

**2006-2007**

**Grades 6-8**

# Student Services Guide

<http://www.aaps.k12.mi.us/ins.home>



**Ann Arbor  
Public Schools**



**Arts &  
Communication**



**Business, Management,  
Marketing & Technology**



**Health Sciences**



**Engineering, Manufacturing  
& Industrial Technology**



**Human Services**



**Natural  
Resources**

# ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## MISSION

“The Ann Arbor Public Schools, working with families and the community, will educate and empower every student to succeed in a changing environment as a responsible participant in a democratic society.”

Ann Arbor Board of Education, 2000

## CORE VALUES

The Ann Arbor Public Schools is committed to:

- Putting the needs of students first in all decisions and actions
- Having high expectations for all students and staff
- Meeting students' educational and social needs
- Valuing and treating students as individuals
- Serving students, families, and the community in a professional manner
- Facilitating open, inclusive communication within the school and with the greater community
- Encouraging and supporting students to become responsible, independent lifelong learners
- Maintaining a safe and orderly school environment
- Providing equitable access to opportunities and resources for students
- Practicing mutual respect among students, staff, parents, and community members
- Welcoming parents' involvement in the education of their children

## STRATEGIC GOALS

1. Ensure achievement for all students.
2. Implement a system of district-wide accountability with appropriate consequences for employees, students, and programs.
3. Provide effective educational programs and services to meet students' needs.
4. Attract, hire, retain, and support highly qualified and diverse staff.
5. Increase revenue and allocate resources to maximize student learning in the classroom.

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S CABINET

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Ann Arbor Public Schools

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Dear Middle School Parent and Student,

The 2006-2007 Student Service Guide has been revised and formatted with information that we hope you will find useful in planning for the middle school years. The purpose of this new format is to provide you with a document that is easier to read and more user friendly than previous documents. Please send us your comments about this new middle school guide, it is a work in progress.

The most significant change in this document is the fact that it is only for middle school parents and students. In previous Student Services Guides, this information was combined in one large booklet with numerous pages. The inclusion of both high school and middle school course numbers and descriptions for every department and curricular area created a maze of confusing information and lacked answers to basic questions that many middle school parents and students requested.

The current guide contains fewer pages that include easy references to information about the general structure of Ann Arbor's middle schools. Specific grade level course descriptions and selection sheets will be provided by each middle school. The guides will be sent directly to the schools where grade level counselors will distribute them at grade level and parent orientations.

We hope that you will find a convenient place to store this document and will use it as a reference throughout your child's middle school career.

Best wishes for a successful middle school experience.

George V. Fornero  
Superintendent

## GREAT COMMUNITIES HAVE GREAT SCHOOLS!

### THE ANN ARBOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS *MIDDLE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE*

#### ABOUT US

Ann Arbor's public middle schools are great places to learn! We have five distinctly different schools, but they all share common goals and philosophies:

- **Learning & life integrated skills** – We have a strong academic program which provides for the achievement of all and recognizes that students have different styles and varied rates of learning.
- **Personal growth and development** – Our students, ages 10 – 14, are facing a time of transition. We are aware of the delicate balance between helping our students gain independence while providing a nurturing and supportive environment.
- **Exploration** – We provide a strong elective program for students to safely explore new ideas, skills and interests with just the right amount of guidance, encouragement and structure to meet their individual learning styles.
- **Physical and social development** – We provide students with experiences designed to address their rapid changes and varied physical needs. Positive problem-solving and decision-making skills are taught and emphasized in order for students to function independently in the world.

#### WE ARE A COMMUNITY

Our students' safety and comfort are of utmost importance to us. That's why we do whatever it takes to build a sense of community for our students and staff. We believe that the total school staff must function as a team, along with parents, students and the community.

In each building, there is at least one adult who knows and cares for each child and who supports that child's academic and personal development. In addition, each grade level is assigned a counselor that stays with the student for the entire three years of middle school.

#### WE CAREFULLY CONSIDER NOT ONLY WHAT WE TEACH OUR STUDENTS BUT ALSO HOW WE TEACH THEM!

The Ann Arbor Public Schools Middle School Program has the following unique components:

- We offer ***small administrative/teaching units***. The grades are structured into "houses" or smaller communities within the larger context of the school.
- Each student is assigned to an ***interdisciplinary team*** of two to four teachers (science, math, language arts, social studies).
- Each student is assigned an ***advisory period*** where they make that important "connection" with a teacher advisor on a daily basis. This is the time to communicate important school information to and from parents and students.
- Differentiation of instruction within the classroom ensures that each student is challenged by a variety of instructional strategies suited to his or her achievement and ability levels.

#### CHALLENGING CURRICULUM

We offer our students just the right amount of rigor while allowing for individual learning styles. Our curriculum, instruction and assessment are aligned with district, state and national standards.

## DISCOVERING THE WORLD SIXTH GRADE

In **Mathematics 6** students will develop skills in algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability as they explore statistics, two-dimensional geometry, rational numbers, two dimensional measurement, and probability.

In **Earth Science** students will explore the Earth's surface and beyond as they study astronomy, hydrology, geology and weather. Laboratory studies will be grounded in the scientific method.

In **World Geography and Culture** students will begin a two-year exploration of the world as learning takes them to Australia, North America, South America, North Africa, The Middle East, The East and Southeast Asia.

All students will participate in **Content Area Writing** class. This class will focus on writing in each of the content areas. Students will develop skills in fiction and non-fiction writing while developing their voice as a writer.

All students will have the support of a **Reading** class. During the first nine weeks, students will develop study skills and the next three marking periods students will select the type of reading skills they wish to pursue from a menu of electives offered in each middle school.

In addition, our sixth graders take **Exploratory** classes in art, life management, music, performing arts, technology education, foreign languages (French, German, Latin, Spanish), and computer technology (including keyboarding).

## LIVING IN THE WORLD SEVENTH GRADE

In **Mathematics 7** students will develop skills in algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability as they study similarity, ratio, proportions, and percentages, integers, linear relationships and three dimensional measurement.

In **Life Science** students will learn about the living world through study of human biology, ecology, plants, animals and cells.

In **World Geography and Culture** students will continue a two-year exploration of the world as learning takes them to Japan, The Commonwealth of Independent States, Africa, south of the Sahara, South Asia and Europe.

In **Language Arts 7** emphasis is on reading, writing, listening skills and oral communication. Students focus on analyzing point of view, purpose and audience in both their writing and literature.

## MOVEMENT AND CHANGE EIGHTH GRADE

In **Math 8, Pre-Algebra** students will develop skills in algebra, geometry, measurement, data analysis and probability as they explore relationships: Exponential Relationships, Quadratic Relationships, Pythagorean Theorem, Symmetry and Transformational Geometry.

In **Physical Science** students will explore movement and change while studying changes in matter, structure of matter, force and motion, waves, vibrations, energy, magnetism and electricity.

In **American History** students will learn about the social, political and economic changes that shaped this country from the Pre-Revolutionary War through Reconstruction.

In **Language Arts 8** students will focus on the communication process as a means for developing analytical skills. Students will refine persuasion techniques and literary judgement. A wide variety of literature will help students explore their common heritage and humanity.

**In seventh and eighth grade students will have choices from a menu of electives offered in each middle school. A semester of Health is required in either the seventh or eighth grade.**

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Most Ann Arbor middle school students meet or exceed state standards on the state's annual MEAP tests -- more than 80% in science and writing, 75% in mathematics, 66% in reading, and more than 50% in social studies. District performance typically exceeds the performance of students statewide by 15 to 20 percentage points.

## **RICH ELECTIVES**

### **Music Programs**

We offer varying levels of choir, orchestra, and band at every school. Our jazz bands are known statewide. Students have multiple opportunities to perform publicly in concerts, festivals, citywide events and at solo & ensemble competition. We also offer a Summer Music Program, scholarships to the Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp, and a Summer Outreach Program that provides private lessons for students with financial need.

### **Foreign Language**

After exploring multiple foreign languages in sixth grade, students may select a foreign language in seventh grade and continue to study the language in eighth grade. Selection of a foreign language class in seventh or eighth grade provides students the unique

opportunity of studying a language for five full years.

### **Visual Arts**

Our sixth grade **Exploratory Arts** course gives students the opportunity to investigate different art mediums, such as drawing, painting, sculpture and ceramics. Seventh and eighth graders may continue their exploration of different art forms or may also choose to concentrate on one medium.

Our young artists have exhibition opportunities throughout the Ann Arbor community such as the Main Street Art Walk in March and the district-wide art show at the Washtenaw Intermediate School District in May of each year.

### **Theater**

There are varying opportunities in theater that may include classes in theater workshop, drama, performing arts, and radio/television. School productions may provide an opportunity to showcase student talents.

## **Life Management**

Students learn skills such as sewing, childcare, nutrition, cooking, baking and menu planning in courses such as Foods for Life and Life Skills.

## **Physical Education**

One semester of physical education is required for 6th graders. In grades seven and eight, physical education is an elective. Sportsmanship, swimming, personal fitness, and basic sports skills are emphasized in these classes.

## **Technology/Business Education**

Through discovery and hands-on activities, students will explore computer, laser, electronic, robotics, and bio-related technology. Students will use problem-solving skills to research, design and construct a project.

Students have the opportunity to choose from a variety of courses including keyboarding and computer applications.

## **Career Pathways**

In sixth and seventh grades, students explore career interests, abilities and learning styles as they relate to the world of work. In eighth grade, the focus is on transitioning to high school and developing an educational plan based on career interest. The cover of the 2006-07 Student Services Guide contains the symbols of the six Career Pathways. Ann Arbor Schools District is committed to providing Career Pathways information to all students. Watch for this information in future building and district publications.

## **SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE**

Extracurricular programs may include:

### **Clubs –**

- Chess
- Judo
- Ski

### **Academic Games/Enrichment**

- Math Counts
- Academic Games
- Knowledge Master Open
- Future Cities

### **Field Trips**

- Chicago, Traverse City, Washington, D.C....
- Local museums, business and industry, musical and theater performances

## **YES! WE HAVE SPORTS PROGRAMS!**

We have both an *interscholastic* sports program (competition against other Ann Arbor schools) and an *intramural* (no-cut) program in each middle school. These programs provide the opportunity *for all students*, regardless of skill, to participate. We offer field hockey, basketball, swimming, synchronized swimming, softball, football, track, soccer, baseball, and wrestling, to name a few. In fact, we are among some of the few middle schools in the state to have our own pools!

## **SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS**

An administrator in each middle school is identified as the *Special Education Liaison*. Their goal is to work with classroom teachers to ensure that special needs students have a smooth transition from elementary to middle to high school. Special Education services for the Ann Arbor Public Schools are administered through the Student Intervention and Support Services department. Special Education is regulated by federal and state laws, and Board of Education policy.

## **MEET OUR STAFF**

Our teachers are highly qualified and highly motivated. More than half have advanced degrees and many of them have won awards for excellence. Ann Arbor has a premier staff, at the middle school level with 54% of the teachers holding master degrees or higher.

Our teachers have accumulated awards for their teaching including: Presidential Awards in Mathematics and Science, Guggenheim award winners, nominations for Disney Teacher of the Year, and international travel through Fulbright Scholarships and awards from the National Endowment of the Humanities.

Our teachers are recognized for their expertise in subject matter and are asked to consult on curriculum development committees at the state and national level.

## **OUR PARENTS ARE INVOLVED IN OUR SCHOOLS**

Students aren't the only ones who have to make that transition from elementary school to middle school. Parents also require constant communication and assurance that their child has every opportunity to grow and succeed. We communicate through:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Curriculum/Capsule Nights
- Web Sites
- Homework/Communication Hotlines
- E-mail messages
- PTSO newsletters and flyers
- Concerts, plays, and athletic events
- Fall/Spring Open house/Parent Orientation sessions

Parents are always welcome in our schools. Here are just a few ways in which parents play an active role in our schools:

- School Improvement Teams
- PTSO
- Black Parent Support
- Steering committees
- Chaperones
- Event planners
- Library assistants
- Other

**For information regarding the course selection process, please contact the principal or grade level counselor listed for your school attendance area.**

**For additional information please contact:**

Joyce Hunter, Administrator for Middle Schools  
(734) 994-2315 (734) 994-2955 (fax)

Linda Prieskorn, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator  
(734) 994-1682 (734) 994-2955 (fax)

# Ann Arbor Middle Schools

## Principals and Counselors 2006-2007

### Clague Middle School

Michael Hecker, Principal  
2616 Nixon Road, 48105  
(734) 994-1976

Counselor	Phone	Grade
Kathy Moran	994-1978	6
William Johnson	994-1980	7
Heidi Luter	994-1982	8

### Forsythe Middle School

Dr. Janet Schamb, Principal  
1655 Newport Road 48103  
(734) 994-1985

Counselor	Phone #	Grade
Patricia Carson	994-1986	6
Mark O'Boyle	994-1987	7
Jacqueline Stoupe	994-1988	8

### Scarlett Middle School

Dr. Benjamin P. Edmondson, Principal  
3300 Lorraine 48108  
(734) 971-1694

Counselor	Phone	Grade
Susan Buchan	971-1697	6
William Moran	971-1698	7
Nancy Schleicher	971-1699	8

### Slauson Middle School

Patricia Rose, Principal  
10198 W. Washington 48103  
(734) 994-2004

Counselor	Phone #	Grade
Jan MacKenzie	994-2007	6
Grace Harbison	994-2006	7
Judy Gagalis	994-2005	8

### Tappan Middle School

Gary Court, Principal  
2251 East Stadium Blvd. 48104  
(734) 994-2044

Counselor	Phone	Grade
Claudia Siewert	994-2012	6
Karel Graham	994-2014	7
Gwen Bonnee	994-2016	8

### Ann Arbor Open School

Naomi Zikmund-Fisher, Principal  
920 Miller, 48103  
(734) 994-1910

#### What is Ann Arbor Open School?

Ann Arbor Open School is a school within Ann Arbor Public Schools designed to deliver a kindergarten through eight grade learning experience. It offers students a chance to become more actively involved in the learning process. Ann Arbor Open staff members work closely with the students and each other to establish a balance between individualized projects and the foundations of language arts, social studies, science and mathematics. Ann Arbor Open offers a small school concept while providing the curriculum and enrichment opportunities available in a large school setting. Those interested in a alternative middle school should contact Ann Arbor Open School

Counselor	Phone #
Allan Loeb	994-1910

# **STUDENT SERVICES GUIDE**

## **2006-2007**

### **Grades 9-12**

#### **Non-Discrimination Policy**

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any educational program or activity available in any school on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital status, or disability. Any such discriminatory practice or inhumane conduct shall constitute just cause for complaint and/or remedy. Encourage or discouragement of persons to participate in programs or activities shall be based solely on sound educational reasons.

The district will only produce and purchase for and/or use material in the classroom and extra curricular activities that portrays positively and accurately, the contributions of all people and cultures.

The district in its classrooms and extra curricular demonstrations, lectures, activities, counseling and/or placement of persons, will not demean, humiliate, intimate, embarrass or offend a person's race, color, sex, religion, creed, political belief, age, national origin, linguistic and language differences, sexual orientation, socio-economic status, height, weight, marital or familial status, or disability.

**INQUIRIES OR COMPLAINTS REGARDING VIOLATIONS OF THIS POLICY AND OPTIONS FOR FILING COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES**  
MAY BE DIRECTED TO: Dr. George Fornero, Superintendent, Ann Arbor Public Schools, 2555 South State Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104,  
Telephone (734) 994-2230, Fax: (734) 994-2414.

#### **Student Information and Records**

Federal law requires school districts to notify parents and guardians yearly of their right to review their student's education records. Under the provisions of Michigan's Freedom of Information Act (Act No. 442 of the Public Acts of 1976,) district-wide results from the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) will be supplied to any individual who requests it.

Federal law also provides for "public release without permission" of certain student directory information. The Ann Arbor Public Schools defines directory information to include name of student, photograph, major area of study, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height (if on an athletic team,) awards, most recent previous school attended and film or video image. Parents or guardians who do not wish any or all of the above items released must notify their child's building principal, in writing, on a yearly basis.

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**PLEASE KEEP FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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**Ann Arbor Public Schools  
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