

Transitions Within the Middle School Years

Saxe Middle School

Grades 5 to 6 - What's the Same?

- Students continue to utilize the LD office for counselors, nurse, secretaries and other support staff.
- Arrival and dismissal times and procedures remain the same.
- Fall evening and winter/spring daytime open houses
- Teacher websites and parent portal

Grades 5 to 6 - What's Different?

- Letter grades on report cards quarterly.
- Four teacher teams (*Language Arts, Math, Science & Social Studies*)
- World Language is a daily core subject (*Choice of Spanish, Mandarin, Latin & French*)
- Increased level of student independence
- Team/Parent meetings as needed replace December Parent Teacher Conferences.

Current LD Schedule

	<u>Grade 5</u>	<u>Grade 6</u>
P2 starts 8:20	Core Class	World Language, Art, P.E., Music
P3	Core Class	Workshop
P4	Core Class	Core Class
P5	Art, PE, Music	Core Class
P6	Core Class	Lunch @ 11:40
P7	Lunch @ 12:30	World Language, Art, P.E., Music
P8	Core	Core Class
P9 ends 2:55	Workshop	Core Class

Grades 6 to 7 - What's the Same?

- Letter grades on report cards quarterly.
- Four teacher teams (*Language Arts, Math, Science & Social Language*)
- Fall evening and Winter/Spring daytime open houses
- Team/Parent meetings as needed

Grades 6 to 7 - What's Different?

- Students will move to the Upper Division for counselors, nurse, secretaries and other support staff.
- Locker and class locations shift to a new area of the building.
- Arrival (7:30) & dismissal (2:05) times
- Increased independence

The Middle School Student

- **Developmental Changes**
 - Physical
 - Emotional / Psychological
 - Social - friendships & fitting in
 - Family - real & symbolic separation
- **Dependence vs. Independence**
 - Managing the balance
 - Learning from mistakes
 - Self advocacy

The Middle School Student

- Friendship and social scene become of central importance.
- Increased grappling with social identity (Who am I and how do I fit in?)
- Friendship shifting moving from neighborhood friends to friends with common interests.

School Counseling

- School Counseling is for all students
- Counselors support students' growth in Social, Academic, and Personal Learning
- Counselors work with students & families on anything & everything related to school
- Counseling is delivered via individual & group counseling & classroom lessons

Student Expectations

- **Care** for one's self, for others and for all property
- **Communicate** with peers & adults at school and at home
- **Commit** to doing one's very best at school, at home, and with peers
- Across **all** school environments - bus, hall, cafeteria, recess, locker room, etc

Expectations Matrix

- Saxe homepage > Student Handbook & Matrix

[Expectations Matrix](#)

Teams

- Teams are heterogeneously grouped based on Math and Challenge placements
- All teachers differentiate instruction to meet the needs of individual students. All teachers meet to discuss curriculum & instructional practices & specific student needs.

Current UD Schedule

	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
P1 starts 7:30	Core Class	World Language, Art, P.E., Music
P2	Core Class	Core Class
P3	World Language, Art, P.E., Music	Core Class
P4	Lunch @ 10:00	Workshop
P5	Core Class	Lunch @ 10:50
P6	Core Class	World Language, Art, P.E., Music
P7	Workshop	Core Class
P8 ends 2:05	World Language, Art, P.E., Music	Core Class

Leveled Courses

<u>Grade 6</u>	<u>Grade 7</u>	<u>Grade 8</u>
Math 6	Math 7	PreAlgebra
Compacted 6/7/8	Compacted 6/7/8	Algebra
Math 7	PreAlgebra	Geometry
Math 7/8	Algebra	Challenge
Challenge	Challenge	Advanced World Language

Social, Academic & Personal Learning Curriculum Framework

Three Strands

- Self-Awareness & Self-Management
- Social Awareness & Relationship Skills
- Responsible Decision Making & Problem Solving

S.A.P.L.

Excerpt

- Responsible Decision Making & Problem Solving
 - Demonstrating ethical, constructive choices. Accurately assessing risks and potential benefits, considering the impact on others. Accepting personal responsibility

S.A.P.L.

- Embedded School-Wide
- Staff use the SAPL framework to provide consistent experiences with the goal of developing students as capable, confident, and caring 21st century learners and global citizens

S.A.P.L.

- All classes
- Project Adventure
- School Counseling
- 7th Grade Take the Lead & 8th Grade Advisory

8th to 9th Grade Transition

January

- Introduction to NCHS for students by Saxe School Counselors
- Parent Transition Coffee by Saxe & NCPS Administrators & School Counselors

April

- 9th Grade Electives Selection with Saxe School Counselors
- Honors Placement by NCHS

February

- Honors Placement Testing
 - English, History, Science

June

- End of Year Activities
 - Dance, Spirit Days, Pep Rally, Yearbook, Picnic, Lake Compounce, Promotion

March

- 8th Grade Orientation Night at NCHS
- 8th Grade Electives Assembly at Saxe

August

- Freshman Orientation first day of 9th grade

Health Requirements

- CT state law: physical exam in 6th grade.
Blue CT exam form on file before end of the year
- Immunization for 7th grade: 2 measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), 2nd varicella, Tdap
- LD nurse: Joelle Graham @ 594.4526
- UD nurse: Eileen Curtin @ 594.4573