

# **New Parent at Cityside Middle School**

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### What is the biggest difference you noticed between elementary school and middle school?

- The 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is divided into two – 4 teacher teams. Students are a part of a team of core teachers for math, science, English and social studies. This creates a smaller learning environment and allows staff to monitor students within their team.
- Elective Options – Students elect to take band, choir, orchestra, or a non-music rotation.
- Exploratory – all students take a rotation of Spanish, Art & Physical Education.

### How does lunch work?

- Students will eat with only students in their grade. Students are given 30 minutes for lunch. The first 15 minutes are spent in the cafeteria: the last 15 minutes students have the option of the gym/intramurals, the Chix Coop (ping pong, air hockey, and foosball) or staying in the cafeteria.

### What kind of communication do I have with teachers?

- Both 6<sup>th</sup> grade teams maintain a website which is updated weekly.
- All teachers are accessible via email and/or school phone.
- Conferences are scheduled throughout the year.

### What is available for after school activities?

- Athletics: 6<sup>th</sup> grade students can participate in:
  - Fall – Girls tennis, Boys & Girls cross country
  - Early Winter – Girls swimming & diving
  - Winter – Boys swimming & diving, Wrestling
  - Spring – Boys tennis, Boys & Girls track & field, Water polo
- Homework party: Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday 2:35-3:30 in the library. Snacks are made available, plus teachers are on-hand to assist students with homework.
- Art Club, Ski Club
- The Bridge Youth Center drop-in (Tuesday & Thursday). Bridge to Excellence at The Bridge on Monday, Wednesday, Friday. (You must sign up w/ Jed Mulder at The Bridge to participate in the Bridge to Excellence program.)
- Performing arts: fall and spring play/musical.
- Note, athletic not listed above will still operate through Zeeland Recreation.

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I am concerned about my son/daughter taking home the iPad. What are some things I need to know?

- iPad roll-out will be announced as we approach the end of the current school year. Look for information to be emailed and sent home with your son/daughter.
- All iPads are equipped with a filter for the internet. In middle school, the iPad is automatically routed to the ZPS middle school filter regardless of the Wi-Fi they log onto.
- There is a behavior expectation for appropriate use. The staff at Cityside will educate all students on appropriate use beginning at the start of the school year and continuing throughout the year.

### Positive Behavior Program

- Chix Tix is our positive behavior incentive for all middle school students.
- Students earn a Chix Tix from a staff member who observes a student performing a positive behavior on his/her own accord.
- Examples include; helping a teacher after class, picking up trash in the cafeteria, holding the door open for someone, picking up another students papers/books if they are dropped, etc.
- Champion Chix – Each Term (no missing or late work, no behavior referrals, no unexcused tardies or unexcused absences)
- Honor Roll & Principal's Honor Roll

### What is "CBC"?

- CBC stands for "Chix Building Character"
- The room is monitored full time by Lori Maat, a ZPS employee
- The CBC room serves multiple purposes:
  - Student behavior management; students not following classroom expectations are sent to CBC to reflect on their behavior, write a plan for different behavior, plus meet with the teacher following the incident. Parents are notified of incident.
  - Homework and/or test retake center. If a student is absent, he/she may be sent to CBC to complete a test or finish homework.
  - iPad assistance center; students with iPad related issues will take their iPad to CBC.
  - Athletic physicals