

Dear 5th grade parents,

We are so excited to welcome you & your student to Strafford Middle School where it is GREAT in the middle!

5th grade Orientation; After communicating with the Springfield-Greene County Health Department and based on best practices from schools and businesses in our area and recommendations from the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education we will NOT be hosting a night time 5th grade Orientation for students & parents this year. Instead, students will receive 5th grade Orientation through their homeroom teacher the first three days of school. They will have special classes those three days but otherwise they will be staying with their homeroom teacher the entire day. We have a PowerPoint presentation that we would like for all students and parents to watch prior to coming to the first day of school. Teachers will also be going over the PowerPoint during the first three days of school.

Homeroom teachers/schedules: We will be finalizing homeroom teachers and schedules after our virtual learning deadline ends on Friday, August 14th. (This will allow us to make homerooms of equivalent sizes) **You can login in on Tuesday, August 18th to see who your student's homeroom teacher is.** (We will not be emailing that information out).

They will report to their homeroom teacher the first day of school. Their homeroom teacher will give them their schedule that morning. Please keep in mind we will not begin rotating classes until Thursday, August 27th. We are keeping homeroom classes together as much as possible. Unfortunately with this change advanced classes will not be happening in 5th grade. The math/ELA teachers will be differentiating instruction within their classrooms.

Homeroom: Students will stay in their homeroom from 7:40-8:10 to eat breakfast and to prepare for the day.

School Supplies/Backpacks: Students will bring their school supplies/backpacks with them on the 1st day of school and take them to their homeroom classroom. The

teachers will provide time during the day to show them how to open lockers, put items in their lockers, and how to pack their backpacks.

Student Registration: You should be receiving an email this afternoon to update your child's student portal (enrollment information). It will include your login information. Please complete this online as soon as possible. If you do not receive an email with your login information, please email the office at christyc@straffordschools.net or call us at 417-736-7000 ext. 1300.

Handbook/Tech Agreement: We also have additional forms that MUST be completed that can be accessed through the following link. These will take the place of paper copies being sent home the 1st day of school.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScoQA09Y9WZGUIIOzbmYaLkMPZHZg-kDOXIIWnGJZrWAmCE5w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Online Planners/Class Syllabus: We will be utilizing a google online planner this year. Students will receive training the first three days of school on how to fill out their planner. Within the first few days of school you will receive emails from teachers with their class syllabus, both you and your child will electronically sign those and submit those back to the teacher as soon as possible please.

First day of school: Monday, August 24th: 5th/6th grade students who are car riders will be dropped at the last door (far west door) at the drop off lane at the middle school. Just a heads up, we do not open car doors for MS kids. They seem to enjoy the independence. 7th/8th grade car riders will enter the doors at the front of the MS if they are a car rider.

Students MUST have a mask on as they enter the building. Students will keep their mask on anytime that they are moving in the building. There may be times when they are seated in a class that they are allowed to take it off.

Breakfast/Lunch: All students will be eating breakfast in their homeroom. 5th-6th grade students will report to homeroom and then go to the cafeteria and grab their

breakfast and go back to their room to eat. We will be alternating between eating lunch in classrooms/cafeteria weekly.

Assigned seating: Students will have assigned seats in all classrooms, during homeroom time, at lunch in the classroom, and during lunch in the cafeteria. This information will be helpful when contact tracing when/if a student/students tests positive for COVID. We realize this is not ideal for students at this age since students might get along one day and not the next day. We appreciate your understanding and patience with us during this time.

Special Classes: We utilize elementary staff for our special classes for 5th grade students during first hour every day. The teachers will have special classes in the students homeroom class everyday.

Lunch: 5th grade students eat lunch from 10:50-11:15 everyday. We will alternate days between 5th grade eating in the cafeteria and their homeroom with a teacher.

TRIBE TIME/RTI time: Students will have TRIBE time everyday for 30 minutes. This will be an opportunity for students to go outside if the weather allows and take a break.

Dismissal time: 5th grade car riders are dismissed at 3:00 pm to walk out to the car line and get in their parents car. We do not use hangtags (car tags), at the middle school. We will dismiss car riders to walk by themselves out the side doors to their cars. The students that ride the bus will be walked with their class to the buses.

Buses: Students must wear a mask on the bus. Bus notes are not allowed this year for students to go home with another student. Parents will need to pick up those students if needed to transport them. All students are expected to have a regular bus riding schedule they follow. Once again this is for contact tracing.

Tutoring: The 5th grade teachers will send out information about what days they are tutoring. Those will be the same days every week from 3:00-4:00 pm.

Passing times: Students will have four minutes between classes to get to their locker, use the restroom, and fill up their water bottle. Stopping and/or standing in the hallways will not be allowed. We are going to ask that students continue moving in the hallway.

“Hanging out” and talking to friends will not be allowed. Again, masks will be worn at all times in the hallways.

We are so excited to have your child in the middle school this year. As always if you have any questions please contact the middle school office at 417-736-7000 ext. 1300.