



STONE HILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

23415 Evergreen Ridge Drive
Ashburn, VA 20148
Phone: (703) 957-4420
Fax: (571) 223-0585



January 11, 2019

Dear Rising 6th Grade Parents,

The course selection process for the 2019-2020 school year has begun and our staff is very excited to welcome you to our Stone Hill Middle School community! To help you navigate this process and make decisions that are best for your child, we will have the following transition activities this winter:

- **Parent Information Night** for rising 6th grade parents. On **February 20th, from 6:30 – 8:00 pm**, Stone Hill will host parents for a tour, panel discussion, and curriculum information.
- Rising **6th Grade Band and Strings Selection Nights on February 25th for students with last names that begin with A-M** and one on **February 26th for students with last names that begin with N-Z**. Both nights will be held at Stone Hill Middle **from 6:00pm – 8:30pm**.
- Our principal, grade level Dean Mr. Bauer and School Counselor will be visiting each of the schools in February to share a brief presentation on Stone Hill's schedule and a typical day for a sixth grader. Dates for those visits are below:

February 6 th	9-10 a.m.	Rosa Lee Carter
February 6 th	1:15-2:15 p.m.	Madison's Trust
February 7 th	9-10 a.m.	Creighton's Corner
February 7 th	1:15-2:15 p.m.	Moorefield Station Elementary
February 8 th	9-10 a.m.	Discovery Elementary
February 15 th	9-10 a.m.	Legacy Elementary

- In early April, your child will have the opportunity to visit Stone Hill Middle School for an orientation and to meet some of the administrative staff. They will have the opportunity to see some of our music ensembles and will get to tour the building.
 - April 8th 9:15-11:15 a.m. Rosa Lee Carter and Creighton's Corner Elementary
 - April 11th 9:15-11:15 a.m. Moorefield Elementary and Madison's Trust Elem.
 - April 11th 9:15-11:15 a.m. Discovery Elementary and Legacy Elementary

If your child will be joining us next year and does not currently attend one of our primary feeder schools listed above, we would love for your child to be able to join us for these exciting transitional activities. Please feel free to contact me and your child's fifth grade counselor so we can make sure your child is able to participate in one of each of the activities listed above.

Below are the course options for rising 6th grade students. The Middle School Program of Studies is an additional resource to assist you in learning about the course options offered at the middle school level.:

<https://www.lcps.org/Page/1910>

- The four core subjects (English, Math, History, and Science) will be preloaded into your child's course requests based on his/her 5th grade teacher's recommendations.

- All students will take a year of PE and a semester each of Art and Keyboarding. Those will be preloaded as well.
- All sixth graders will need to 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. Instrument Nights are on **Feb. 25th A-M last name and February 26th N-Z last names.**
- Sixth graders will be recommended for 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 have a discussion about his or her opinion on the change, and then contact Jennifer Alberth, Rising 6th Grade Counselor at SHMS (jennifer.alberth@lcps.org)
- The math courses offered are: Math 6 and Accelerated Math 6/7. Recommendations for math placement will be made by the fifth-grade teacher upon review of the math placement test score, SOL scores, and your child's 5th grade progress in math.
- If your child is currently enrolled in Futura, he/she will automatically be enrolled in Spectrum.
- During resource, your child's core team teachers (English, Math, Science, and History) are available to help your child as needed.
- Sixth grade is **the only time to start taking a band or strings instrument** (with the exception of guitar) in Loudoun County. If your child does not sign up for band or strings in 6th grade, **there will not be an opportunity in 7th or 8th grade to do so. Students choosing band or strings MUST meet with our band or strings directors to review the instruments and make an instrument selection.** Please see the flier with this packet for the band night and music selection information!! Students will be given an option to try out different instruments and will make a final decision on which one they will be choosing for 6th grade.
- If your child misses the opportunity to attend band night, please contact either director to set up a time to meet. Their contact information is robyn.lawrence@lcps.org (band), and eric.maeshiro@lcps.org (strings).

If you need additional resources to aid in instrument selection, there is information posted on the Stone Hill website at: <https://www.lcps.org/domain/10880>.

Lastly, we will be setting up a new student orientation in early August. This will be a chance, prior to school starting, for students and parents to visit the building, find and open their locker, and walk through their class schedule.

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

Sincerely,

Mrs. Jennifer Alberth, School Counselor, SHMS