February 5th, 2021

Dear Rising 6th Grade Parents and Guardians,

We are excited to welcome you to our Stone Hill Middle School community! We wish that we had the opportunity to welcome you into Stone Hill in person, but we are very much looking forward to meeting you and all our newest Stingrays in the fall. The course selection process for the 2021-2022 school year has begun! To help you navigate this process and make decisions that are best for your child, we wanted to provide you with all of our transition activities and information.

Please view our Rising 6th Grade Parent presentation. In this presentation, you will hear from our Stone Hill Administration and Rising 6th Grade team to discuss life at Stone Hill, the available 6th grade courses, activities and clubs, and Skill on the Hill, our rising 6th grade transition camp. After reviewing our presentation, please take a moment to complete our Rising 6th Grade Parent Survey.

Rising 6th Grade Parent Night Presentation  
Rising 6th Grade Parent Survey

For the most up-to-date information, please continue to check out our Rising 6th Grade Google Site. We will have our parent and student presentations posted, curriculum videos from our Subject Area Lead Teachers (SALTs), video messages from some of our Stingray Leaders and information for in person and virtual learning.

Rising 6th Grade Google Site

Our Rising 6th Grade counselors, Mrs. Haislip and Mrs. O’Brien, and Rising 6th Grade Dean, Mrs. Robucci, will be sharing a presentation with your student’s fifth grade class. We will definitely miss visiting our newest Stingrays at each elementary school but wanted to still provide them with information about what to expect in 6th grade. Our rising 6th grade team will be virtually visiting each 5th grade class in the spring to formally introduce ourselves and answer any questions our new students may have!

Below is 6th grade course information. The Middle School Program of Studies is a great resource to assist you in learning about the courses offered at the middle school level:

Program of Studies

- The four core subjects (English, Math, History, and Science) will be preloaded into your child’s course requests based on their 5th grade teacher’s recommendations. Students will
be recommended for the academic or honors level in the following classes: Science, History, and English. English is a double block meaning that it is held every day (all other classes are held every other day). If you would like to change any of the recommended courses, please contact your child’s teacher first to discuss the change.

- Recommendations for math placement will be made by the fifth grade teacher upon review of your child’s 5th grade progress in math. Please view the middle school math course recommendation video for the most up-to-date information regarding our Math classes.
  
  Middle School Math Course Recommendation Information Session Video

- All students will take a year of Health & PE and a semester each of Art and Introduction to Computer Applications. In addition, students will have a 45-minute Resource (similar to a study hall) or Spectrum class (Spectrum will be automatic for students who are currently in Futura). These courses will be preloaded for students in their course requests.

- All sixth graders will also select a music elective. The music elective is a 45-minute class held opposite your child’s 45-minute resource or Spectrum class. Options for music are Band, Chorus, Strings, and Music Lab. Sixth grade is the only time to start taking a band or strings instrument (with the exception of guitar) in Loudoun County. The Stone Hill Music department created a presentation to help students select their music elective. Students received this presentation in their current music classes. Students who select Band and Strings will receive another presentation from the Stone Hill Music Department to help with instrument selection.
  
  Music at Stone Hill Middle School Presentation

- Lastly, we will be setting up a new student orientation in early August. We will provide students and families with more information at a later date.

We welcome all our families to Stone Hill Middle and look forward to getting to know and work with you for your child’s success!

Sincerely,

Monique Haislip, School Counselor
Sarah O’Brien, School Counselor
Kelly Robucci, Dean
Kathryn Clark, Principal