

Strath Haven Middle School

New Student Orientation Packet



Dear New Students and Families,

Welcome to Strath Haven Middle School! The transition to a new school is often an exciting yet stressful time for students. Included in this packet please find essential information to help ensure a smooth transition. Due to limited counselor availability in the summer months, please contact our administration and/or main office staff.

Chris Matsanka, Principal, cmatsanka@wssd.org

Steve Krall, Assistant Principal, skrall@wssd.org

Joe Buecheler, Assistant Principal, jbuecheler@wssd.org

Kristen McIlhenney, Principal's Secretary, 610-892-3470 ext. 3105

Amanda Jacobsen, Main Office, 610-892-3470 ext. 3107

Brandi Johnson, Main Office, 610-892-3470 ext. 3108

Sincerely,

The SHMS School Counselors

- Danielle Bertoni, School Counselor, dbertoni@wssd.org
- Jessica Domskey, School Counselor, jdomsky@wssd.org
- Erica Laster, School Counselor, elaster@wssd.org
- Morgan Segal, School Counselor, msegal@wssd.org

ABOUT STRATH HAVEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

SHMS Vision Statement

Strath Haven Middle School is a student-centered community where meaningful personal connections foster engagement and motivate students to become independent learners.

SHMS Mission Statement

Honoring the developmental uniqueness of young adolescents, we at Strath Haven Middle School aim to provide all students with a comprehensive education that empowers them to be responsible and confident learners. We will cultivate the potential in every student to achieve personal success and to contribute responsibly to the school community and society at large. By providing engaging and diverse opportunities both inside and outside the classroom, we strive to develop students who are capable of clear and sound reasoning as they prepare to enter high school.

SHMS Respect Statement

All members of our school community are expected to be respectful of each other and welcoming to everyone, regardless of race, neighborhood, nationality, religion, physical appearance, intellectual capability, individual differences, work ethic, or character.

General Information:

<http://www.wssd.org/>

The district website is a resource that provides pertinent school and district information. It is strongly suggested that you familiarize yourself with the website.

Curriculum Overview

Please visit the link below to learn about the SHMS curriculum

<http://www.wssd.org/domain/207>

What are teams?

At SHMS students will be assigned to a team. There are two teams to each grade level. Teaming is an important component to the middle school concept. Teaming allows the teachers to work together to create interdisciplinary units, which enhances student learning. Students are placed on teams heterogeneously and are

reshuffled each year. This promotes academic and demographic equity. Each team has a “team leader” and teams meet twice weekly to collaborate and discuss student needs. Another helpful resource is your child’s team leader.

Who’s who in the Middle School?

Students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around, but they are not always sure what those adults do and who to ask for help. The counselors, administrators and school psychologist all work collaboratively to support student success.

Grade Level Counselor:

<https://www.wssd.org/domain/219>

School counselors are here to help you. There is one counselor for every grade level in the middle school, and a counselor travels with a class from 6th-9th grade.

- Danielle Bertoni, School Counselor, dbertoni@wssd.org
- Jessica Domsky, School Counselor, jdomsky@wssd.org
- Erica Laster, School Counselor, elaster@wssd.org
- Morgan Segal, School Counselor, msegal@wssd.org

Grade Level Administrator:

Strath Haven Middle School has one principal and two assistant principals. Each administrator is assigned a grade level (with a counselor) and they travel with a class for their three years in middle school.

School Psychologist:

School Psychologist: Colette Sabatina

The school psychologist is another resource to students, primarily responsible for psychoeducational testing, crisis intervention and consultation and collaboration with the administrators and guidance counselors.

Main Office:

The main office staff, including, Ms. Jacobsen, Ms. Johnson and Ms. McIlhenney are invaluable resources. They can help you with anything you need, or direct you to a person who can!

Nurses Office:

<https://www.wssd.org/site/Default.aspx?PageID=66>

School Nurse: Susan Schmidt-Gillespie

sschmidt-gillespie@wssd.org

Health services are planned to help your child achieve his/her fullest potential in school.

Strath Haven Middle School Home and School Association:

<https://www.wssd.org/Page/1413>

Day to Day Specifics:

SHMS Bell Schedule

	GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
1	7:50 - 8:37	7:50 - 8:37	7:50 - 8:37
2	8:40 - 9:27	8:40 - 9:27	8:40 - 9:27
3	9:30 - 10:17	9:30 - 10:17	9:30 - 10:17
4	10:20 - 11:07	10:20 - 11:07	10:20 - 10:55
5	11:10 - 11:45	11:10 - 11:57	10:55 - 11:45
6	11:48 - 12:35	12:00 - 12:35	11:48 - 12:35
7	12:38 - 1:25	12:38 - 1:25	12:38 - 1:25
8	1:28 - 2:15	1:28 - 2:15	1:28 - 2:15
Connections	2:18 - 2:30	2:18 - 2:30	2:18 - 2:30
**Grade level LUNCH			

Transportation

<http://www.wssd.org/domain/29>

Food Services

<http://www.wssd.org/domain/21>

Parent/Student Portal

<http://www.wssd.org/domain/42>

Parent/Student Portal (PowerSchool)



From the parent/student portal, middle school and high school students and their parents/guardians are able to access current grades and information about student assignments, attendance, and scheduling. Access to the Parent/Student Portal provides parents the opportunity to be more informed about their child's academic progress and other pertinent information.

Extracurricular Activities/Getting Involved

<http://www.wssd.org/domain/208>

Sports

<https://www.wssd.org/domain/228>

7th and 8th grade students can try out and participate on a sports team.

Music

<https://www.wssd.org/domain/223>

We are so happy to have your family with us at SHMS. We are here to help and support you during this important transition.

