

Gehlen Catholic Junior High Handbook 2019-2020

In addition to the 7-12 Handbook given out by the
Gehlen Catholic Office

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Core Classes - Science

7th Grade Biology & 8th Grade Earth Science

Teacher: Rick Fox

Email: rfox@gehlencatholic.org

- 7th Grade Biology will cover topics such as heredity, classifying organisms, adaptations of organisms, systems of the human body and ecology.
- 8th Grade Earth Science will cover topics such as weathering and soil, non-renewable energy, plate tectonics, earthquakes, oceans and space.
- Tests will be short answer and terms. Students will be asked to write in complete sentences.
- Grading will include tests, unannounced quizzes and homework assignments. Most assignments can be completed in class. If assignments are not turned in on time, the student will receive a score of 69%.
- Each student will be asked to take notes over the lecture in class. They will also receive a typed copy of the material the day we begin the chapter.
- Any copying of material from other students on assignments or cheating on test will result in a 0 for a grade.
- The best way a student can prepare for class is by studying 15 minutes EVERY night!
- 7th Graders - most kids enjoy this class but it is a BIG adjustment from 6th grade.

Core Classes - Social Studies

7th & 8th Grade Social Studies

Teacher: Mike Meyer

Email: mmeyer@gehlencatholic.org

7th Grade – Geography

Textbook: “The World and Its People”

Course Overview: The course initially introduces the student to “what geography is” and includes learning what constitutes physical and human geography. Physical geography includes things such as landforms, climate and vegetation. Human geography includes types of government, languages, ethnic groups, religion, history, traditions, among other things. Remaining chapters deal with the human and physical geography of the various regions and/or countries of the world.

Daily Expectations: The student will be expected to read each assignment and complete accompanying material by the required time. Following every assignment (chapter section), the material will be reviewed in class and there will be a small (10 pts.) quiz. These can be expected two or three times a week. At the completion of each chapter, there will be a test (usually 40-50 pts.) consisting mostly of matching and multiple choice questions. While some class time is usually provided, students should expect to have homework. This is certainly true for studying for quizzes and tests, if not for completing worksheets. Students are expected to use Infinite Campus to keep up-to-date on assignments and their grades. Naturally, students will also be expected to follow all classroom and school rules.

Special Projects: Each semester the student will complete a major project (report) which will involve significant research and effort on their part. The first semester the topic will be one of the 50 United States. The second semester will involve a country of the world. The student will have a choice in this and will receive an outline of expectations and due dates at the beginning of each semester.

Materials Required: Students will receive several handouts and other material, so a notebook of some kind to keep them neatly organized is essential. Pens (including a red one), pencils, lined paper and other typical class materials will be needed.

8th Grade – U.S. History

Textbook: “The American Republic to 1877”

Course Overview: This course covers American history from prehistory to the American Civil War. Particular emphasis is placed on the colonial period, the American Revolution, the formation of the United States Constitution and the events leading up to and including the Civil War. The student will learn what makes America unique and what qualities bind us and occasionally divides us as a nation. Not only will the course cover historical achievements, but also the indignity of slavery and the treatment of Native Americans.

Daily Expectations: The student will be expected to read each assignment and complete accompanying material by the required time. Following every assignment (chapter section), the material will be reviewed in class and there will be a small (10 pts.) quiz. These can be expected two or three times a week. At the completion of each chapter, there will be a test (usually 45-55 pts.) consisting mostly of matching and multiple choice questions. While some class time is usually provided, students should expect to have homework. This is certainly true for studying for quizzes and tests, if not for completing worksheets. Students are expected to use Infinite Campus to keep up-to-date on assignments and their grades. Naturally, students will also be expected to follow all classroom and school rules.

Materials Required: Students will receive several handouts and other material, so a notebook of some kind to keep them neatly organized is essential. Pens (including a red one), pencils, lined paper and other typical class materials will be needed.

Core Classes - Math

The Junior High will be split into different math classrooms. We offer the regular math classroom and an excel class for 7th graders (the teachers will determine which class you are in). For 8th graders, the regular classroom and Algebra 1 will be offered (again, the teacher will determine which class you are in).

Regular 7th/8th Grade Math:

Teacher: Amanda Christoffel

Email: achristoffel@gehlenatholic.org

Class Expectations: Students will have homework almost every day. Homework is to be turned in the next day and will be graded daily. A point will be taken off each day the assignment is late. If students don't like their grade on their homework, they have the opportunity to redo it for half credit. Redoing homework is the student's responsibility. Tests will be after every chapter. The students will only be tested on the material learned during that chapter.

7th Grade Excel

Teacher: Kirk Kronaizl

Email: kkronaizl@gehlenatholic.org

8th Grade Algebra 1

Teacher: Jill Harpenau

Email: jharpenau@gehlenatholic.org

Classroom Expectations: On the first day of school, students will be given a syllabus which contains all necessary information. Students will bring this home to review and have parents sign. Homework is assigned and graded daily and should be turned in complete and on time each day (this is for 8th grade Algebra 1). Students need to have a paper book cover on their book at all times, lined paper (no fringes), pencils for homework along with a folder or binder for organizing their materials.

Core Classes - Language Arts

7th & 8th Reading, 8th Language & Spelling

Teacher: Jenni Vacura

Email: jvacura@gehlencatholic.org

Homework Policy: Assignments must be turned in at the start of class, or 1pt. will be taken off. Each day it is late will be an additional point off.

AR: Together the students and I will make their AR goals. Goals will be based on each student and what they can do academically. AR is worth 25% of their reading grade. This grade will be taken at mid-term and quarter. At mid-term, students need to have 50% of their AR goal and 100% of their AR goal at the end of the quarter. I will give class time for the students to read to help them get their goals, but please encourage your child to read every night before bed - at least 15-20 minutes.

Speech: All junior high students are required to participate in the Diocesan Speech Contest. Students will be able to pick their speeches right after Christmas break, and the contest usually falls the end of February/first of March. This will count as a reading grade. We will have a local contest before the Diocesan one, and the ratings the students receive that night will be part of their grade along with a couple of other components. Students will need to spend their own time practicing and memorizing their speeches.

7th Grade Language/Spelling

Teacher: Teresa Taylor

Email: ttaylor@gehlencatholic.org

Typical Weekly Schedule

- Daily: vocab word
- Monday: spelling pretest and introduce or continue the part of speech we'll focus on for the next week or so
- Tuesday - Thursday: notes, part of speech practice and spelling list review
- Friday: spelling test, part of speech quiz

Homework & Grading Policy

- Daily Vocab Word
 - Homework grade→ 2 points per vocab word
 - Includes the following:
 - Vocab word with correct spelling
 - Correct part of speech
 - Student's guess of the definition
 - Correct dictionary definition
 - Student's own sentence using the vocab word correctly and a complete sentence
- Part of Speech Practice Worksheets
 - Completion grade→ I do NOT grade content; I only check if it's complete. Each question is worth ½ point.
 - 6% off (⅓ of a letter grade) for each day late.
 - It is always better to finish homework late instead of leave it even partially incomplete.
- Part of Speech Quiz
 - Quiz grade→ number of points vary
 - Retakes
 - Students are required to retake the quiz if they fail.
 - Each correct answer on the redo is worth ½ of the original point(s), and the highest grade for a retaken quiz is a 94% A-.
 - The retake must occur within a week of when the original quiz was taken.
 - If students pass but aren't satisfied with their grade, they have the opportunity to retake the quiz within a week of when the original quiz was taken.
 - Each correct answer on the redo is worth ½ of the original point(s), and the highest grade for a retaken quiz is a 94% A-.
- Part of Speech Cumulative Test
 - Test grade→ number of points vary
 - After we've studied a part of speech for 2-3 weeks, students take a cumulative test.
 - Retakes
 - See quiz retake policy.
- Spelling Test
 - Test grade→ 20 points
 - Retakes
 - See quiz retake policy.

7th Grade Language/Spelling

Teacher: Alison Schilling

Email: aschilling@gehlen catholic.org

Typical Weekly Schedule

- Daily: vocab word
- Monday: spelling pretest and introduce or continue the part of speech we'll focus on for the next week or so
- Tuesday - Thursday: notes, part of speech practice and spelling list review
- Friday: spelling test, part of speech quiz

Homework & Grading Policy

- Daily Vocab Word
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 - Includes the following:
 - Vocab word with correct spelling
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 - Student's guess of the definition
 - Correct dictionary definition
 - Student's own sentence using the vocab word correctly and a complete sentence
- Part of Speech Practice Worksheets
 - Completion grade
 - Points off for each day late.
 - It is always better to finish homework late instead of leave it even partially incomplete.
- Part of Speech Quiz
 - Quiz grade→ number of points vary
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 - Students are required to retake the quiz if they fail.
 - Each correct answer on the redo is worth ½ of the original point(s), the highest grade for a retaken quiz is a 94% A-.
 - The retake must occur within a week of when the original quiz was taken.
 - If students pass but aren't satisfied with their grade, they have the opportunity to retake the quiz within a week of when the original quiz was taken.
 - Each correct answer on the redo is worth ½ of the original point(s), and the highest grade for a retaken quiz is a 94% A-.
- Part of Speech Cumulative Test
 - Test grade→ number of points vary
 - After we've studied a part of speech for 2-3 weeks, students take a cumulative test.
 - Retakes
 - See quiz retake policy.
- Spelling Test
 - Test grade→ 20 points
 - Retakes
 - See quiz retake policy.

Core Classes - Religion

7th & 8th Grade Religion

Students will be writing in their journal daily. A journal or notebook is required that will be used only for journaling. Students will be required to reflect on weekend Mass on Mondays and school Mass on days we have Mass. The other days there will be prompts for them to use for the daily journal section. This is worth approximately two test grades per quarter.

7th Grade

Teacher: Amanda Christoffel

Email: achristoffel@gehlencatholic.org

Homework Policy: Students will not have homework every day, but will take part in their journal. The students receive one point per journal, which is one point per day. They are expected to make up any journal they miss. Projects and papers will also be part of this class.

Excellence in Religion: The 7th graders earning an A or A+ every quarter will earn a certificate of excellence on Awards Day.

8th Grade

Teacher: Laurie Kellen

Email: lkellen@gehlencatholic.org

Late work: Work is late if it is not done at the beginning of the period. Work turned in by the end of the day is docked 5%, and 10% for each day after.

Arriving after religion class : If religion is missed but a student returns later in the day, I will expect them to have the work ready for the next day. Ask a friend or stop and see me.

Citizenship Points: Eighth graders may earn up to 5 citizenship points per week by being on time, having work and materials ready, participating in class and being respectful to those around them and their property.

Materials: Journal, notebook/folder or loose leaf paper secured in a folder or binder, blue or black pen or a pencil.

Excellence in Religion: Those eighth graders earning an A+ or A both semesters will earn a certificate of excellence to be awarded at eighth grade promotion.

Specials - Choir/Making Music

Choir/Making Music

Teacher: Terra Falkena

Email: tfalkena@gehlenatholic.org

Choir

Concerts & Dress Code

Turkey Dinner: Dress in your best. The most “dressed down” you can be is in your polo and khakis. Shoulders must be covered for performance. Sandals must have straps (aka no flip flops). Usually cool, so dress for the weather!

This Performance is MANDATORY: Sunday, October 27th. Call Time: TBD

Vespers: White top, black bottom. This may mean a white button down shirt with black pants. Maybe it is a white sweater with a black skirt. If you wear a skirt PLEASE wear tights/nylons. PREFERABLY wear black shoes. If you have any issues with this dress code, feel free to talk with me, but feel free to borrow clothes if need be. White polo with black school pants is also fine!

This Performance is MANDATORY, as is Vespers Dress Rehearsal (come as you are, not in dress clothes): Wednesday, December 11th BEGINS at 7:00 p.m. Vespers Performance: Thursday, December 12th; Call Time: 6:30 p.m. in Family Room @ St. Joseph Church

Spring Concert: Similar to *Turkey Dinner* Dress in your best. Polo and khakis is as “dressed down” as you can be. Shoulders must be covered for performance. Jean jackets are ok shoulder-cover-ers. Sandals must have straps, again. If weather is cool, we go with pants, but if dresses can be worn, so can shorts—but they must be “dress” shorts.

This Performance is MANDATORY: Wednesday, April 22nd; Call Time 6:30 p.m. in the Choir Room

Technology

We use technology in choir! So be prepared to actually use it—and not make excuses. We have access to Chromebooks and iPads, so generally your personal phone is NOT needed. There is often a big learning curve for some things, so ASK QUESTIONS! Always TRY on your own to figure things out, consult YouTube, ask friends, and if all else fails, then ask the teacher. Apps/Websites we will use regularly: Google Classroom, Docs, Slides, Forms, Calendar, and FlipGrid (this is new this year! But AWESOME).

Lessons

Lessons will be scheduled at LEAST one week prior to them taking place (for group lessons). They will put in Google Calendar—you will get an e-mail notification; ACCEPT this because then it will put it IN YOUR CALENDAR and can send you a REMINDER! If Group Lessons are missed

If you opt for Private Lessons, those will be scheduled at the beginning of the year, and will happen on a weekly basis.

Choir/Making Music

Make-up Work

If you miss a choir rehearsal, you will find our daily slideshow presentation and a template for how to make up work on Google Classroom. Rehearsal tracks & resources will also be located on Google Classroom. You have one week to make up the missed rehearsal.

Missed Concerts will result as a ZERO in the grade book unless it is missed for an extreme reason (i.e. illness requiring a doctor's note, death in the family). Concerts are unable to be made up if missed because it would be impossible to recreate the experience and LIVE PERFORMANCE is a huge part of the assessment curriculum of a PERFORMING ENSEMBLE! The Turkey Dinner is the one that slips of the radar of most people—be sure to add the date to your calendar!

Honor Choirs

If you're really digging what we are doing in choir, or just plain love to sing, I encourage you to sign up to attend the various honor choirs throughout the year.

OPUS: Requires quite a bit of work RIGHT at the beginning of the school year to work on the audition requirements. We record auditions (scale, My Country 'Tis of Thee, and the audition cut) and submit them by the end of September. Results come out early October. The Honor Choir takes place the 3rd weekend (Thursday) of November at ISU, Ames.

Junior High Honor Choir: Takes place on the 1st Tuesday in November. There is a Treble Clef Choir and a Bass Clef Choir who work on a few pieces separately and then do one joint piece. I can take a decent number of students to this event, so I don't always have to do auditions unless the number of students interested exceeds the number of spots I have! 8th graders get priority for this event because it is the only honor choir they can attend. Held in Storm Lake HS this year.

7th Grade Honor Choir: Takes place in April. There is only one choir for this event that I can take 15 singers (5 Sopranos, 5 Altos, 5 Tenor/Bass) to. There is also a 5/6 choir at this event as well that performs on the concert. Again, I only audition students for this honor choir if the number signed up exceeds the number of students I can bring. This year this honor choir takes place at Morningside College.

Making Music

Students are generally placed in Making Music per the recommendation of their previous year's music teacher. The maximum number of students allowed in Making Music depends on the number of available, working iPads with GarageBand. The number can range from 5-10. Students can request to be in Making Music, but they may not be granted this request. If they are very serious about writing music, and are not placed in Making Music, they may write a short song (verse and chorus) and submit it to Mrs. Falkena as an "application" to join Making Music.

Specials - Art

7th & 8th Grade Art

Teacher: Beth Schlichte

Email: bschlichte@gehlencatholic.org

At Gehlen Catholic School, 7th and 8th grade Art is a required subject and is an extension of what the students learned at the elementary level. 8th grade students attend art class first semester and the 7th grade students attend art the second semester of the school year.

The Junior High Art program utilizes the Day 1/Day 2 (or Odd/Even) system, so students attend art class every other day for one semester. Students earn either a Passing or Failing grade for the quarter and the semester. If the student successfully completes all of the required work, the student will receive a Passing grade. If the student does not complete and turn in all of the required work for the quarter/semester, the student will receive an Incomplete and allowed a small amount of time to complete and turn in the unfinished work. If the student decides not to complete the work, the student will earn a Failing grade for the quarter/semester.

Students will be exposed to new techniques and concepts in the areas of Drawing, Painting, Ceramics, Printmaking, Sculpture and Fibers as time permits. Students are expected to bring their school planner, a pencil and an eraser to class each time; art shirts are optional. All projects will be on public display in the building at some point during the year, so students are encouraged to always do their best.

Specials - PE/Computer/Band

PE

Teachers: Mr. Travis Westhoff

Mr. Rick Fox

Emails: twestoff@gehlenatholic.org

rfox@gehlenatholic.org

7th & 8th Computer

Teacher: Mrs. Nancy Landhuis

Email: nlandhuis@gehlenatholic.org

- 7th grade Computer - Will meet every other day during the first semester. Our initial goal will be for students to improve their keyboarding skills including advances in speed, accuracy and general efficiency. We will also begin work on creating and formatting documents using Google Docs and other Google resources. Students are encouraged to bring their own headphones to class each day.
- 8th Grade Computer - Will meet every other day second semester. After some keyboarding review we will focus on meeting technology performance productivity, communication, research, problem solving, decision making assessments and other standards set by the Diocese. We will be utilizing Google Drive applications for these purposes.

Specials- Band

7th & 8th Grade Band

Teacher: Nathan Klaumann

Email: nklaumann@gehlencatholic.org

Jr. High Band is a course involving all areas of instrumental music performance. Students will rehearse music in class to then publicly perform in concerts during the year as well as several other performance opportunities. Other performance opportunities include marching band, pep band, homecoming, Veterans Day, music contests/festivals, and others. The goal of the band is to help the student improve and perform to the best of his/her abilities, and we strive to be positive and encouraging to each other, as we do the best we can with the talents given to us by God. It is important that you communicate with Mr. Klaumann when issues arise, be at performances and rehearsals ON TIME, attend lessons assigned by Mr. Klaumann, and follow other classroom rules.

People to Know

- Mr. Jeff Alesch - 7-12 Principal
Email: jalesch@gehlenatholic.org
- Mrs. Kristin Hausmann - 7-12 School Psychologist/Guidance Office
Email: khausmann@gehlenatholic.org
- Mrs. Christina Kellen - 7-12 Administrative Assistant
(takes care of all scheduling)
Email: ckellen@gehlenatholic.org
- Mrs. Liz McDougall - 7-12 Administrative Assistant
(your contact person if you are absent)
Email: lmcdougall@gehlenatholic.org
attendance@gehlenatholic.org
Phone Number: 712-546-4181
- Mrs. Kelly Dreckman & Mr. Marty Kurth - Success Center
Email: kdreckman@gehlenatholic.org
- Mrs. Lori Schuch - Technology Coordinator
(Infinite Campus & Email help!)
Email: lschuch@gehlenatholic.org

Important Dates

Orientation: August 22, 2019 (9:00am-12:00pm, uniform required)

First Full Day: August 23, 2019

1st Quarter Midterm: September 25, 2019

1st Quarter End: October 25, 2019

Parent Teacher Conferences: November 7, 2019

2nd Quarter Midterm: December 2, 2019

2nd Quarter End: January 14, 2020

Semester 1 Tests: January 13 & 14, 2020 (will dismiss at 1:00pm)

3rd Quarter Midterm: February 13, 2020

Parent Teacher Conferences: February 19, 2020

3rd Quarter End: March 17, 2020

4th Quarter Midterm: April 22, 2020

4th Quarter End: May 21, 2020

Semester 2 Tests: May 20 & 21, 2020 (will dismiss at 1:00pm)

First day of Boys Basketball: October 21, 2019

First day of Girls Basketball: January 2, 2020

First day of Track: March 11, 2020 (Girl hurdles will begin on March 2)

Retreat Date: To Be Determined (around the end of February)

Speech Contest Date: To Be Determined (end of February or

Beginning of March)

Study Skills Part 1

Study Skills

Effective study habits can make a big impact on school performance. Establishing strong study habits early in your schooling will have a positive, lasting impact throughout junior high and high school, and those habits will carry over into college and your career.

Part 1: Effective Study Habits

The following study habits are adapted from EducationCorner.com and PrincetonReview.com

1. **Find a location** -- Find a study space that works for you. For some, that is a quiet desk in their room. For others, it is the kitchen table where they can ask a parent for help.
2. **Set a routine** -- Plan to study every day. Consider your other commitments outside of school and find a consistent time each day to dedicate to studying. Students who study sporadically usually do not perform as well as students who set a routine.
3. **Study a little everyday** -- Cramming the night before the test is not an effective way to learn the information long-term. Remember -- you'll need to retain all of the information for the semester test. It's more effective to study in short sessions every day than in one long session. Don't have homework in a specific subject tonight? Read through your notes or practice your vocabulary terms so that you review each subject for a few minutes each day.
4. **Create a distraction-free zone** -- We are all distracted by something. What are your main distractors? Your phone? TV? Trying to multitask or refocus after an interruption can lead to ineffective studying. Identify your main distractions and remove them from your set study time. They can be a well-earned reward once you finish your study session.
5. **Break it down** -- Don't become overwhelmed by a larger assignment. Start small, identify manageable steps and work on those steps a little each day.
6. **Use class time wisely** -- Ten minutes left before the bell rings? Get busy on your assignment. You may be amazed at how much homework you can accomplish during the school day if you use your time in class wisely.
7. **Create an organization system** -- Find a way of organizing that works for you. For some, it may be color coded folders and notebooks for each class. For others, it may be a single accordion style folder with a slot for each class. Whatever you choose, keep it simple and maintain it. Clean out your locker for 2-3 minutes every day.
8. **Get your zzz's** -- The National Sleep Foundation recommends 9-11 hours of sleep per night for school-age children (ages 6-13) and 8-10 hours of sleep per night for teenagers (ages 14-17).

Study Skills Part 2 & 3

Part 2: Gehlen Catholic Resources for All Students

Gehlen Catholic has specific tools to increase your studying success:

- **Infinite Campus (IC)** -- Gehlen's student information system is a great tool to help you keep track of grades and assignments. Both students and parents can have an account. If you need help setting up or accessing your account, please contact Mrs. Christina Kellen (ckellen@gehlencatholic.org) or Mrs. Lori Schuch (lschuch@gehlencatholic.org).
- **Planner** -- Gehlen provides each student in grades 7-12 with a planner at the beginning of the school year. Use your planner daily to list assignments, plan ahead to midterm and quarter, keep track of extra-curricular activities and school breaks and stay organized. If you have misplaced your free planner, talk to Mrs. Christina Kellen or Mrs. Hausmann for a possible replacement.
- **Just About Your Success (JAYS)** -- JAYS is a 20-minute class period built into the school day for students in grades 7-12 to focus on specific classes and assignments in which they need additional help. Use your JAYS time effectively each day by doing your most difficult homework or studying so that you can ask teachers or peers if you need assistance. Put off socializing during these 20 valuable minutes.
- **Supportive Teachers** -- Your teachers want you to be successful and can be your greatest resource! Reach out to your teachers if you have questions about homework and how to best study for their tests. It's important to be proactive -- talk to them as soon as you have a question.

Part 3: Additional Resources

Interested in additional specific information? Mrs. Hausmann has compiled a variety of resources to help support your effective study habits and test taking skills. The resources can be found on her website:

www.gehlencatholic.org/academics/7-12_guidance/study_skills

Topics include: study skills checklist, test taking, listening and note taking, time management, homework, organization and more.

Supply List

Pencils (real or mechanical #2)

Pencil Bag

Pens

Glue Stick & Elmer's Glue

Colored Pencils

Markers

Highlighters

3 boxes of Kleenex

Expandable Folder (accordion style) OR 6 folders

1 flash drive

Dry Erase Markers

2 notebooks college ruled for Science/Soc. Studies

3 subject notebooks college ruled for Math

2 packs of 100 notecards

2-3 packs of college ruled loose leaf paper

White/Pink Eraser

Earbuds

P.E. Shoes/Clothes for every PE class

Mrs. Taylor(Lang.Arts)-1" or 2" binder with divider tabs, wide ruled loose leaf

Mrs. Schilling-(Lang.Arts)1 subject notebook, 1 composition notebook

Mrs. Vacura(Reading)-1 subject notebook(7th grade), 3 subject notebook(8th grade)

Mrs. Kellen(8th Religion)-1 subject notebook, 1 composition notebook

Mrs. Christoffel(7th Religion)-1 subject notebook

Mrs. Falkena (Music)-1" black binder

****Students should have supplies ALL year long!!!

The ABCs of Junior High

- A- Absences & Tardies
- B- Books
- C- Cell Phones
- D- Do You Have Your Homework?
- E- Emails
- F- Failing a Semester (Summer School)
- G- Graduation & Awards Day
- H- Homework
- I- Infinite Campus (IC)
- J- JAYS Time
- K- Kindness Matters!
- L- Let's Go!
- M- Mass
- N- NO Gum or Candy!
- O- Organization
- P- Planners
- Q- Quickly Get to Class
- R- Retreat
- S- Supplies
- T- Tests (Semester)
- U- Be Responsible for U!
- V- Value Your Time
- W- We Want to Know
- X- Xtra Help
- Y- You Can Make Corrections
- Z- ZZZZZzzzzz.....

ABCs of Junior High

A - Absences & Tardies

- Absences have been a huge problem lately. Your absences directly affect your grade. You cannot make up class time or class discussions. Sure, you can get the notes and work but not the experiences of learning it first hand with your classmates. Please keep this in mind when you are thinking about getting a haircut or going shopping during the school day.
- Absence notes/emails need to be sent to the office before the school day starts. If you know you are going to be gone, this needs to be done as soon as you know you are going to be gone.
- Being late for your 1st class of the day is an automatic detention.
- Tardies are given if you are late to class.
- 4 tardies result in a detention.

B- Books

- All hard-covered books need to be covered - stretchy or paper covers are fine (covering can be done at home or in the library).
- Books borrowed from the library or the classroom library need to be returned in a timely manner. Students will need to pay for books that are lost or damaged.
- Students should have their AR book with them at all times.

ABCs of Junior High

C- Cell Phones

- Cell phones should be kept in LOCKERS throughout the day.
- Phones will be sent to the office if a student is caught with it during class.
- Students may have their phones during lunch.
- Phones should NOT be taken into restrooms or locker rooms at any time!
- We are flexible & let them call/text during the day if it's ABSOLUTELY necessary (change of schedules, etc).
- Cell phones rules/policies are subject to change.

D- Do You Have Your Homework?

- If you KNOW you are going to be gone in advance, you need to let the office know before you leave.
- The office will give the student a yellow slip. This slip is to be taken to all teachers for them to fill out your assignments that you will be missing.
- Infinite Campus is also a good resource to see what you've missed.
- If you are gone from school, it is the STUDENT'S responsibility to get their missing work turned in.

ABCs of Junior High

E- Emails

- Communication is key so please feel free to email us at any time.
- Students should also be checking their email regularly because some teachers communicate by email.

F- Failing a Semester (Summer School)

- Students will have to take summer school if they fail a SEMESTER in any course.
- Summer school is 2 weeks during the summer (the cost is the responsibility of the parents - it's not included in tuition).
- Retention will be encouraged if a student fails 3 or more classes.

G- Graduation & Awards Day

- 7th graders attend 8th grade graduation & awards day and may receive awards for various achievements throughout the year.
- Parents are more than welcome to attend but not required.

H- Homework

- Students will more than likely have homework EACH night.
- Some nights this may just be studying notes or vocabulary words.
- Homework is to be done AT HOME! Students should not be coming to school & working on it in the mornings - this is when cheating, copying, etc. takes place.

ABCs of Junior High

I- Infinite Campus

- IC is a wonderful tool! Please take advantage of using it. If you cannot access your account, let us know so we can help you.
- Students need to also use IC to check their grades. Their grade needs to rest on THEIR shoulders! Checking IC will help them know when they need to make corrections, ask for help, turn in a late assignment, or study for a test. Teachers will not chase them down in order for these things to happen.

J- JAYS Time

- The last 20 minutes of the day is called JAYS time.
- Usually the students can choose where they want to go, but it may happen that they are stamped by a teacher. This means they must go to that teacher's room. Students may be stamped because they didn't turn an assignment in or they are having trouble in that class.
- The general study hall rooms will be in Mr. Fox, Mr. Meyer & Mrs. Christoffel's rooms. Mrs. Vacura's room will be the silent reading room.

K- Kindness Matters

- Kindness is important in the Junior High! Not only to each other, but JH kids are role models to the younger students.
- "Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see." - Mark Twain

ABCs of Junior High

L- Let's Go!

- The junior high kids will have 2 options for the Homecoming Parade - they can either be in it or watch it. They can be in it with their sports team, band, fine arts float or Students for Life. If they don't want to participate with these groups, they will watch it with the junior high teachers.
- It is possible the junior high students will be going off campus for other various reasons throughout the school year, but before this happens permission slips will go home.

M- Mass

- We expect the students in junior high to know how to act in Mass. This includes participation & being respectful. This also includes no talking, no laughing, no playing. Inappropriate Mass behavior will result in a detention(s) and an email to parents.

N- NO Gum or Candy

- Gum & candy is NOT allowed in the classrooms (unless given out by a teacher).
- Students who are caught with gum/candy in the classroom will have a \$1 fine.
- Students should also keep lockers free of any type of food/candy/drink (if they need to pack a snack for after school - then that is when it should be eaten - not between classes!).

ABCs of Junior High

O- Organization

- Generally organized students are the most successful!
- If you are organized then your work will be where it needs to be when you need it!
- Find a system that works for YOU!

P- Planners

- Students should have their planners with them at all times.
- They should be writing their assignments and important notes in them daily.

Q- Quickly Get to Class!

- Students will only have 3 minutes between each class. You will need to quickly get to your locker, grab all of your needed supplies then get to your next class. If you move quickly, there should be enough time to use the restroom AND get a drink!

R- Retreat

- The junior high will participate in a retreat with the rest of the high school (this is usually sometime in February).
- This is a mandatory day of school.
- Specific information will be sent home in a letter closer to the date.

ABCs of Junior High

S- Supplies

- Students should have everything that is listed on the supply list.
- Students are expected to have the day-to-day materials with them at all times (markers, colored pencils, etc. can stay in lockers).
- If these supplies run out, they need to be replenished as soon as possible.

T- Tests (Semester)

- All students will take semester tests.
- PLEASE AVOID TAKING A VACATION!
- Keep all assignments or handouts to help study for tests.
- Each teacher has their own test format.

U- Be Responsible for U!

- Forgetting an assignment, or practice clothes, or your band instrument, or a permission slip, or..... is not your parent's fault.
- Our job as a junior high staff is to start preparing you for high school & beyond - being a responsible junior high student is HUGE!

ABCs of Junior High

V- Value Your Time

- Junior high students really need to use their time wisely. They have a lot on their plates with school, homework, fine arts & sports, and not to mention what they do on their own time! They don't want or need to fall behind!
- They need to use study halls, JAYS time & the end of class periods WISELY! It's amazing what you can get done in just 10-15 minutes!!

W- We Want to Know & Help

- If you have any concerns, please let us know.
- Don't assume we know everything or see everything.
- We are always a presence, but we are not involved in kids' conversations or in the locker rooms.
- The Junior High Team meets every Tuesday morning. We can discuss your concerns at this time.

X- Xtra Help

- The junior high teachers are generally available to give extra help in the mornings before school, during study hall & JAYS time, and after school.
- It is again the students' responsibility to come to us when they need help. We have 85+ junior high students to worry about while students have 1 person to worry about.

