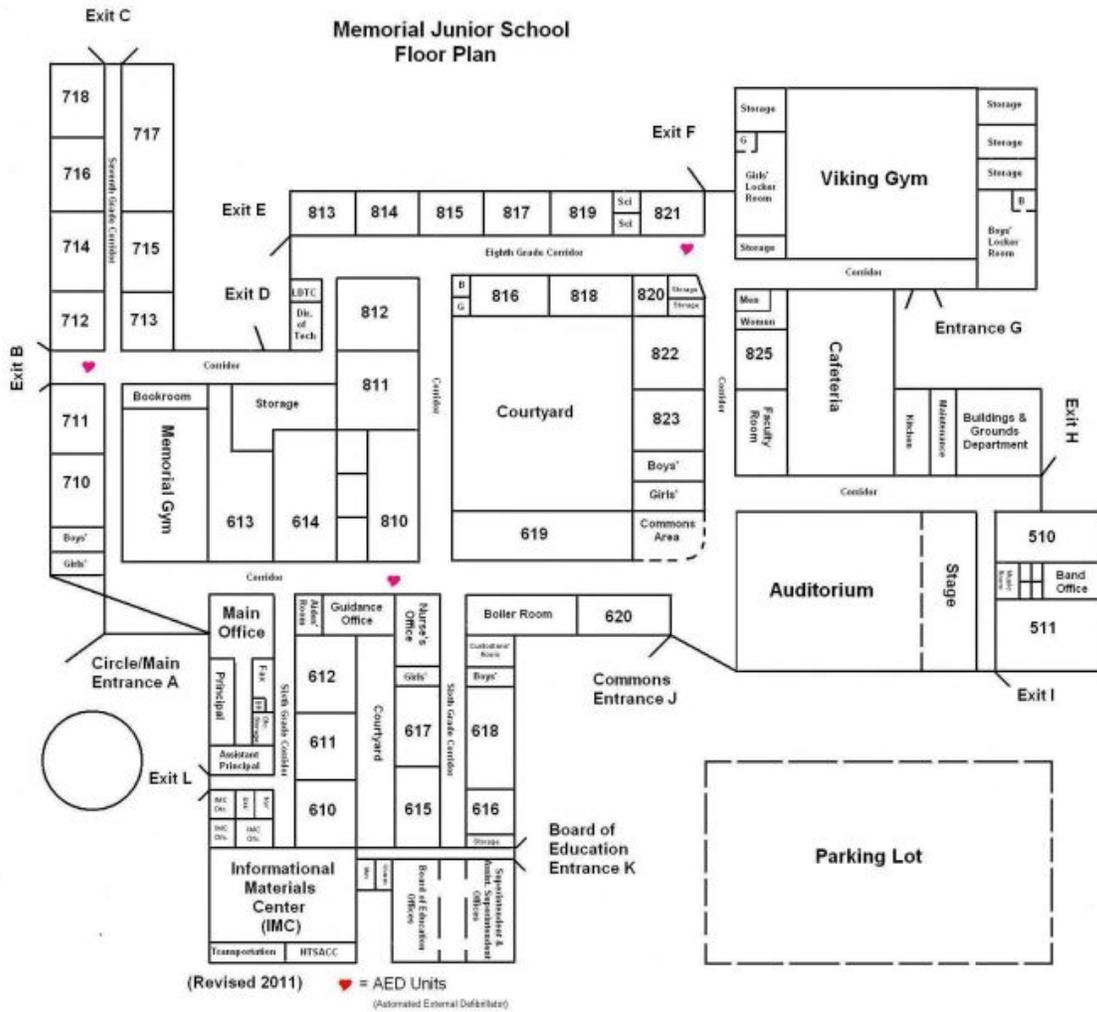


Memorial Junior School



2016 Parent Orientation Packet



Contact Information

Main Office:	973-515-2427
Guidance Office:	973-515-2434
Nurses Office:	973-515-2431
Absentee Line:	973-515-2417
Athletics:	973-515-2439

School Website

<http://www.hanovertwpschools.com>

HANOVER TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

VISION STATEMENT:

A Community That Inspires Excellence

MISSION STATEMENT:

Our Mission Statement is to provide a solid foundation for future success. Children will be challenged to think critically, assume responsibility, contribute to their community, and care about others as well as themselves. Each child's unique abilities will be developed within a nurturing environment through the offering of excellent and innovative academic, athletic, and artistic experiences.

The Memorial Junior School Instruction Program

The instructional program of Memorial Junior School is based upon the generally accepted needs of early adolescents. The unique functions of the middle school may be summarized as follows:

I. **Integration**

To provide learning experiences in which pupils may use the skills, attitudes, interests, ideals, and understandings previously acquired in such a way that these will become coordinated and integrated into effective and wholesome pupil behavior.

To provide all students with a broad, general, and common education in the basic knowledge and skills that will lead to wholesome and well-integrated behavior, attitudes, interests ideals, and understanding.

II. **Exploration**

To lead pupils to discover and explore their special interests, aptitudes, and abilities as a basis for decisions regarding educational opportunities.

To lead pupils to discover and explore their specialized interests, aptitudes, and abilities as a basis for present and future vocational decisions.

To motivate pupils and provide opportunities for them to develop a continually widening range of cultural, social, civic, vocational, and recreational interests.

III. **Guidance**

To assist pupils in making intelligent decisions regarding present educational activities and opportunities and to prepare them to make future educational and vocational decisions.

To assist pupils in making satisfactory mental, emotional, and social adjustments in their growth toward wholesome well-adjusted personalities.

To motivate and prepare pupils to participate as effectively as possible in learning activities so that they reach the maximum development of their personal powers and qualities.

IV. **Differentiation**

To provide differentiated educational facilities and opportunities suited to the varying backgrounds, interests, aptitudes, abilities, personalities, and needs of pupils, so that each pupil may realize, most economically and completely, the ultimate aims of education.

V. **Socialization**

To provide learning experiences designed to prepare pupils for effective and satisfying participation in the present complex social order.

To provide a gradual transition program between elementary school and high school that addresses the needs of pre-adolescent students.

VI. **Articulation**

To provide learning experiences designed to prepare pupils to adjust themselves and contribute to future developments and changes in that social order.

VII. **Character Development**

To provide learning experiences designed to help students foster their beliefs, principals, habits, and behavior with a focus on trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

The Middle School

The middle school presents a unique challenge to the student and to those concerned with his/her education and development. The student comes to the middle school with an ever-widening interest in himself/herself and in those about him/her. It is the school's responsibility and privilege to guide him/her, not only in the education of his/her mind, but also in the determination of personal standards of achievement and worth.

Belief Statement: Early Adolescent Needs

To grow and flourish in a school setting, early adolescents need:

- To participate in an academically challenging, comprehensive curriculum that emphasizes higher levels of thinking skills (problem solving, decision making, cognitively challenging tasks) and where each child's full potential is met.
- To participate in a program of study that provides diverse activities, both in and out of the classroom, using a full range of learning strategies and experiences, and which makes use of community resources and opportunities for community service.
- To be in a responsive environment that provides safety, support, and opportunities for positive relationships with, and mutual respect for one's peers.
- To develop positive self-esteem, to acquire age-appropriate social skills, and to assimilate societal values.
- To meet clearly defined expectations within a structured environment and develop increased accountability, autonomy, and responsibility that acknowledges both the student's own need for independence and space, and that of others.
- To be in a safe environment that fosters physical and emotional well being and understands their developmental, social, physical, and intellectual changes.
- To identify with appropriate adult role models.
- To see a positive relationship between school and home.

6th Grade Curriculum Overview

Social Studies

In 6th grade, social studies is focused on ancient civilizations. During the year, students begin by studying early humans of the stone age. Along the way, the students learn about Mesopotamia, Egypt, India, China, Greece, Rome, and Arabia. In addition to these civilizations, students spend time studying culture, including the five major religions. The program of study includes a lot of activities on current events, hands-on activities, and utilization of technology. The textbook for the class is online and students have access to Chromebooks in the classroom.

Science

Science is a process of applying observations and intuitions to situations and problems, formulating hypotheses and drawing conclusions. This development of the thinking process is the core of the 6th grade curriculum. These skills are introduced and built upon throughout the year in the Science Curriculum. Some units that we will study this year include: Growth and Development of Organisms, Matter and Energy, Forces and Motion, Astronomy and Weather and Climate. In the laboratory, students will observe proper science safety procedures and precautions. They will understand how scientists use models to explain the use of maps, tables, and graphs. Students will communicate their own observations/data through lab activities, presentations, models, posters, and reports.

Language Arts Literacy

The 6th grade language arts literacy program is designed to expose the students to a variety of literature. Novels of fiction, including realistic and historical, will be read. Comprehension, literary, vocabulary, critical thinking, and study skills will be taught through the literature units. Special emphasis will be given to understanding the elements of literature: characterization, theme, setting, style, mood, and plot. Language arts classes for 6th graders are designed to teach the effective use of language in oral and written communication. Each student will be encouraged to develop thinking and organizational skills to apply in writing various genres such as poetry, essays, and memoirs.

Math

The Memorial Junior School mathematics program is a three course program that integrates mathematical concepts in algebra, geometry, measurement, proportionality, probability, and statistics. Through applications students see how math relates to the real world around them. Problem solving is an integral part of each unit. Emphasis will be placed on communicating mathematically, both orally and in writing. Activities include critical thinking exercises, group discovery, paired sharing, hands-on labs, games, and projects. The entire mathematics program is enhanced by access to the internet and online study tools.

PACT-Program for Academically Challenging Thinking

PACT is an enrichment program, challenging students to develop their logical, critical, and creative thinking skills. Each year's curriculum is based on a theme, chosen to expose students to more advanced topics. Past topics have included the United Nations, Environmental Education, and the World of Business. At MJS, students who are in this program have PACT for one semester, five days a week, for a full class period.

Special Education

Memorial Junior School offers a continuum of services to address the needs of classified students. Under the in-class support model, Resource Center (special education) teachers collaborate with classroom teachers to provide modifications and accommodations that enable a classified student to be successful in the general education curriculum. Resource Center replacement instruction is available for students who, because of their skill level or other learning needs, will benefit from small group instruction in Reading, Language Arts and/or Math. Students with more intensive learning needs may attend a Language and Learning Disabilities class for one or more academic subjects. Speech/language, occupational therapy, and physical therapy are also available for students who require these services based on their Individual Educational Plans. Other supports and services may also be provided based on each student's individual needs.

Child Study Team members (Learning Disabilities Teacher-Consultant, School Psychologist and School Social Worker) provide case management for classified students. They work in close cooperation with administrators, guidance counselors, the school nurse and other school personnel to meet the learning and psychological needs of all students in the building.

Guidance Department

The Memorial Junior School Guidance Department is primarily concerned with the social, emotional, and physical growth of all students in our school. It is the function of this department to attempt to remove all obstacles and assist with the problems that may interfere with this growth. Students should feel free to take their problems to our guidance counselors. Students will benefit from the educational and vocational guidance that will assist them when planning for high school. The counselors will provide guidance class instruction, on a cycled basis, for students at each grade level. The guidance office also serves as the MJS attendance office. See the attendance procedures on the website.

Character Education Program

The focus of the 6th grade character education program is to transition the kids into middle school and give them an opportunity to make new friends. The program's purpose is to foster courage, responsibility, confidence, and self-awareness among students, and build open human relationships in a nurturing environment through structured opportunities with staff acting as mentors and child advocates.

Applied Arts and World Languages

Music Enrichment

Sixth grade music enrichment involves the study of early 20th century American Music. Students will be exposed to Ragtime, George Gershwin, Irving Berlin, the Jazz Age, as well as Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, and John Williams. They will study beat and rhythm and how it is incorporated into music that they listen to as well as a variety of music studied in class. They will also learn about the various instrument families and the sounds that they make.

Band

The band program enhances the student's knowledge of music, by learning how to play various instruments and being a part of an ensemble group. Any student is invited to join the band program, regardless if they have played an instrument before. During the 6th grade year, the students start to learn various rhythms, key signatures and different styles of music. The band meets three times a week, with one full band period, and two mini classes. The students also meet in a small lesson group, which is directed to their ability. This meets once a week on a rotating basis.

Chorus

The choral program provides students with an opportunity to participate in a vocal ensemble that performs at least twice a year. In a given year, choral students will sing anything from contemporary/modern to classic/traditional, while learning about the social & historical contexts surrounding the music. In the process, students will develop their singing voices, as well as the technical and interpretive skills that will yield a greater sense of musicianship and vocal proficiency (phrasing, dynamics, articulation, nuance, diction, intonation, sight-reading, proper breathing/support, audition techniques, etc.)

Contemporary Art and Design (CA&D)

The sixth grade CA&D course, formerly known as the Home Economics program, meets 3 days a week for 10 weeks. The sixth grade curriculum provides students with exciting opportunities to develop life skills necessary to become functioning members of society and to help them develop knowledge of good nutrition and a healthy lifestyle. All students will develop original thoughts and ideas, think creatively, and develop habits of inquiry, and take intellectual and performance risks. All classes are in a laboratory setting that provides opportunities for learning by demonstration, practical hands-on experience, observation and discussion.

Guidance

The guidance program in sixth grade exposes students to various lessons regarding conflict resolution, peer relationships, and active communication skills. In addition, the program will also help your child, adjust to the middle school environment, provide anti-bullying strategies, and focus on the 6 Pillars of Character.

Computer Applications

The computer applications program for sixth graders provides students with an opportunity to learn the proper keyboarding techniques through the use of the Mavis Beacon Typing

Program. Students will learn the basic features of Microsoft Word and how to properly format documents of several types. In addition, students will be exposed to information regarding how to evaluate Internet sources and complete Internet research. Internet safety will also be discussed with the students.

Technology Education

Technology education in sixth grade meets five days a week and provides students with exciting opportunities to apply problem solving and critical thinking skills to technological problems. Students research, design, draw, construct, and test solutions to challenges related to inventions, transportation, communication and electrical technology. Sixth grade students will design and build a project as well as create a portfolio that includes the steps involved in creating and constructing the project

Health and Physical Education

The 6th grade health program includes first aid, pathogens that cause infectious disease, drug education, and family life education. Physical education activities include soccer, field hockey, football, basketball, racket sports, and low impact organizational games.

Art Education

The sixth grade students have Art 3 days a week for one marking period. The sixth grade curriculum centers around the Elements of Design. Knowledge and understanding of the use of line, shape, color, value, texture, and space are imperative for all artists. The students also do several assignments dealing with color, color theory, and design. Students will paint a color wheel that consists of 12 colors first, and next a more complete color wheel, mixing 25-30 colors. The element of form is used when the students work in three dimensions, using clay. Students learn the four hand building techniques, and create simple sculptural forms. Students also have the opportunity to use a pottery wheel. All work is bisque and glaze fired.

World Language Education

French and Spanish are each offered as a three-year program. The 6th grade program in both languages is an exploratory, two day per week, 25-minute class. In 7th and 8th grades, students are enrolled in either the high school track program or conversational Spanish.

PowerSchool

All parents/guardians will have access to PowerSchool to check their child's current grades. Please keep the letter that is sent home that contains your password as well as your child's password. There are settings that can be set up so you can receive updates about your child via email. If you have any questions please contact the Guidance Office.

Conferences

In the middle school, there are 2 days of conferences in the fall and 2 days in the spring. Teachers request conferences with parents of students if they feel it is necessary. Parents are able to request a conference through the Guidance Office if they would like to meet with their child's teachers.

Instructional Media Center, After School Clubs, and Athletics

Instructional Media Center (IMC)

The Memorial Junior School IMC is open every school day from 7:45 AM to 2:55 PM. The IMC is a center for learning and reading in our middle school. It is the goal of the IMC to provide varied types of information and instructional assistance to the students and staff of Memorial Junior School. Research and computer skills are taught by our library media specialist in conjunction with the classroom teacher. Computers and laptops are available in the IMC.

After School Clubs

After school clubs have become an important part of the activities at Memorial. These clubs present students with an opportunity to participate in a variety of selections. Below are some of the clubs and student activities offered at Memorial.

After School Study Club	French Club
Art Club	Honors Band
Chamber Choir	Jazz Band
Chess Club	Knowledge Masters Open (KMO)
Community Service Club	Math Club
Computer Club	Reading Club
Crafts Club	Spanish Club
Debate Club	Strings Club
Floor Hockey Club	Viking Voice Newspaper
Forensics Club	Yearbook Club

Athletics

All students are eligible to participate in a program of sports in the following areas: soccer, cross country, field hockey, basketball, wrestling, cheerleading, volleyball, baseball, softball, and track. The sports programs offered at Memorial are outlined, by season, below.

Fall

Soccer - Boys Varsity and Intramural; Girls Varsity and Intramural

Cross Country – Boys Varsity; Girls Varsity

Field Hockey – Girls Varsity and Intramural

Winter

Basketball – Boys Varsity and Intramural; Girls Varsity and Intramural

Wrestling – Boys Varsity

Cheerleading – Girls Varsity

Volleyball – Boys Intramural; Girls Intramural

Spring

Softball – Girls Varsity and Intramural

Baseball – Boys Varsity and Intramural

Track & Field – Boys Varsity and Intramural; Girls Varsity