

Welcome to Middle School West

Boyertown Middle School West is located on the border of Berks and Montgomery counties at the southern edge of the borough of Boyertown. Our school population of approximately 770 students comes to us from a variety of economic and cultural backgrounds. Middle School West is a vital part of the Boyertown community and is very much interested in being a positive influence in the lives of its residents. Parents/Guardians and other community members are encouraged to participate with us in our educational and extra-curricular programs.

Our staff provides an excellent educational opportunity for all students who attend. They are a caring, supportive and well-trained group of individuals who know the importance of providing a positive learning environment. Our students are constantly encouraged to achieve to their fullest potential. The staff sets the example for their students by continually updating their knowledge through college courses and professional workshops to keep themselves well informed on all the new issues in education.

Students are provided a strong educational program. Our program starts with a more structured sixth grade offering and gradually increases the number of elective choices that each student makes as they reach eighth grade.

Our staff has developed a system of extensive support services for our students. Our schedule includes a 10th period at the end of the day. This period gives us the flexibility to have tutoring and extra help available for students at the end of each day, as well as clubs and music opportunities. We also have tutoring provided throughout the school day. Immediately after school, homework help is available Tuesday through Thursday. These sessions last until 4:00 p.m.

In addition to the academic program, a wide variety of clubs, activities, sports, and music programs are offered. We think the extra-curricular program is a vital part of the total school picture. Students will succeed where their interest is the strongest. At West we try to combine the academic and extra-curricular programs to help develop a well-rounded student.

In order to provide the best possible learning environment for our students, Middle School West uses a team approach to education. Students in sixth, seventh, and eighth grade are assigned to academic teams. Each team is made up of four academic area teachers -- mathematics, ELA (English-Language Arts), social studies, science -- and a school counselor who meet weekly to discuss their students and decide how they can best meet each student's individual needs. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to come into team meetings to share their comments and concerns with the team to form a partnership that bridges the gap between the home and school.

Teachers also work in collaborative teams with teachers of the same subject and grade level from both Middle School East and West. This approach is part of the Professional Learning Community initiative we began many years ago. By working together, we will be able to provide the best education possible for our students.

In addition to their team involvement, our school counseling department is in regular contact with students, teachers and parents/guardians on an individual basis to give assistance where needed, and to begin having students think about their future through a variety of career education programs. Our counselors also teach a course called Road to Success at each grade level which is designed to help meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of the middle school student.

The staff works with students, parents/guardians, and local police officers to provide a safe school environment. Respect for all is emphasized and modeled. A select group of eighth grade students serves as mentors for our sixth grade students through the "Bear Ambassador" program. Our Student Assistance Team works with the parents/guardians of students who are a risk for depression or drug/alcohol involvement. Programs teaching all

our students about avoiding drug/alcohol are used in health and physical education classes. Middle School West has been certified a “No Place for Hate” school for thirteen years in a row by the Anti-Defamation League of Philadelphia. West was the first school in Pennsylvania and Delaware to hold that distinction. Throughout the year, we sponsor a number of programs which encourage acceptance and understanding of others.

We are proud of the accomplishments of our students. Our showcases and walls will always have on display the outstanding works of students from all subject areas.

Some key dates for the coming year are:

New Student Days	Thursday, Aug 15 Monday, Aug 19	9:00-11:00 1:00-3:00
6th Grade Orientation	Wednesday, August 21	6:30 PM
6th Grade Fun Night	Thursday, Sept 5	6:30 PM
6th Grade Team Building Day	Friday, Sept 13	School Day
Back to School Night – all grades	Thursday, Sept 26	6:30 PM

Parents/Guardians of all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students are encouraged to visit West and become familiar with our programs and the teachers of their children.

October 3 – Coffee with the Principal, 9:00 a.m. – Parents/Guardians of all students are invited to share thoughts concerning the school program and hear about upcoming events.

Parent Conferences	Wednesday, Nov 20 Monday, Nov 25 Tuesday, Nov 26 Wednesday, Jan 29	5:30-8:30 PM 1:00-3:00 PM 1:00-3:00 PM 5:30-8:30 PM
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This is an opportunity for parents/guardians to talk one on one with any of their child’s teachers.

We look forward to a wonderful school year!

Stephanie L. Landis
Principal