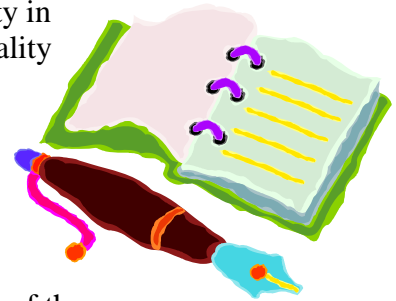


Dear Parents/Guardians,

As we open the 2008-2009 school year, PTMS is excited to open our doors with a completed construction project behind us! Our walls are bright, the lights are shining, and we are anxiously awaiting the entrance of our 7th and 8th grade students. We welcome our new teachers, new students, and cannot wait to begin the new school year. Each year, we prepare an informational packet to help you and your child navigate the halls of the middle school. With this information as well as the information posted on the middle school website, you and your child can prepare for a successful two-year stay.

The new year starts on Wednesday, August 27th but we know the before-school-purchases are beginning now. We have attached letters from both grade level teams that will give you a general idea of some of the supplies the middle school students will need. Once school begins, individual subject area teachers will give students a more comprehensive list. Any of these items can be found at local office supply stores.

At the end of the school year, the 7th grade students create the theme for the following year. This year, our school-wide theme is ***PTMS: Students who believe will achieve.*** Our goal at the middle school is to help students develop their personal responsibility in making positive choices and to believe in their ability to produce quality work. Our instructional practices focus on high expectations; our caring environment creates a nurturing place for your child to learn, socialize, and develop into a quality community member. We emphasize ***responsibility, honesty, and respect.*** When school and home combine resources, students excel.



At the beginning of the school year, each student will receive a copy of the Student/Parent Handbook. This handbook encompasses the rules, procedures, and policies, which are reviewed with the students during the first several days of school as part of the social studies curriculum. Students are then tested on the information and are required to have the book signed by a parent/guardian. Please keep this book handy; though it does not address every issue that may arise during a student's life at the middle school, it does give important information that will help you and your child have a successful middle school experience. In the back of the handbook are some of the school board policies; however, all school board policies can be accessed on the school district website.

The middle school offers many opportunities for parents to become a part of their child's experience. *Open House* is scheduled for Thursday, September 18th, from 6:30 P.M. – 8:30 P.M., and will give you a chance to meet with your child's teachers and hear about the academic expectations for each class. We also invite you to become a member of the *Middle School Advisory Council*. These meetings are held at 6:30 P.M. in the middle school library. Please call the middle school PTA president if you are interested and look for the dates in your monthly PTA Newsletter.

Take Your Parent To School Day occurs every other year and this is the year! You are invited on Wednesday, October 15th, to come to school with your child to once again become a middle school student. It is an exciting way to have a firsthand learning experience here at PTMS.

Parent/Teacher Conference Day has been set for Monday, November 10th. Parents can sign up to meet with their child's teachers during Open House; a confirmation slip/phone call will verify the time for your conference. If you do not receive a time slot during this conference day, you will still be able to meet with your child's teachers. Team planning time is set aside daily for parents to meet with their child's team of teachers. Please call the team facilitator to arrange a meeting.

A homework assignment book is given to all students on the first day of school. With this organizer, students are to write daily assignments, log grades, and note long-term projects. **GOAL 7** is designed to guide students in setting goals, teach them to organize time and materials, learn the skills of coping with academic and social issues, and practice the art of note taking and paraphrasing. **GOAL 8** guides students in setting a course for high school academics, teaches students how to be successful on achievement tests, and correlates learning styles with learning skills.

Students' grades can be accessed through *Power School*, our web-based student information system. From September 3rd through Open House on September 18^h, parents can pick up folders with access information at the middle school guidance office. We urge parents to secure their own password so that they can also receive email notices on grade updates.

Gym lockers will be available to students during physical education class. Students are to bring a combination/key lock for the locker and supply the physical education teacher with the combination/extra key. Our dress code **will be strongly enforced** with students expected to be appropriately dressed. As a reminder when buying back-to-school wardrobes, students are **not** permitted to wear sleeveless shirts, short-shorts/skirts, bare midriff/low cut tops, or low-riding pants. **All shorts and skirts are required to be mid-thigh length.**

Finally, educating your child is our primary goal. By working together, school and home can provide a well-rounded education in a nurturing, highly academic environment.

We look forward to seeing you on August 27th.

Sincerely,

Dr. Anthony F. Merante
Principal

Dr. Mary D. Monsour
Assistant Principal

2008-2009

Peters Township Middle School Highlights

Grade 7

- ☺ Social studies, math, science, language arts, reading, and World Language classes are full-year courses and meet daily.
 - ☺ Technology education, art, health, music, family & consumer science/GOAL 7, and physical education meet daily for twelve weeks. Students progress through each course every twelve weeks.
 - ☺ Electives such as band, chorus, and string orchestra are full-year courses and meet every other day.



Grade 8

- ☺ Social studies, math, science, language arts, reading, and world language classes are full-year courses and meet daily.
- ☺ Computer applications/GOAL 8, art, physical education, technology education, literature/literature enrichment, and music meet daily for twelve weeks. Students progress through each course every twelve weeks.
 - ☺ Electives such as band, chorus, and string orchestra are full-year courses and meet every other day.
 - ☺ Grade reporting for the twelve-week courses is as follows:

1 st rotation:	appears on the 2 nd report card
2 nd rotation:	appears on the 3 rd report card
3 rd rotation:	appears on the 4 th report card
- ☺ Grade reporting for full-year courses, Tech Ed, GOAL, and Family & Consumer Science/Computer Applications appears on each quarterly report card.
- ☺ Report cards are now viewed on line. The final report card of the year will be mailed home.

School-wide Procedures

- ☺ If your child forgets something at home (such as lunch, homework, books, gym clothes, etc.), you can bring it to the office, sign the item in, and leave it on the office counter. Students are not called to the office to retrieve these items. Tell your children at the beginning of the school year that if they forget an item, you will bring it to the office and they are responsible for checking the office counter during change of class time.
- ☺ The middle school uses a security system; all doors are locked at all times. In order to gain entrance, push the button and release it. A secretary will let you in.

Just a reminder!

- ☺ Backpacks and bookbags are not permitted in classrooms.
- ☺ All shirts/tops worn by both girls and boys must have sleeves; girls' tops cannot be revealing in anyway. **All girls' skirts and shorts must be mid-thigh length.** Boys' shorts must be appropriately belted; lowriding is not permitted. The dress code will be **strictly enforced**. Students who do not dress appropriately will receive consequences.
- ☺ Student assignment books are provided to all students and are used as hall passes. If the book gets lost, a new one can be purchased for \$4 in the office.

Peters Township Middle School
625 E. McMurray Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317

Summer 2008

Dear Parents/Guardians of 7th Grade Students:

Welcome to the middle school! You and your child are about to embark on a truly unique academic experience: seventh grade. In seventh grade, many aspects of your child's school day will be different from previous years. For example, students will change classrooms and have different teachers for each class; students will also have increased academic responsibilities, ranging from nightly homework to long-term projects.

Although students will experience a greater degree of independence, they will each be placed on a team, consisting of common math, science, social studies, and language arts teachers. In order to properly prepare for this experience, **please discuss the following with your child:**

- Each student should be well organized. This includes using the school-provided assignment book, bringing writing utensils to each class, and having **a binder filled with paper for each class**. Therefore, items to consider purchasing and having ready for the beginning of the school are:
 - Four 1½ or 2 inch three-ring binders (one for each core subject) filled with lined notebook paper
 - At least four book covers (textbooks will be issued in every class and books should be covered to protect them)
 - Pencils...many pencils! Pens are also useful, especially red pens for editing in language arts!
 - Calculators with at least x^2 and square root functions, such as a TI-30X
 - Highlighters, a ruler, and colored pencils or markers are optional, but nice to have
 - Please try to avoid using large Trapper-Keepers or multiple-subject notebooks as methods of organization. Seventh grade students traditionally have difficulty implementing these devices; results have frequently been troublesome.
- Each student is expected to complete and submit assignments on time. The seventh grade homework policy is stated in the PTMS Student Handbook and reads: *Homework assignments will not be accepted late and project assignments will be accepted one day late with a reduction in grade of 50%*. A student assignment book will be provided at orientation to keep track of all important dates and assignments.
- Students traditionally excel at the middle school when they are involved. Now is a great time to try new clubs and extra-curricular activities, such as History Day, Newspaper, Yearbook, Forensics, Literary Magazine, Pennsylvania Junior Academy of Science, Science Olympiad, Math Counts, Student Council, or any of the many sports teams.

We have found that students who consider and meet these expectations are very successful in seventh grade. In addition, at the beginning of the new school year, each teacher will review the specific items that may be useful in each class.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

The Seventh Grade Teams:

Mr. Dailey—Mrs. Palko—Mrs. Petricca—Mr. Zeminski
Mrs. B. Brown—Mr. Bushmire—Ms. J. Kern—Mr. Wagner
Mrs. Baier – Mr. Maiolo

7th Grade Team Facilitators

Mrs. Petricca
petriccad@pt-sd.org
*4555

Mrs. Palko
palkoj@pt-sd.org
*4549

7th Guidance Counselor:

Mrs. Vicky Cunningham
cunninghamv@pt-sd.org
*4246

Peters Township Middle School
625 E. McMurray Rd.
McMurray, PA 15317

Summer 2008

Dear Parent/Guardians of 8th Grade Students,

It is with pride and enthusiasm that we welcome you and your child to the eighth grade class at Peters Township Middle School. The middle school program provides many opportunities for academic and social development. By the end of the eighth grade year, students are well prepared for the transition to the high school.

In order to maximize success, students are required to complete assignments according to specified criteria. The following list of required supplies is provided to help you prepare for the new school year.

<i>Science</i>	one, 1.5" white, 3-ring binder with clear front cover and paper supply
<i>Social Studies</i>	one 1.5", 3-ring binder with paper supply
<i>Language Arts</i>	one, 1.5" 3-ring binder with dividers and paper supply; also a bound (not spiral) notebook to be used as a journal.
<i>Math</i>	one spiral notebook and a folder; also a colored pencil (red or blue would be best) <i>Please note: all math work is to be completed in pencil unless otherwise directed.</i>
<i>Foreign Language</i>	one, single-subject notebook; 1 pack of 3"x 5" index cards
<i>All subjects</i>	supply of pencils throughout the year.

Sincerely,

The Eighth Grade Teams:

Mr. Davies – Mrs. Ollendyke – Mrs. Kedzuf – Mrs. Mitchell
Mr. Elders – Mrs. Prince – Mr. Greenberger – Ms. R. Brown
Mr. Cheran – Mr. Kelly – Mrs. Zibrida – Mrs. McCue

8th Grade Team Facilitators

Mr. Chris Kelly
kellyc@pt-sd.org
*4208

Mr. Matt Cheran
cheranm@pt-sd.org
*4564

Grade 8 Guidance Counselor

Ms. Mary Beth Kenny
*4245