

HUNTINGDON AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL
2500 Cassady Avenue
Huntingdon, PA 16652
(814) 643-2900
(814) 643-6513 FAX

“Working together so all students can learn.”

Brian Pelka
Principal

Kimberlie Rieffannacht
Assistant Principal

August 2, 2013

Dear Middle School Parents and Guardians:

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new principal at Huntingdon Area Middle School! I am very excited to be part of the middle school team and to work with your child. As you know, summer is passing, and we are looking ahead to the beginning of a brand new school year. Classes begin on Monday, August 26, 2013. As in past years, homeroom assignments will be posted in the “Back to School” edition of the Daily News. Our staff is working hard to make this a productive and challenging school year for your child. Please access the 2013-2014 school calendar on our district website www.huntsd.org.

In order for your child to get the most out of school this year, we all need to work together. This means keeping the lines of communication open between home and school. We will make every effort to keep you informed about class and school activities, and update you regularly (every 3 weeks through EdLine) regarding your child’s academic progress. Your child will also benefit from your direct involvement in his/her education, including reinforcement of school rules and discipline.

All students need to arrive at the Middle School between 7:30 and 7:45 a.m. Classes will begin at 7:50 a.m. with attendance /news/homeroom and team time. Our schedule has been revised for the 2013-2014 school year and we will now have a 7 period day, with Activity period to be held two days a cycle. There will be a variety of activities for students to select from each semester.

There are several new faculty members at our Middle School this year. We are looking forward to working with the following new people. We are sure you will find that they will further enhance our fine faculty.

Mrs. Lisa Abernethy- 7th Grade Reading

Mr. Jeremy Uhrich- 8th Grade Reading

Mr. Matt Marter- 6th Social Studies

Mr. Mike Tomlinson- 8th Grade Foreign Language

Mrs. Anita Young- 8th Grade Foreign Language

Changes in staff assignment: Mr. Ben Vescovi – 6th Grade Math

Mrs. Lori Dickson – 6th Grade Math

Mrs. Kelly Thomas- 6th Grade Science

Mr. Brock Anders- 7th Grade Social Studies

Mrs. Melissa Decker – Reading Coach

7/8 Grade Team Change:

Miss. Kellyn Miller – Language Arts

Mr. Matt Orenshaw- Math

Mr. Patrick Smith – Social Studies

Mrs. Alsion Goodman – Science

The building will be open on the following dates to parents and students:

- Tuesday, August 20, 2013 at 6 PM-7:30 PM. Parent / Student orientation will be held for all grade levels.
- Thursday, August 29, 2013 our annual Open House will be held for parents/students of all grade levels. This will begin at 6:00PM in the cafeteria.

We hope you and your child(ren) have a wonderful school year. Please check with your child(ren) daily for news and information of upcoming events scheduled at the Middle School. If you have any concerns or questions you can reach me at 814-643-2900 ext 2180

Sincerely,

Brian Pelka
Principal

Cc: Mr. Fred Foster, Superintendent

General Information for 2012/2013

Middle School Handbook – Every family will be given a combination handbook/assignment book at the beginning of the school. Our handbook will provide parents and students with information concerning: course descriptions, opportunities for student involvement, support services, our lunch program, school rules and other policies and procedures.

Middle School Parent Handbook – Every 6th grade family will receive an informational handbook for parents. This handbook will be available to parents at the beginning of the new school year.

Locks – We will provide each student with a combination lock for his/her hall locker. The office will keep records of combinations in case students forget. Students will not be permitted to use their own locks. Locks will remain the property of the school.

Announcements – Daily announcements are made at 2:40 p.m. This is when students will be given messages called in by parents. We respectfully request that you use this for emergencies only as it is possible to have a large number of messages each day.

Attendance/Family Vacations – Regular school attendance is necessary for a successful educational experience. The Huntingdon Area School District attendance policy is stated in your child's student handbook. Please review this policy with your child and please follow the procedures listed when your child is absent or a family trip is planned.

Backpacks – Backpacks are permitted to and from school. Backpacks are not to be used between classes or in classrooms throughout the school day. All bags and backpacks must be stored in students' lockers.

Beverage Container/Snack Guidelines – Students may not bring opened and/or glass beverage containers to school for lunch (without prior permission) or classroom activities. Appropriate drinks and/or snacks are to be opened and consumed in the cafeteria or classroom during an activity assigned by the teacher. Open beverage containers and snacks may not be kept in hall lockers.

Yearbooks – At the beginning of the school year, an envelope will be sent home with each student. If you are interested in purchasing a yearbook for your student, please fill in the front of the envelope and return it with the payment to your child's homeroom teacher.