



Lincoln Middle School

Sixth Grade Parent Orientation Night

**Tuesday, May 3, 2011, 7:00 p.m.
Lincoln Busse Gym**

Welcome and Overview

Introductions

PTA Remarks

**Middle School Philosophy
School Structure**

Curriculum

Extra-Curricular Opportunities

FAQ's

Frequently Asked Questions

"Life at Lincoln"

Video

Open House

LINCOLN



Welcome to Lincoln! Accurate information and open communication are critical for a successful transition between schools. We hope this evening and this handout will answer many of your questions and provide some detail about your child's sixth grade experience. "Information overload" can be overwhelming, so please remember the following:

- 1) Do not hesitate to ask questions!
- 2) While this transition is certainly a new experience for your child, Lincoln staff and faculty transition over 200 new students every year, and we are anxious to welcome the Class of 2014!

Most information about Lincoln, including this handout, can be accessed by visiting the Lincoln web site at: <http://lincoln.d57.org/>

The following overview provides some information about Lincoln's structure and programming. Additional information will be shared at orientation in August and in the "Classroom and School Expectations."

BUILDING ORGANIZATION

Each grade level is divided into two teams, creating smaller groups of students to provide the highest level of connection between students and faculty. Each team is comprised of faculty who teach language arts, reading, math, social studies, science, and special education. These teachers meet daily as a team to address students' needs, assess curriculum, and develop interdisciplinary units.

Lockers are individually assigned to each student and each student must purchase school locks through the district. **A PE lock (green) and a hall lock (red) will be sold to fifth grade students at the elementary schools.** Students should practice their lock combinations over the summer and bring both locks to school on the first day.

SIXTH GRADE SCHEDULING

A great deal of individual attention is given to the placement and scheduling for each of our sixth grade students. All fifth grade teachers and specialists will provide recommendations for placement in reading, math, or special classes (honors or special education). In addition, test scores are matched with student placement to insure accuracy. Before the end of the year, fifth grade teachers are asked for a final check of student placement.

As part of the middle school program, all students have **advisory** class at the end of the school day. This is a time to organize materials, receive assistance from teachers, and participate in character building activities.

Students are scheduled for the full array of academic courses listed below as well as our special offerings. **Student schedules** will be mailed home to students in mid-August.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE



The **sample** schedule shown below is a typical schedule for a sixth grade student.

Bell Schedule for 2011/2012

Period 1	7:45 – 8:33 am	Language Arts-Reading	
Period 2	8:37 – 9:17 am	Language Arts - Writing	
Period 3	9:21 – 10:01 am	Physical Education	
Period 4	10:05 – 10:45 am	Math	
Period 5	10:49 – 11:29 am	6 th Lunch/Recess	
Period 6	11:33 – 12:13 pm	Foreign Language	(7 th Lunch/Recess)
Period 7	12:17 – 12:57 pm	Social Science	(8 th Lunch/Recess)
Period 8	1:01 – 1:41 pm	Broad Experiences	
Period 9	1:45 – 2:25 pm	Science	
Advisory	2:29 – 2:45 pm	Advisory	

CORE ACADEMIC OFFERINGS:

Language Arts/Reading: These classes are listed as two separate classes, but instruction in each topic is integrated across two periods. Students are exposed to a variety of genres of literature, writing styles, and reading strategies. Students read individually as well as participate in classroom or small group novel studies. Writing structure, grammar, and spelling are also incorporated into these lessons. Students may be placed in either regular or honors sections.

Math: Students are placed into one of two math courses (Pre-transitions and Transitions) based upon 5th grade placement test score, ISAT scores, MAP scores, current math level and 5th grade teacher recommendation. Pre-transitions involves the study of computation and math functions while Transitions involves the study of pre-algebra.

Social Studies: Sixth grade students study the ancient civilizations of Mesopotamia through Rome in the Ancient Civilization Alive! curriculum. Students participate in hands-on and collaborative studies to analyze these time periods.

Science: FOSS is a research-based science curriculum for grades K–8 developed at the Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley. In 6th grade science, the focus is on Earth Science. Students will explore the big ideas of Planetary Science, Earth History and Weather and Water. Through their own inquiries, investigations, and analyses students will be actively engaged scientists who learn to think critically about the world around them.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS:

Our sixth grade students are able to participate in many special course offerings designed specifically for them, as well as many other courses provided to all our middle school students.

1. Foreign Language: A student is placed into either a Spanish or French class for language instruction. The class emphasizes oral language and uses oral-based games and activities to introduce the language. A parent signature is required for foreign language placement preference on the form distributed to fifth grade students.
2. Broad Experience Course Sequence: Students will participate in each of these classes for one quarter. Since balancing the number of students in each class is important, please do not request these classes to be changed once scheduling is complete. These courses provide instruction in various subjects and are designed to expose students to a variety of educational areas.
 - a) ART – Students will expand their art background with lessons in drawing and other art activities.
 - b) GENERAL MUSIC – Students will continue to develop basic music skills and interests. This class will provide a music focus especially designed to meet the needs of the pre-adolescent student.
 - c) GATEWAY TO TECHNOLOGY – Students will learn about and apply various principles of design and modeling using a variety of technology..
 - d) COMPUTER EDUCATION – Students will learn basic keyboarding and word processing skills as well as cyber-citizenship and internet safety.
3. Physical Education/Health: Students participate in individual skill development, team play, and health planning through our PE classes. Students are required to change into their **gym uniform** each day. These are available for purchase (an order envelope will be included with the August class schedule mailings) and are distributed to students during the first week of school. Students need to wear tennis/gym shoes during class and should be prepared for colder weather as classes are frequently held outside during the fall and spring. Students receive health instruction as an integrated approach in science and in physical education one day per week.

LUNCH/CAFETERIA

Each grade level is assigned a lunch period when students may eat lunch and socialize with friends. Outdoor recess occurs most days as weather allows. Parents may put money in their child's **MealTime Account** online or through the school office. Students are issued a PIN number and may debit that account daily. Lunch may also be purchased with cash or students may bring a lunch from home.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

Students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities during these middle years to enhance their school experience. A brochure of activities, clubs, teams, and music offerings will be posted on the website. This year, sixth graders were invited to participate in the following activities: Lincoln Winds (band), Chorale (chorus), Sixth Grade Orchestra, Student Council, SOS, Cross Country, Wrestling, Track and Field, Fitness Club, Yearbook and Intramurals.

PARENT COMMUNICATION

The Lincoln Middle School Newsletter is available on the school website. Families are sent a notification email when a current newsletter is available on the website. Parents are encouraged to call the school with questions, concerns, or compliments. We enjoy talking with parents and encourage you to keep in contact with teachers and administrators.



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<http://lincoln.d57.org>