An administrator will then initial the note. School assignments must be made up with the completion date being established by the teacher. School assignments that are not made up will be counted as zeros. Absences due to family trips will be included in the 8 full days of allowable absences per school year before a doctor's note is required (See OCBE Policy 9010-AR).

### **Students Who Walk to School**

Students may walk to and from school only after permission has been indicated on the emergency card, or a letter of authorization from his/her parent has been filed with the office. Walkers are not permitted to leave the building until all buses have departed.

### **Withdrawals**

A student who will be withdrawing from SOMS should inform his/her teachers and the guidance office at least one week prior to withdrawal. On the last day of attendance, the student should pick up a withdrawal form from the guidance office and take that form to each of his/her teachers, the librarian and the cafeteria manager and the athletic director when appropriate. After checking with each individual teacher/area, the form should be returned to the guidance office. School personnel must account for all textbooks/library books/lunch charges before any student is withdrawn.

---

## ***SECTION 4 - COMMUNICATION***

---

### **Agendas**

Each student is required to have an agenda. It is expected that this agenda be taken to each class on a daily basis. The agenda is to be taken home each day to assure that parents are aware of assignments, projects, tests, etc. Any student losing his/her agenda will be required to purchase a replacement for \$5.00.

### **Booster Club**

The Booster Club is made up of parents interested in helping the athletic programs of SOMS. The group organizes funding for all interscholastic sports through corporate donations, club dues and concessions. The Booster Club dues are paid annually. Each interscholastic team will have a booster club representative who will voice concerns during the year. Interested parents should contact the Athletic Director for more information.

### **E-mail and Voice Mail**

South Oldham Middle School staff can be contacted by voice mail and e-mail. The voice mail system can be accessed at any time. During the school day, (8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) call the school office (241-0320) and request voicemail by the staff member's name or extension number. At all other times, call the office and the automated system will direct you to the correct extension. Voicemail extensions and e-mail addresses are available in the school office and on the SOMS website ([www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms](http://www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms)).

### **Parent - Teacher Conferences**

Parents are encouraged to confer with teachers on a continuing basis. Each team of teachers will have a common planning block for conferences. Parents may call during regular school hours to schedule a meeting with any member of the staff. Parent/teacher conferences can be scheduled as needed.

### **PTO**

SOMS is fortunate to have a very active. Parent/Teacher Organization. The PTO is an integral part of the school. During the school year, this group will sponsor student activities and coordinate fundraising efforts. All students, parents and teachers are encouraged to support the PTO.

### **Videotaping/Website Pictures**

Parents will be asked to give permission for the use of their child's photograph, likeness, electronic image and/or voice in any way that would reasonably and properly portray the educational program at SOMS. (See OCBE 4068-F located in the back of the student handbook).

### **Website**

Visitors will find information about the school at [www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms](http://www.oldham.kyschools.us/soms).

---

## ***SECTION 5 - FOOD***

---

### **Cafeteria - (Prices subject to change)**

The SOMS cafeteria offers a wide variety of nourishing foods every day for breakfast and lunch. In addition to the standard and buffet lunches, students may select from a fully equipped soup and salad bar. Many *a la carte* items are offered as well. Student Prices: Breakfast, \$1.20; Lunch, \$2.55; Grill Line, \$2.95; Grab-n-Go Meals, \$2.95. Adult Prices: Breakfast, \$1.75; Lunch, \$3.60; Grill Line, \$4.00; Grab-n-Go Meals, \$4.00. The cafeteria staff will assign students a PIN number to be used when purchasing food items from the cafeteria.

To ensure an orderly and safe atmosphere, the following rules are enforced in the cafeteria:

1. Students *will* sit in assigned rows.
2. Students *will* only go through the serving lines once as they enter with their class.
3. Students *will* remain seated until dismissed.
4. Students *will* clean up after themselves.
5. Students *will* use good table manners.

Parents/family members are always welcome to join the students for lunch. ***Due to health concerns and food allergies, no food purchased or brought in is to be shared among students.*** Please make sure you sign-in and get a visitor's pass from the front office before entering the cafeteria.

The Oldham County School District has partnered with the *My School Bucks School Food Service Software Program* to give parents more direct access to their children's cafeteria accounts. This technology allows you to use the Internet to view your children's eating patterns. To participate in this process, please visit the school district's website at [www.oldham.kyschools.us](http://www.oldham.kyschools.us). Once on the website, under Departments, choose Nutrition Services. This site

will give you a lot of information about Oldham County School Food Services. If you have any questions, please contact SOMS' Lunchroom Manager.

**Oldham County School Nutrition Charge Meal Policy (Relates to Board Policy 7013)**

Charges are designed to cover a situation in which parents or students forget to provide or bring monies for breakfast/lunch. Students who have forgotten or lost money may charge meals in the cafeteria. Under no circumstance may ala carte items be charged. It is the procedure of the cashier to verbally remind the student that their account is low to try to avoid meal charges.

When a student has accumulated up to three (3) charges, the manager or assistant manager will escort the student to the nearest telephone and ask that they call a parent. When the parent is on the line, the student will inform them that they are calling to remind them that their cafeteria account is in arrears and they need to send money the next day. This procedure will continue, daily, until the account debit has been satisfied. If the student has accumulated up to five (5) charges, the manager or assistant manager will submit the student's name to the principal, so they can contact the family and assist with collecting the charges.

If the student has cash to pay for their meal, the cashier may take the change, if any and put it against the charges on the student's account. If all the change is not needed to pay the charges on the account, the cashier will ask the student if they want the balance of the monies to be put on their account or given to them.

**Under no circumstances is the student to be embarrassed in front of his/her peers.**

**Drinks**

ONLY water is allowed outside of the cafeteria (in the hallways, classrooms, etc.). Water is allowed in the classrooms with teacher permission only.

---

***SECTION 6 - GUIDANCE SERVICES***

---

Guidance services are available to each student at South Oldham Middle School. Your counselors are here to help. They work with students who have concerns related to friends, school, family problems, personal feelings, and many others. The guidance office opens at 8:15 a.m. each morning. All students are encouraged to visit the guidance office and meet the counselors *before school*. Students desiring to see a counselor should stop by the guidance office and schedule an appointment.

---

***SECTION 7 - MEDIA CENTER***

---

South Oldham Middle School Media Center houses over 17,500 books that are catalogued, inventoried and circulated using the Cataloging and Circulation Plus automated system from Follett Software. Operating hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00a.m. - 4:00p.m. **(Times subject to change.)**

Students may check out up to four (4) items at a time and renew them as needed, but only one movie and/or magazine can be checked out at a time. Items not returned by the due date are considered overdue. No further items may be checked out until overdue items are returned. Students will be responsible for paying for items that are lost, stolen or damaged while checked out under their name.

The following is the circulation policy for various library materials:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Check-Out Period</u>
Books	2 Weeks
Magazines	2 Days
DVD's	2 Days



Students must have a signed parent permission form on file to check out materials from the Young Adult collection. This form may be obtained in the Media Center at any time. The Young Adult collection contains movies with a PG-13 rating, as well as books that are written for more mature readers. Parents are encouraged to come in and peruse our materials so as to be familiar with what their children are checking out.

---

## ***SECTION 8 - MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS SECTION***

---

### **PHYSICAL EXAM REQUIREMENTS**

A Kentucky Preventative Health Care Examination Form is required for all students entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade. This exam may be completed up to one (1) year prior to entry into 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Athletic Physicals:** A separate sports/athletic physical completed on a KHSAA form is required annually to participate in strenuous sports at the middle or high school level. The KHSAA sports physical DOES NOT replace the required Kentucky Preventative Health Care Exam required for sixth grade entry.

In order for your student to complete enrollment into middle school, the KY Immunization Certificate and KY Preventative Health Care Exam Form must be on file at your child's school prior to the first day of attendance. Parents are urged to maintain copies of all medical documents.

Physical forms can be accessed at [www.oldham.kyschools.us](http://www.oldham.kyschools.us). (Click on the parent link and choose frequently used forms.) Questions may be directed to the Director of School Health Services at 241-3500 ext. 228.

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Mandatory Health Requirements**

**Below are the MANDATORY health related requirements that must be met prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of sixth grade entry (age eleven (11) or twelve (12) years or older) according to state law KRS 214.034. In order to attend Kentucky Public Schools, each student must have a current Kentucky immunization certificate on file in the school office at all times. Students not adhering to this policy will not be allowed in school.**

1. One (1) dose of Tdap if it has been at least two (2) years since the administration of the last dose of tetanus-containing vaccine;
2. Two (2) doses of varicella, unless a healthcare provider states that the child has had a diagnosis of typical varicella disease or verification of a history of varicella disease by a healthcare provider or a diagnosis of herpes zoster disease or verification of a history of herpes zoster disease by a healthcare provider;
3. One (1) dose of MCV or MPSV (meningococcal vaccine).
4. **Effective July 1, 2018:** ALL students in preschool through twelfth grade must show proof of having received two doses of Hepatitis A vaccine given six months apart to attend school. If both doses cannot be administered before the start of the 2018 school year, at least one dose must be administered and a provisional immunization certificate, provided by your healthcare provider, can be presented to school that will be valid until the second dose is due.

Your physician should issue a new, complete Kentucky Immunization Certificate (updated version) with all vaccines recorded. If your child will not be 11 years of age before 6<sup>th</sup> grade entry and vaccine cannot be given until such time, please bring proof of physician appointment to registration.

### **Out-of-State Transfer Health Requirements (refer to OCBE 9005-AR – Admissions requirements)**

The following documents are required to be on file at the time of enrollment. **New students will not be enrolled at South Oldham Middle School without these proper documents:**

1. Certified birth certificate
2. Kentucky immunization certificate
3. Child's social security card (copy will be filed)
4. Custody/Guardian papers (if applicable)

Out-of-state transfer students have **30 days** to complete the requirements for the Kentucky School Physical Examination.

### **Policy on Medication**

If a student is required to take medication (prescription and/or non-prescription) during school hours, the following procedures are to be followed. ***Medication is primarily the responsibility of the parent/guardian/custodian, and should be administered before/after school if at all possible.***

#### **1. Prescription Medication:**

- a. All prescription medication **must be brought into the school office by parent/guardian/custodian** in the most current, original pharmacy-labeled container. This must include the student's name, name of drug, dosage, route of administration, specific time of administration, and expiration date. School personnel **cannot** divide or cut pills in half. Please provide adequate quantity of medication needed for daily school administration for the duration of the current prescription.
- b. School personnel will administer prescription medication provided there is a signed ***Authorization to Give Medication (9020.01-AR)*** on file. This form, which is available in the office, must be current and must coincide with the current prescription medication you are requesting school personnel to administer.
- c. "Controlled Substance" or "Schedule II" medication (i.e. Ritalin, Adderall) will be counted upon receipt by school personnel. Your signature will be required to verify that we have received the documented amount of medication.
- d. Narcotics will not be accepted at the school or administered by any OCBE staff at any time.

#### **2. Non-Prescription Medication:**

- a. Non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication (i.e. Tylenol) **must be brought into the school office by parent/guardian/custodian** in a small, unopened, original manufacturer's container and can only be administered according to manufacturer's dosing instructions. ***An "Authorization to Give Medication" 9020.01-F signed by parent is required.*** Upon student request of an OTC medication, school staff will notify parent/guardian to receive verbal permission to administer med based on the current student complaint. If the parent/guardian cannot be reached, school staff will not administer the OTC medication. This is to protect the student from an overdose of medication or change in student's medical history.
- b. Any student failing to abide by rules regarding drugs may be subject to discipline according to the Oldham County Schools Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline (OCBE Policy 9068-AR).
3. Parent/guardian/custodian must pick up unused medications by the end of the school year. ***All medication will be discarded by 12 noon the day proceeding student's last day of school if not picked up.***
4. To protect the safety of your child, we must have your adherence to these policies.

### **School Insurance**

Accident coverage is available for a school day or 24-hour basis. All students participating in any extra-curricular activity or field trip must have health insurance and MAY purchase school insurance as primary or secondary insurance. Whenever a student has other health insurance of any kind, such insurance is the primary insurance.

### **Health Room**

The prevailing belief is that if a student is too ill to remain in class, he/she should not be at school. Consequently, when a student reports that he/she is ill, parents will be contacted to provide transportation. Except in an emergency, students are not admitted to the health room without a pass from a teacher. In the event a student must leave school due to illness or injury, school officials will contact parents. Students are to report to the office for admittance to the health room.

---

## ***SECTION 9 - SCHOOL-WIDE POLICIES OR REQUIREMENTS***

---

### **Residency Requirements**

**OCBE requires that every student in all schools must have proof of residency to enroll.**

*This includes a purchase agreement, lease agreement, or a major utility bill (LG&E or water bill) for new residents. Returning students must submit a major utility bill (LG&E or water bill). A driver's license or cable bill is not acceptable.*

### **Hall Passes**

Students are not permitted in the halls during class periods unless they are with a teacher or have the appropriate **hall pass** from an authorized staff member.

### **Disaster/Safety Drills**

There are specified procedures in the Safe Schools Manual for a variety of emergencies. In order to prepare students how to respond during an emergency, safety drills are routinely conducted. Exit procedures and safe areas are posted in each classroom. All teachers review this information with their students.

### **Discipline**

The primary prerequisite for a successful school is that an orderly atmosphere for learning prevails. When disciplinary action is necessary, it will be firm, fair, and immediate, and in accordance with site-council policy and the OCBE Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline contained in this handbook.

### **Cheating/Plagiarism**

It is our expectation that each student at SOMS is responsible for completing his or her own work. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students who violate this policy will be subject to consequences that will be determined by school staff. Consequences can vary according to the seriousness of the offense.

### **Homework Policy**

There is no school-wide policy on homework. However, each team sets their own guidelines regarding homework. Please see individual team expectations for homework policy.

### **Standards of Dress**

The following Standards of Dress have been developed to enhance a conducive learning environment that is free from distraction yet at the same time sensitive to the styles of the time. The guidelines listed below have been established in order to promote student safety and guidance in the choice of dress by our students:

- Any type of clothing or accessory that is deemed unsafe, disrupts the learning environment, advertises or advocates alcohol, smoking, drugs, gangs, profanity, weapons, or violence may not be worn to school at any time.
- All garments should have sleeves.
- Clothing should not expose areas of stomach, side, shoulders, chest, or back.
- Dresses, skirts and shorts must be of an appropriate length. Appropriate length is defined as being the length of arms down to fingertips, when fully extended to the sides of the leg. In other words, when asked to place your hands to your side, the fingers should touch material, not skin.
- Students choosing to wear spandex, yoga pants, leggings or other tight fitting pants must wear a garment that provides sufficient coverage. An administrator will determine if the garment provides sufficient coverage.
- Jeans with holes may not have holes above the fingertips.
- Hats are to be removed when inside the school.
- If you wear a hooded sweatshirt to school, you must remove the hood while indoors.
- Bandanas are not appropriate and may not be worn.
- Clothing that has appearance of pajamas, in the opinion of the administration, may not be worn at school.
- House shoes/slippers, shoes with recessed rollers or shoes that present a safety hazard may not be worn at school.

*SOMS reserves the right to modify the dress code to meet the special needs of students for religious, cultural or approved medical reasons.*

Students in violation of the SOMS Standards of Dress will be counseled and offered garments deemed appropriate. If appropriate garments are not available, the parent or guardian will be notified to bring a change of clothing.

### **Electronic Devices/Cell Phones**

Students are allowed to bring electronic devices to school, but are required to keep them turned off from 8:35-3:45. Electronic devices are permissible for educational purposes when such use is authorized by the teacher. If a student is using their cell phone for a non-instructional purpose the following steps will be taken:

**1st offense:** Warning. **2nd Offense:** Parent Contact. **3rd Offense:** Phone will be kept in office and parent must pick up.

### **Lockers/Backpacks**

Every student will be provided a locker for individual use. Lockers are the property of the school and are subject to

OCBE regulations, supervision and inspection (refer to OCBE Policy 9045). Students are responsible for proper care of their lockers and will be assessed for any damage that occurs. Backpacks and coats/jackets are to be placed in the student's locker, which is approximately 30" H x 11" W x 11" D, **and are not permitted in the classroom.** STUDENTS ARE NOT TO SHARE LOCKERS OR GIVE THEIR COMBINATION TO ANYONE.

### **Policy on Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletic Participation**

The Site-Based Council has adopted a policy on extra-curricular participation that is distributed to all students when they try-out for any of our sport teams. This policy also applies to all non-interscholastic athletic teams, clubs and activities. Please contact the office for a copy of the policy ( Policy 7004 – Policy on Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletic Participation).

### **Solicitation**

Students are not to engage in any type of buying or selling of articles on school property unless it is part of a school sanctioned fund-raising event.

### **Tobacco Products/Vapes**

**The possession and/or use of tobacco products, including electronic cigarettes, are prohibited. Also prohibited is the possession and/or use of vapes. Any student found to be in violation of this regulation may be disciplined according to the Code of Acceptable Behavior and Discipline (see OCBE Policy 9068).**

### **Visitors/Volunteers to SOMS**

Except in cases of actual emergency, students are not permitted visitors. However, parents are always welcome.

- ❖ All visitors/volunteers must first report to the office.
- ❖ All visitors/volunteers must sign-in at the office.
- ❖ All visitors/volunteers must obtain and wear a badge from the front office.
- ❖ All visitors/volunteers must checkout in the office before leaving the building.
- ❖ All volunteers must have a completed criminal background check on file at the school.

### **Severe Weather and School Closings**

In the case of severe weather - snow, ice, low temperatures, etc. - the official announcement for school closing or delay may be heard over WHAS radio (840 AM) at 6:30 a.m. An Infinite Campus Messenger notification call is placed to all homes from the OCBE. We ask that you listen to the radio and wait for the notification call; **PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL OFFICE or the CENTRAL OFFICE.**

### **Gum**

Chewing gum is not allowed at SOMS. Each Grade level team will implement a system to manage students that routinely violate this expectation.

### **Detention**

For certain behavior incidents, students will receive detention. Detention will be scheduled on select dates and could be before or after school. For appropriate infractions, see the Discipline Consequence Matrix attached in this handbook.

### **AIM (Alternative Instructional Method)**

For students that are increasingly disruptive to the educational environment and impacting the learning of other students, they will be placed in AIM. While in AIM, students will complete their assignments and any other work from teachers.

### **BULLYING/HARASSMENT**

Bullying and harassment are taken very seriously at SOMS. Along with following district and state guidelines, SOMS could enforce the following disciplinary steps for each incident involving the same student.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Warning/Conference/Parent Contact

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Disciplinary/Detention/Lunch Detention/Restrictions (hall, dance, after school activity, team activity)/Parent Contact
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Disciplinary/Detention/Restrictions (see above)/Parent Conference/In-School Suspension/OCATS/Out-of-school Suspension/Mental Health Consultant Contact/School Resource Officer (SRO) Contact
- 4<sup>th</sup> Disciplinary/In-School Suspension/OCATS/Out-of-school Suspension/ Mental Health Consultant Contact /School Resource Officer (SRO) Contact

These dispositions will be dependent upon the severity of each incident, the time frame of each incident and circumstances surrounding each situation.

**Infraction and Consequence Code**

Discipline at South Oldham Middle School is based on the right of every student to receive the best education his/her abilities permit and set in accordance with Oldham County Board of Education Policy for Behavior Violations and Consequences (Policy 9068). Any action by the student which deprives others of that right will be grounds for disciplinary action.

INFRACTION	CONSEQUENCES								
	Warning / Parent Contact	Lunch Detention	After-school Detention	AIM 1 Class Period	AIM - All Day	OCATS	Short-term suspension (1-3 days)	Long-term Suspension (4-10) days	Referral to Alternative Program
Arson							•	•	•
Assault on Staff / Student							•	•	•
Cheating			•	•	•				
Dress Code Violation (including Hats/ Hoods / Bandannas)	•	•	•	•	•				
Drug / Alcohol Violation							•	•	•
Disrespect to Staff / Students				•	•	•	•	•	
Disruption of Class				•	•	•	•	•	
Disruption outside of Class				•	•	•	•	•	
Disruption of School Event				•	•	•	•	•	
False Bomb Threat							•	•	•
False Fire Alarm							•	•	•
Failure to Attend Detention					•	•			
Fighting					•	•	•	•	•
Harassment - Bullying	1st offense	•	2nd offense	•	3rd offense	3rdoffense	•	•	•
Harassment - Sexual					•	•	•	•	•

Harassment - Stalking or Harassing communication								•	•	•
Inappropriate Display of Affection				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Incendiary Devices						•	•	•	•	•
Indecent Exposure								•	•	•
Insubordination				•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Leaving School w/o Permission						•	•	•		
Out of Class w/o Signed Hall-pass		•	•	•	•					
Profanity / Vulgarity to student				•	•	•	•			
Profanity/Vulgarity to staff				•	•	•	•			
Robbery, Extortion							•	•	•	•
	CONSEQUENCES									
INFRACTION	Warning / Parent Contact	Lunch Detention	After-school Detention	AIM 1 Class Period	AIM - All Day	OCATS In-school suspension	Short-term suspension (1-3 days)	Long-term Suspension (4-10) days	Referral to Alternative Program	
Sexual Assault - unwanted touching sexual manner							•	•	•	
Skipping Class			•	•	•	•	•			
Tardy to class		•	•	•	•	•				
Technology Misuse				•	•	•	•			
Tobacco Use / Possession						•	•	•		
Trespassing						•	•	•	•	
Vandalism			•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Weapon Possession							•	•	•	
Vape/Jule Usage and Possession							•	•	•	•
Racially Insensitive Language						•	•	•	•	•

## **Explanation of Disciplinary Infractions**

(Consequences listed on violations chart)

**ARSON:** The intentional starting of a fire or explosion on any school property or at any school-sponsored activity which results in property damage or personal injury.

**ASSAULT:** Intending to or causing physical injury to another person by means of physical force or the use of a dangerous or deadly instrument.

**DISPLAYS OF AFFECTION:** Physical contact of a romantic nature.

**DISRESPECTFUL TO STAFF:** Any actions, comments, and/or writings that demean or show disrespect to any staff member.

**DISRUPTION:** Any actions, comments and/or writings that interfere and/or disrupt the teaching in classrooms, the safety and security in the building and disrupt the educational process.

**DRUGS/ALCOHOL/CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES:** Refer to OCBE Board Policy

**FALSE FIRE ALARMS:** Falsely alerting the Fire Department or school to a non-existent fire.

**FALSE BOMB THREATS:** Making a threat that a bomb has been placed in or is about to explode on school property or at any school sponsored activity.

**FIGHTING:** Two or more students willfully engaged in physical contact for the purpose of inflicting harm.

**HARASSMENT/BULLYING:** Intimidation by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation, by whatever means, of a climate of hostility or intimidation, or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or to have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual.

**INCENDIARY DEVICES:** The possession or use of any device that is used to disrupt the educational process that can cause damage (smoke bombs, firecrackers, etc.)

**INSUBORDINATION:** The willful disobedience of a reasonable request, either verbal or written, of school personnel and/or defiance of the authority of school personnel.

**OFF CAMPUS:** Leaving the school grounds without permission of and appropriate paperwork by parent(s) and school personnel.

**PROFANITY/VULGARITY:** Cursing, use of obscene language/gestures, engaging in actions that are coarse or crude or insensitive to others.

**ROBBERY/EXTORTION/COERCION:** Stealing school property or the belongings of another student or staff member, getting money by threats, forcing others to pay money or give away their possessions against their will.

**SEXUAL HARASSMENT:** Sexual harassment is a violation of federal law and will not be permitted in any Oldham County School. If any Oldham County student feels that he or she has been sexually harassed a representative of the school or school system should immediately be notified, such as a teacher, counselor, or principal. Sexual harassment consists of unwelcome sexual advances, request of sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature as determined by the receiver of the action in school or at school-sponsored activities, including transportation to and from the school or its activities.

**SKIPPING SCHOOL/CLASS:** Not being in assigned class and/or not entering or leaving school during the school day without permission of a school official. Students must have agenda books signed by appropriate staff member to be out of classroom during instructional hours.

**TARDIES:** Students are considered tardy to school if they are not in first block when the tardy bell rings. Students tardy to school must check in at the office and receive an admit slip. All tardies are unexcused. Individual teachers determine what constitutes tardy to his/her class. Students are referred to the office for tardies only when in class consequences are unsuccessful.

**TECHNOLOGY MISUSE:** Any damage to, alteration of equipment, misuse of devices for purposes other than educational, and/or other actions that are deemed inappropriate uses of technology equipment.

**THREATENING:** Threat of physical contact directed toward school personnel, students, or others with the intention of doing bodily harm or damaging one's property by a student or group.

**TOBACCO/SMOKING:** Board Policy states, “Students shall not use or possess tobacco products on school property.” Students who are determined by any means to be in violation of this policy (i.e., cigarettes observed in pockets, strong smell of smoking on breath, etc) will be subject to disciplinary action.

**VANDALISM:** Intentional damage of school property or property of school personnel.

---

***SECTION 10 - SCHOOL FEES/ADDITIONAL COSTS***

---

Student fees are due upon registration. Students qualifying for free and/or reduced lunches will be wholly or partially exempt from paying these fees. Exemption forms will be available on the website or at the school. There will also be additional consumable costs for items such as student agendas, workbooks and novels. All forms should be completed and returned to school during scheduled registration days.



## SOUTH OLDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

### **Curriculum – Reflective of Kentucky Common Core Standards**

Students will read and comprehend literary and non-fiction texts of a complexity appropriate to grades 6-8, proficiently. Students will write routinely over different time frames for a variety of content specific tasks, purposes, and audiences. Throughout the middle school experience, students will work to develop writing, reading, listening, and speaking in increasingly sophisticated ways. Students' proficiency in reading and writing will be supported by grade specific instruction in language.

**Y – Year Class      T – Trimester**

---

### *The Sixth Grade Curriculum*

---

#### **Language Arts (Y)**

Students will be exposed to a wide range of texts and tasks as they work toward proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and other 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through the lens of the theme of change. Emphasis will be placed on: reading and comprehending literature and informational text; understanding and applying rhetorical grammar; and writing in a variety of modes.

#### **Math 6 (Y)**

In Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

#### **6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> Integrated Math (Y)**

In Grade 6, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (2) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) solving real-life mathematical problems involving angle measure, area, surface area, and volume; (5) developing understanding of statistical thinking. Students will gain a broader understanding of operations with rational numbers and will engage in representing and analyzing quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables as well as using properties of operations to generate equivalent expressions.

#### **Pre-Algebra 6 (Y)**

This course is an enhanced study of the five domains of mathematics: 1.) Number System, 2.) Expressions and Equations, 3.) Ratio and Proportional Relationships, 4.) Geometry, 5.) Statistics and Probability. Special attention is placed on properties and operations with radicals and exponents, as well as algebraic ideas in order to prepare students for a more rigorous and faster paced curriculum.

#### **Sixth Grade Science: Integrated Sciences (Y)**

The sixth grade science course offers many opportunities to engage new middle school students with hands on activities and exciting ideas about what it means to be a scientist. Students establish a firm foundation for the rest of middle school science content. It is an integrated approach that includes the following concepts: Structure and Properties of Matter, Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems, Weather and Climate, Earth's Systems, Space Systems, Forces and Interactions.

### **Social Studies** (Y)

Students will investigate historical perspectives, cultures, government/citizenship, economics, and geography which are crucial to the world they are living in today. Students will utilize a plethora of the importance of strategies that focus on literacy, 21st Century Skills, interpretation of primary and secondary sources, and “Reading Like a Historian”.

### **Arts and Humanities Courses**

Students will participate in these classes during one of the five instructional blocks. Each student will be enrolled in two classes during this block. Students who are in Band or Choir, which are year-long classes, will take a quarter of Health, Art and P. E. with the exception of special circumstances approved by the principal. Students who are not in Band or Choir will take a quarter of Health, Music, Art and/or P. E.

#### **Art** (T)

In this course, students will learn visual art vocabulary, media and cultural background within their curriculum.

This course will reiterate the elements and principles of design and give students the vocabulary needed to analyze and critique works of art from a historical and personal viewpoint. Students will construct works of art that are two and three dimensional and experiment with a variety of media. Creative projects will utilize the elements and principles of design while reflecting individual ideas and self-expression. 6<sup>th</sup> grade art will lay foundations that are imperative to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade art.

#### **Band** (Y)

Students will receive instruction in music history and appreciation as they learn to play a musical instrument.

With the assistance of the teacher, students will select a specific instrument prior to the second week of school, which they will study in depth. As the students work on their musicianship they will be expected to perform in a variety of settings. An annual fee of \$50.00 will be assessed to students who use instruments provided by the school.

#### **Choir** (Y)

Students will receive instruction in music history, music theory, and appreciation as they develop their vocal skills.

Musical notation will be explored through the use of solfege and ear training techniques. Students will perform individually, and as a group, in a variety of settings. Choir members will have the opportunity to audition for KY-ACDA.

#### **Introduction to the Theater** (T)

Students will be provided an overview of the art, conventions, and history of theatre. Although experiential exercises may be included, the courses focus on learning about drama/theatre rather than performance. Students study dramatic elements, elements of production and elements of performance. Students also study major developments in dramatic literature and/or major playwrights, the history and formation of theatre as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of drama/theatre.

#### **Practical Living** (T)

Students will be introduced and begin to address concepts of health (Personal Wellness, Nutrition, Diseases, Human Body Systems, Drug Abuse & Misuse, and Safety). This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health.

#### **Music Appreciation** (T)

Students will cover the core concepts in the music curriculum through the use of a music theory. These include the elements of rhythm, harmony, melody, form, timeline, tempo and dynamics. Music history and cultural awareness will be addressed including the musical historical periods of classical and ancient.

#### **Physical Education** (T)

Students will acquire a knowledge base for wellness that encompasses social, physical, emotional, and mental health. Students will apply this knowledge gained through their participation in a wide variety of experiences, complex skills, and movement patterns that enhances a lifetime of healthy habits. Activities and sports studied will vary with the time of the year and the facilities availability, but may include individual and team sports skills, aerobic conditioning, fitness and fitness testing, and elements of dance.

#### **Beginning Spanish** (T)

Spanish is the study of beginning Spanish grammar structure and vocabulary through the application of reading, writing, listening and speaking activities. Basic Spanish 1 material will be covered, while challenging and preparing students to advance toward High School Spanish. The Spanish language will be spoken in each lesson as much as possible to mimic the natural language acquisition process. Being able to walk out of Spanish class and converse on a basic level with a native Spanish speaker will be one of the main learning objectives.

---

## *The Seventh Grade Curriculum*

---

### **Language Arts** (Y)

Students will be exposed to a wide range of texts and tasks as they work toward proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and other 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through the lens of the theme of choices. Emphasis will be placed on: reading, comprehending, and analyzing literature and informational text; understanding and applying rhetorical grammar; and writing in a variety of modes.

### **Language Arts** Accelerated (Y)

Accelerated ELA students will delve deeper into reading, writing, speaking, listening and observing standards of the curriculum. Students will be expected to produce mature pieces of writing that demonstrate insight and depth of thought. Students will read, discuss and analyze high-level texts. Advanced students will be expected to work independently and to manage projects at a faster pace than regular ELA classes.

### **Math 7** (Y)

In Grade 7, instructional time will focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Pre-Algebra 7** (Y)

This course is an enhanced study of the five domains of mathematics: 1.) Number System, 2.) Expressions and Equations, 3.) Ratio and Proportional Relationships, 4.) Geometry, 5.) Statistics and Probability. Special attention is placed on properties and operations with radicals and exponents, as well as algebraic ideas in order to prepare students for a more rigorous and faster paced curriculum.

### **Algebra I** (Y)

Students who successfully complete the Pre-Algebra 6 course will be enrolled in Algebra. This course will be the foundation for future math courses and will be extremely challenging. We focus on just four units of study, but they span a large number of concepts: Single Variable Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Two Variable Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Statistics (including Measures of Center, Correlation and Residuals, and Data Sets for Two Categorical Variables); and Quadratics and Polynomials. Since this is a high school level course, students are expected to have a final grade of at least an 80% at the end of the year to be allowed to move on to Geometry.

### **Seventh Grade Science: Introduction to Chemistry and Physics** (Y)

The seventh grade science course is designed to highlight energy as the common thread throughout the year. The year is generally divided into Physical Science and Earth's History and is designed in order to provide foundational knowledge in chemistry and physics. Within each unit there are opportunities to utilize engineering practices while cross cutting concepts (i.e. patterns) allow for interdisciplinary connections to be woven throughout.

### **Science, Accelerated** (Y)

Accelerated science curriculum includes compaction of grade-level material with more in-depth exploration of concepts.

### **Social Studies** (Y)

To understand the lasting contributions of ancient civilizations, students will focus on the five strands of Social Studies: Government, Historical Perspective, Economics, Geography, and Culture. Students will be taught to think and write like a historian through the use of primary and secondary sources as well as how to interpret complex historical texts. Emphasis will be placed on creating a culture in the classroom in which history comes alive and students are able to make real world connections.

### **Social Studies, Accelerated** (Y)

Students will focus on the 5 stands of Social Studies: Government, Historical Perspective, Economics, Geography, and Culture. Emphasis will be placed on challenging the students to take an in-depth approach to the topics that are being presented in class. Students will be given extension projects on the topics of their choosing in accordance with their ability to master the social studies curriculum in a more complex manner.

### **Arts and Humanities Courses**

Students will participate in these classes during one of the five instructional blocks. Each student will be enrolled in two classes during this block. Students in Band or Choir, which are year-long classes, will take a quarter of Health, Art and P. E. with the exception of special circumstances approved by the principal. Students who are not in Band or Choir will take a quarter of Health, Music, Art, and/or P. E.

#### **Art (T)**

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, art students will learn visual art vocabulary, media and cultural background within their curriculum.

This course will reiterate the elements and principles of design and give students the vocabulary needed to analyze and critique works of art from a historical and personal viewpoint. Students will construct works of art that are two and three dimensional and experiment with a variety of media. Creative projects will utilize the elements and principles of design, while reflecting individual ideas and self-expression. 7<sup>th</sup> grade art will lay foundations that are imperative to 8<sup>th</sup> grade art.

#### **Band (Y)**

Prerequisite: Students must have completed 6<sup>th</sup> grade band or must demonstrate proficiency at the discretion of the band director. Students will continue to study a selected instrument and will work to improve performance. The major style periods of music will be reviewed and students will analyze the musical elements in representative works from each period utilizing appropriate musical terminology. An annual fee of \$50.00 will be assessed to students who use instruments provided by the school.

#### **Choir (Y)**

Students will continue to receive instruction in vocal technique with an emphasis on the changing voice. Various types of choral literature will be studied and performed both formally and informally. Keyboard familiarity will be strengthened. The choir will perform and compete at the district level. Students will have the opportunity to audition for regional and national honors choirs.

#### **Introduction to the Theater (T)**

Students will be provided an overview of the art, conventions, and history of theatre. Although experiential exercises may be included, the courses focus on learning about drama/theatre rather than performance. Students study dramatic elements, elements of production and elements of performance. Students also study major developments in dramatic literature and/or major playwrights, the history and formation of theatre as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of drama/theatre.

#### **Practical Living (T)**

Students will be introduced and begin to address concepts of health (Personal Wellness, Nutrition, Diseases, Human Body Systems, Drug Abuse & Misuse, and Safety). This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health.

#### **Music Appreciation (T)**

Students will cover the core concepts in the music curriculum through the use of a music theory. These include the elements of rhythm, harmony, melody, form timeline, tempo and dynamics. Music history and cultural awareness will be addressed including the classical and ancient periods of music.

#### **Physical Education (T)**

Students will acquire a knowledge base for wellness that encompasses social, physical, emotional, and mental health. Students will apply this knowledge gained through their participation in a wide variety of experiences, complex skills, and movement patterns that enhances a lifetime of healthy habits. Activities and sports studied will vary with the time of the year and the facilities availability, but may include individual and team sports skills, aerobic conditioning, fitness and fitness testing, and elements of dance.

#### **Beginning Spanish (T)**

Spanish is the study of beginning Spanish grammar structure and vocabulary through the application of reading, writing, listening and speaking activities. Basic Spanish 1 material will be covered, while challenging and preparing students to advance toward High School Spanish. The Spanish language will be spoken in each lesson as much as possible to mimic the natural language acquisition process. Being able to walk out of Spanish class and converse on a basic level with a native Spanish speaker will be one of the main learning objectives.

---

## *The Eighth Grade Curriculum*

---

### **Language Arts** (Y)

Students will be exposed to a wide range of texts and tasks as they work toward proficiency in reading, writing, speaking, and other 21<sup>st</sup> century skills through the lens of the theme of challenge. Focus will be: reading, comprehending, analyzing and evaluating literature and informational text; understanding and applying rhetorical grammar; and writing in a variety of modes.

### **Language Arts, Accelerated** (Y)

Accelerated ELA students will delve deeper into reading, writing, speaking, listening and observing standards of the curriculum. Students will be expected to produce mature pieces of writing that demonstrate insight and depth of thought. Students will read, discuss and analyze high-level texts. Advanced students will be expected to work independently and to manage projects at a faster pace than regular ELA classes.

### **Pre-Algebra 8** (Y)

In Grade 8, instructional time will focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Algebra I** (Y)

Students who successfully complete the Pre-Algebra 7 course will be enrolled in Algebra. This course will be the foundation for future math courses and will be extremely challenging. We focus on just four units of study, but they span a large number of concepts: Single Variable Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Two Variable Expressions, Equations and Inequalities; Statistics (including Measures of Center, Correlation and Residuals, and Data Sets for Two Categorical Variables); and Quadratics and Polynomials. Since this is a high school level course, students are expected to have a final grade of at least an 80% at the end of the year to be allowed to move on to Geometry.

### **Geometry** (Y)

Students who successfully complete the 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra course will be enrolled in Geometry. The study of geometry involves the creation of a system from the simplest of terms, those that are undefined. The system is then constructed on axioms (postulates) that are explored through the proving or disproving of various theorems (conjectures). We will study geometry in its purest form, while still relating it to the world around us. We will cover the course in eight units: Constructions and Transformations, Congruence and Proof, Similarity and Proof, Trigonometry, Solid Geometry, Coordinate Geometry, Circles, and Application of Probability. Students who successfully complete the course will move on to Algebra II.

### **Eighth Grade Science: Introduction to Biology/Science** (Y)

The eighth grade science course is taught from a micro to macro perspective, beginning at the cellular level and building to ecosystems and human impacts. This course is designed to be a precursor to freshman biology, linking the middle school integrated science model to the more specialized model implemented at the high school level.

### **Science, Accelerated** (Y)

Accelerated science curriculum includes compaction of grade-level material with more in-depth exploration of Concepts.

### **Social Studies** (Y)

One of the primary objectives for Social Studies at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade level is to prepare each student for the rigorous demands of high school. Our students will learn to become active members of our society at a local, state, national, and global level. After an intense introduction into Historical Thinking and Reading Like a Historian we will begin our historical journey that begins with the Age of Exploration and ends with the American Civil War. All students will be given numerous opportunities to explore and analyze primary and secondary sources. The information

acquired from the documents will be used for different Living History activities including debates, role-plays, and simulations.

### **Social Studies, Accelerated (Y)**

Along with teaching our students to become active members of our society and continuing the rigor that occurs in our regular Social Studies classes, our accelerated class will have a deeper level of complexity. Pacing will increase giving students more time for multiple differentiated instructional opportunities. Student choice will be more apparent in an opportunity for independent studies. An example of this depth and complexity would come in the form of National History Day, where students are expected to research and present topics of their choice to professionals in those particular fields of study.

### **Arts and Humanities Courses**

Students will participate in these classes during one of the five instructional blocks. Each student will be enrolled in two classes during this block. Students who are in Band or Choir, which are year-long classes, will take a quarter of Health, Art and P. E. with the exception of special circumstances approved by the principal. Students who are not in Band or Choir will take a quarter of Health, Music, Art and/or P. E.

#### **Art (T)**

Students will learn visual art vocabulary, media, and cultural background within their curriculum. This course will reiterate the elements and principles of design and give students the vocabulary needed to analyze and critique works of art from a historical and personal viewpoint. Students will construct works of art that are two and three-dimensional and experiment with a variety of media.

Creative projects will utilize the elements and principles of design while reflecting individual ideas and self-expression. 8<sup>th</sup> grade art will lay foundations that are imperative to sculpture. Sculpture class is designed for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who have successfully completed Art 6, 7, and 8. Students will create a variety of three-dimensional works using a variety of media, such as clay, papier-mâché, plaster, and found objects. Creative projects will utilize the elements and principles of design, while reflecting individual ideas and self-expression.

#### **Band (Y)**

Prerequisite: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade band or demonstrated proficiency at the discretion of the band director. A continuation of the seventh grade curriculum, students will continue to study their specific instruments.

Students will demonstrate increased proficiency in musicianship and will begin to compose short pieces of music for their instruments. Music history and appreciation will occur in more depth and sophistication. An annual fee of \$50.00 will be assessed to students who use instruments provided by the school.

#### **Choir (Y)**

Basic skills will be strengthened and students will continue to receive instruction in vocal technique. Advanced level basic choral literature will be sung and studied. Compositions in foreign and ancient languages will be performed and presented to varied audiences. Choir members will have the opportunity to audition for solo and ensemble, regional and national honors choir.

#### **Introduction to the Theater (T)**

Students will be provided an overview of the art, conventions, and history of theatre. Although experiential exercises may be included, the courses focus on learning about drama/theatre rather than performance. Students study dramatic elements, elements of production and elements of performance. Students also study major developments in dramatic literature and/or major playwrights, the history and formation of theatre as a cultural tradition, and critical appreciation of drama/theatre.

#### **Practical Living (T)**

Students will be introduced and begin to address concepts of health (Personal Wellness, Nutrition, Diseases, Human Body Systems, Drug Abuse & Misuse, and Safety). This course is designed to assist students in obtaining accurate information, developing lifelong positive attitudes and behaviors, and making wise decisions related to their personal health.

#### **Music Appreciation (T)**

Students will cover the core concepts in the music curriculum through the use of a music theory. These include the elements of rhythm, harmony, melody, form, timeline, tempo, and dynamics. Music history and cultural awareness will be addressed including the classical and ancient musical periods.

#### **Physical Education (T)**

Students will acquire a knowledge base for wellness that encompasses social, physical, emotional, and mental health. Students will apply this knowledge gained through their participation in a wide variety of experiences, complex skills, and movement patterns that enhances a lifetime of healthy habits. Activities and sports studied

will vary with the time of the year and the facilities availability, but may include individual and team sports skills, aerobic conditioning, fitness and fitness testing, and elements of dance.

**Beginning Spanish** (T)

Spanish is the study of beginning Spanish grammar structure and vocabulary through the application of reading, writing, listening and speaking activities. Basic Spanish 1 material will be covered, while challenging and preparing students to advance toward High School Spanish. The Spanish language will be spoken in each lesson as much as possible to mimic the natural language acquisition process. Being able to walk out of Spanish class and converse on a basic level with a native Spanish speaker will be one of the main learning objectives.

*Title IX Coordinator for Oldham County Schools – Anne Coorsen, General Counsel, 6165 W. Highway 146, Crestwood, KY 40014, Phone 241-3500. Section 504 Coordinator – Melissa Abernathy, 1900 Button Lane, La Grange, KY 40031, Phone 222-3737. For any student, parent or employee who wishes to express a complaint or grievance, the procedures for such expressions are contained in the Board policies and are available in the school libraries at each school.*