

“Moving to the Middle” at Carl Sandburg Middle School



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Ms. Tara Charity, 7th Grade Assistant Principal

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Registration Process and Information

Moving from elementary
to middle school



Registration Timeline: *February*

- February 18, 2010

Curriculum Night – Sandburg teachers share information on course offerings and counselors share information on the registration process and transition activities with parents

- February 22 – 25 – Sandburg **Counselors visit feeder elementary schools** to present registration process to students and share information regarding ‘moving to the middle school’ (student ambassadors accompany counselors to answer elementary student questions)

Registration Timeline: *March & April*

- March 1 – **Course selection sheets due no later than** this date to respective elementary school counselors
- March 5 – **Course selection sheets due** to Sandburg from elementary schools
- April 26 – 30 – Feeder elementary school **students will visit Sandburg for a tour**

Registration Details: *Course Selection Sheets*

- Students take sheets **home** to discuss with parents.
- Students should **choose** elective choices (1 to 5) in order of preference.
 - Reminder: *Pay attention to the semester- and year-long classes.*
- Be sure **students and a parent** sign sheets.

Registration Details: *Course Selection Sheets*

- Reminders:
 - Students should **return** sheets with all information completed to counselor or 6th grade teacher **NO LATER THAN March 1.**
 - Sheets are due to Sandburg **March 5.**

The Inner Workings of **Carl Sandburg Middle School**

Motto, Expectations,
and Courses



Sandburg's 3 R's: Our Motto

Sandburg Middle School Students are:

- **Respectful**
- **Responsible**
- and **Ready** to Learn.

What to Expect in 7th Grade

- **Teams**
- **Four Core Teachers**
- **Counselor for Each Team**
 - Ms. Melinda Caldwell
 - Mr. Eric Norland
 - Ms. Penelope White
 - Mr. Mohammad Zishhan
- **Grade Level Administrator**
 - Mrs. Jane O'Hara – Assistant Principal – 7th grade
- **Elective Teachers**
- **Homework**
 - 60-90 minutes per night
- **After School Activities**
- **Lockers**
- **8 periods – 5 minutes between classes**

What's a Team?

Five 7th Grade Teams

Students from each elementary mixed together

Each team has about:

- 130 students
- 1 English Teacher
- 1 Science Teacher
- 1 Social Studies Teacher
- 1 Math Teacher
- 1 Counselor

Why Teams?

- Teams make a larger school “feel smaller”.
- Teams allow students to get to know the other students on their team.
- Teams allow teachers to plan things like field trips and team activities to do together.
- Teams give a small group of teachers a chance to meet, discuss students individually, and help recognize their good work.

7th Grade Course Selections: *Required Courses*

- **Math 7**
- **Science 7**
- **English 7**
- **History 7**
- **Physical Education**

7th Grade Course Selections: Electives

Elective classes are exploratory classes. Generally students pick elective classes based on interest(s).

- Some Electives are:
 - Music
 - Theater Arts, Speech Arts, Journalism
 - Art, Computers in Art, etc.
 - Family and Consumer Science
 - Computers, Technology Exploration
 - Languages
 - Remediation / support classes
 - **AVID** – Advancement Via Individual Determination (college preparatory program)

Electives

- Students should choose electives based off of their **own interests**.
- Remind students that Sandburg has students from approximately 9 elementary schools.
 - *Even if students choose electives because a friend is taking the course, it is **most** likely that they will **NOT** be in the same class with him/her.*
- **Students will NOT be able to switch electives once school starts.**

Block Scheduling at Carl Sandburg

All 7 classes Mondays

Odd classes Tues/Thur

Even classes Weds/Fri

**Carl Sandburg Middle School
2009-2010 Bell Schedule**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
PERIOD 1 7:55 – 8:40 (45)	PERIOD 1 BLOCK 7:55 – 9:30 (95)	PERIOD 2 BLOCK 7:55 – 9:30 (95)	PERIOD 1 BLOCK 7:55 – 9:30 (95)	PERIOD 2 BLOCK 7:55 – 9:30 (95)
PERIOD 2 8:45 – 9:30 (45)				
PERIOD 3 9:35 – 10:20 (45)	ADVISORY (DEAR TIME) 9:35 – 10:05 (30)	ADVISORY (ENRICHMENT LESSON) 9:35 – 10:05 (30)	ADVISORY (DEAR TIME) 9:35 – 10:05 (30)	ADVISORY (FLEX TIME) 9:35 – 10:05 (30)
PERIOD 4 8 th Grade 10:25 – 11:25 (60) 7 th Grade A Lunch 10:22 – 10:52 (30) 10:55 – 11:55 (60) 10:25 – 11:25 (60) B Lunch 11:25 – 11:55 (30)	PERIOD 3 10:10 – 11:00 (50)	PERIOD 3 10:10 – 11:00 (50)	PERIOD 3 10:10 – 11:00 (50)	PERIOD 3 10:10 – 11:00 (50)
PERIOD 5 7 th Grade 12:00 – 1:00 (60) 8 th Grade CLASS = 11:30 – 11:58 (28) C LUNCH = 12:00 – 12:28 (28) CLASS = 12:30 – 1:00 (30) CLASS = 11:30 – 12:30 (60) D LUNCH = 12:30 – 1:00 (30)	PERIOD 5 11:05 – 1:05 (120) A LUNCH = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) CLASS = 11:35 – 1:05 (90) CLASS = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) B LUNCH = 11:35 – 12:05 (30) CLASS = 12:05 – 1:05 (60) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:05 (60) C LUNCH = 12:05 – 12:35 (30) CLASS = 12:35 – 1:05 (30) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:35 (90) D LUNCH = 12:35 – 1:05 (30)	PERIOD 4 11:05 – 1:05 (120) A LUNCH = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) CLASS = 11:35 – 1:05 (90) CLASS = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) B LUNCH = 11:35 – 12:05 (30) CLASS = 12:05 – 1:05 (60) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:05 (60) C LUNCH = 12:05 – 12:35 (30) CLASS = 12:35 – 1:05 (30) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:35 (90) D LUNCH = 12:35 – 1:05 (30)	PERIOD 5 11:05 – 1:05 (120) A LUNCH = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) CLASS = 11:35 – 1:05 (90) CLASS = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) B LUNCH = 11:35 – 12:05 (30) CLASS = 12:05 – 1:05 (60) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:05 (60) C LUNCH = 12:05 – 12:35 (30) CLASS = 12:35 – 1:05 (30) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:35 (90) D LUNCH = 12:35 – 1:05 (30)	PERIOD 4 11:05 – 1:05 (120) A LUNCH = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) CLASS = 11:35 – 1:05 (90) CLASS = 11:05 – 11:35 (30) B LUNCH = 11:35 – 12:05 (30) CLASS = 12:05 – 1:05 (60) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:05 (60) C LUNCH = 12:05 – 12:35 (30) CLASS = 12:35 – 1:05 (30) CLASS = 11:05 – 12:35 (90) D LUNCH = 12:35 – 1:05 (30)
PERIOD 6 1:05 – 1:50 (45)	PERIOD 7 BLOCK 1:10 – 2:45 (95)	PERIOD 6 BLOCK 1:10 – 2:45 (95)	PERIOD 7 BLOCK 1:10 – 2:45 (95)	PERIOD 6 BLOCK 1:10 – 2:45 (95)
PERIOD 7 1:55 – 2:45 (50)				

Lunches

- Two 7th Grade Lunches
 - A lunch (Mondays – 10:22 – 10:52)
(Tues-Fri – 11:05 – 11:35)
 - B lunch (Mondays – 11:25 – 11:55)
(Tues-Fri – 11:35 – 12:05)
- Students' lunch schedules depend on their 4th & 5th period classes


After School Activities

- Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
- A Session 2:50-3:38, B Session 3:45-4:30
- Intramural Sports
 - Soccer, football, basketball, volleyball
- Clubs, Organizations, & Activities
 - SAM 6 News, Dance, DIVAS, and much, much more
- Homework Help
- Detailed schedule on the Sandburg website

General Success Tips

for Parents to Practice with Students

Areas to focus on that will facilitate a smooth transition, and success in, middle school...



Homework: Reminders for Parents

- Expect your students to have 60-90 minutes of homework **every** day
- A **planner** is given to students to keep organized
- Interactive **binder/notebooks** should continually be organized
- Teachers have regular **after school** times for **extra** help and **make-up** work
- Learn and practice “**Student Success Skills**” with your students ...

Student Success Skills

- Get **Involved!** Encourage students to stay after school for help and for clubs/activities.
- Keep **organized** – Use a **PLANNER**.
Practice now! Write in homework *every day*.
- **Prioritize** and **work hard** (do **homework** before anything else at home!)


Student Success Skills

- Use **BLACKBOARD**.
 - Students can keep up with classes – **online!**
 - **PARENTS** can also get “Parent View” accounts.
- **Parents: Keep involved!**
 - Students should show parents what they’re doing in class ***every day***. E-mail teachers for updates!
- Encourage your students to **ask** for **help** when needed. **Communicate** with teachers!

Academic Success Skills

For Parents to Practice with Students

Skills to practice *now*
that will benefit
students in specific
subjects...



Essential Skills

for Targeted Academic Areas

- **English** – Reading stamina – ability for the students to sit and read more than a paragraph at a time without becoming fatigued or distracted
- **Special Education** – daily, habitual use of planner to record assignments

Essential Skills

for Targeted Academic Areas

- **History** – organizing binder/notebook each evening to be prepared for the next day, completing homework assignments, studying for tests and quizzes
- **Science** – knowledge of basic math skills to be able to apply to science curriculum

Essential Skills

for Targeted Academic Areas

- Math – an increased knowledge or better understanding of:
 - Number Sense
 - Multiplication Facts
 - Fractions
 - Problem Solving Strategies (especially **word problems**)

Helpful Hints for *Math Placement*

- Algebra 1 Honors in Grade 7
 - Must meet all criteria*:
 - Compacted Mathematics 6 (SASI Code Assigned) or a yearlong accelerated mathematics program
 - 91st percentile or higher on the IAAT (given during the first two weeks of February)
 - A score of Pass Advanced on the 8th grade SOL test
- Mathematics 7 Honors
 - Guidelines:
 - Compacted Mathematics 6 or a yearlong accelerated mathematics program- automatic enrollment
 - Mathematics 6 – holistic view of matrix of data (grades, SOL scores, teacher recommendation, GBRS)-School-based Decision

Advanced Academic Program (*Honors Placement*)

- Aligned with national standards for gifted and talented education
- For students who have demonstrated high achievement in a specific area of academic strength
- County-developed middle school curriculum that extends the Fairfax County Program of Studies (POS) in depth and complexity.

Advanced Academic Program (Honors Placement)

- The program seeks to provide opportunities to build on the individual strengths of identified achievers in a core subject in order to address their potential to progress to high levels of accomplishment through challenging inquiry and learning.

Advanced Academics Open Enrollment

- Sandburg will offer open enrollment (parents may enroll their child and/or child may self-select) for Honors classes in science, English, and social studies
- Decisions regarding placement in Mathematics 7 Honors classes will be made by the staff at the middle school using aforementioned criteria

Advanced Academics (Honors) Open Enrollment

- Sandburg administrators and school counselors review student grades, standardized test scores, and information from elementary staff to determine whether the student's Honors course selection corresponds with indicators (*A's/B's in the course in 6th grade, pass advanced on the subject-area SOL, and a score of 12 or above on the Gifted Behavior Rating Scale completed by 6th grade teacher*)
- **Parents** will be informed if there is a discrepancy between their child's course selection and the school's placement recommendation

Questions???

- Please feel free to ask us to **elaborate**. It is our goal to **prepare** students for **success** at the **middle school** level!

7th Graders Soar
at
Carl Sandburg Middle School

**We look forward to having your
students at Carl Sandburg!!!**

