

Welcome to Wheeler!

**Ms. Nancy Liner
School Counselor**

Wheeler's Mission

MISSION

Wheeler High School/Middle School, in partnership with families and community, is to provide students with the education that will best help them to live a life of accomplishment and satisfaction in a complex and changing world.

ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Reading
Writing
Problem Solving
Critical Thinking
Communication
Collaboration
Technology

SOCIAL/CIVIC EXPECTATIONS

Demonstrate Honesty
Demonstrate Responsibility
Demonstrate Respect
Demonstrate Safety

Classes in middle school

- **Core classes:**
 - English, Math/Adv. Math, Social Studies, & Science
- **Music:**
 - Band, Chorus or General Music
- **Electives:**
 - Art, Technology, Computers, World Exploration
- **PE/Health**
- **SRBI**
- **Math/Reading Support**

- **In 7th & 8th Grade**
 - **Electives: Desktop Publishing, Video Production**
 - **World Language: French I and Spanish I**
 - **Pre-Algebra & Geometry**



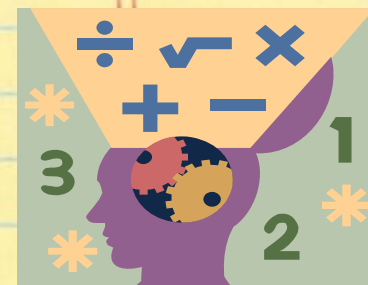
6th Grade English

- **Writing:** students will have an opportunity to write different types of pieces. Writings include: arguments to support claims, informative texts, and narratives to develop real or imaginary experiences.
 - Organize writing with task, purpose, and audience in mind
 - Continue to develop editing & revising skills & adding specific detailed evidence to support your ideas
- **Reading:** variety of genres in 6th grade – poetry, mystery, historical fiction and nonfiction materials. We will focus on theme/central idea, plot, and author's craft.
- **Vocabulary:** continue to develop strategies, such as context clues and word part study to increase their vocabulary knowledge



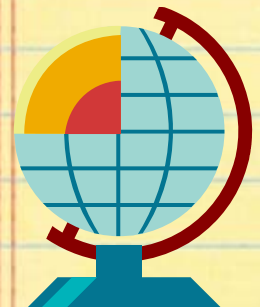
6th Grade Math

- **Transition continues to Common Core Curriculum**
 - See Connecticut state department education website for details
- **Connect math to real-life situations and topics**
- **Summer Skills: Learn those multiplication facts (will greatly improve students' confidence and ability to keep pace with learning new concepts)**
- **Some students may be placed in an Advanced Math class, which follows 7th grade common core curriculum; focus is on expressions, equations, integers, proportions, percent, geometry, problem solving and more.**



6th Grade Social Studies

- Introduction to geography concepts and the connections among geography, history, government, economics, and culture
- Focus on the geography, history, and cultures of Africa and Asia, with focused units on Ghana, South Africa, and India
- Reading, writing & public speaking
- use textbooks, primary sources, and current events articles from Junior Scholastic magazine
- Hands-on projects, films, maps and graphs, an emphasis on vocabulary, and research projects

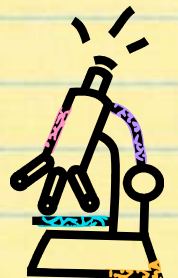


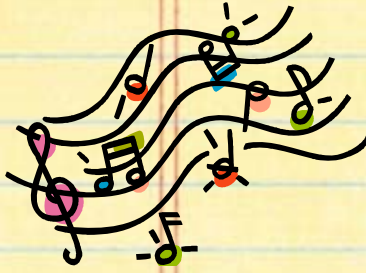


6th Grade Science

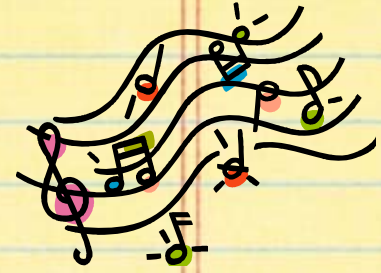


- Major units of study: Human impact and environmental changes affecting ecosystems, landforms created by erosion and deposition, plate tectonics, and Earth systems.
- Nonfiction texts and interactive web sites will be used along with many forms of digital media.
- Hands-on experiments and inquiry-based labs will encourage students to be active participants in their learning.
- Authentic activities are emphasized for projects and assignments.





Music



Band

- Meet every other day
- Perform as one band, with full rehearsals prior to concerts
- Previous instrument experience in elementary school is required, or with approval from the director

Chorus

- Learn about different styles of music (Jazz, Opera, Broadway)
- Use drums and other instruments to learn how to read and write musical language
- Write your own music and use recording technology

- *You may participate in both band and chorus*
- *Performances are mandatory*

Music Continued

General Music

- Listen to and play music from around the world
- Use computers, instruments, and voices to play music and create your own
- Practice reading and writing in the musical language
- Class does not include mandatory public performances



Art/World Exploration

Art

- Creativity, critical thinking and fun are all happening in the Art room
- Experiment with different types of media, as they illustrate stories about their families, create and design symbols of their world
- Learn about different people and cultures
- In Art 6, students will learn by getting messy!



World Exploration

- Combination of French and Spanish
- Learn sounds of the languages
- Cultures
- Similarities and differences between the languages



Computers & Technology

Computers

- Create brochures
- PowerPoints based on countries you are learning about in social studies
- Career Unit
- Introduction to Typing Skills Unit

Technology Education

- Introduction to world of technology
- Create several projects – catapults, gumball machines, model rockets
- Hands on and provides skills to use in other classes as well as real life situations





PE/Health

- Concentrate on team sports and physical fitness
- Soccer, volleyball, basketball, lacrosse, softball, badminton, handball, track and field
- Health – life skills including respect for self and others, making wise decisions, communication, social ethics, nutrition, safety violence prevention, AIDS/HIV, substance abuse prevention, personal health and self-control
- Have time to change before and after class



Counseling Department

- Counselors, social worker, and school psychologist
- Support students in transitioning to the middle school as well as support them with their academic and social needs
- Teach developmental guidance lessons on positive physical and mental health. Topics include: communication, peer pressure, point of view, bullying, self awareness, stress management and more.
- Individual counseling: Study skills, friendship issues, grades, goal-setting, decision-making, etc.
- Facilitate small groups: study skills, organizational support, transitioning, identifying feelings, stress management, etc.
- Schedule parent conferences
- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Wheeler-Counseling-Department/212748765515792>



Come
See
ME 😊

Middle School Schedule

- 7 period day: 7:20 to 2:15 (7 to 8 different teachers)
- Advisory/Homeroom (everyday except Wednesdays)
- Travel from class to class
- Locker times will be scheduled throughout the day (plenty of time to practice when school starts)
- Lunch time, with some time to go outside
- A Day and B Day
- Assignment book
- Supplies
- Keycard



SRBI/Advisory/Clubs

- **SRBI:**
 - Scheduled everyday
 - Time to meet with teachers for extra help
 - Intervention time for math & reading
 - Enrichment activities
- **Advisory:**
 - 1st Wednesday of the month
 - Mixed groups of 6th ,7th , & 8th grade students
 - Assigned to an advisor and meet with your group for discussions (topics designed around pillars, goal setting, 'Give Back' days)
- **Clubs:**
 - 2nd , 3rd , & 4th Wednesdays
 - Choose a club or use this time as a study hall
 - Club choices include: Basketball Club, Farm & Garden, Book Club, Volleyball Club, Open Jam, and many more!

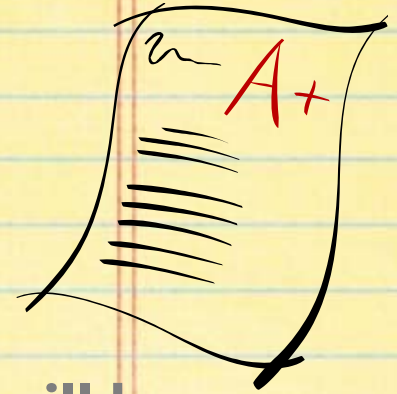
6th Grade Schedule

WHEELER MIDDLE SCHOOL 2015-2016 DAILY SCHEDULE GRADE 6 & 7

	MONDAY SCHEDULE		TUESDAY SCHEDULE		ADVISORY/CLUB SCHEDULE
7:30-7:40	BREAK	7:30-7:40	BREAK	7:20-7:30	BREAK
7:20-8:20	CORE A	7:20-8:20	CORE B	7:34-8:05	Electives
8:22-8:30	Advisory Homeroom	8:22-8:30	Advisory Homeroom	8:08-8:45	Advisory / Clubs
8:34-9:22	CORE B	8:34-9:22	Electives	8:50-9:30	Electives
9:26-10:14	Electives	9:26-10:14	Electives	9:35-10:14	CORE D
10:18-11:09	SRBI *Morning Show	10:18-11:09	SRBI *Morning Show	10:18-11:09	SRBI *Morning Show
11:11-12:00	CORE C	11:11-12:00	CORE C	11:11-12:00	CORE C
12:04-12:31	LUNCH 6 th /7 th	12:04-12:31	LUNCH 6 th /7 th	12:04-12:31	LUNCH 6 th /7 th
12:35-1:23	Electives	12:35-1:23	CORE D	12:35-1:23	CORE A
1:27-2:15	CORE D	1:27-2:15	CORE A	1:27-2:15	CORE B

	THURSDAY SCHEDULE		FRIDAY SCHEDULE
7:20-7:30	BREAK	7:30-7:40	BREAK
7:34-8:20	Electives	7:20-8:20	CORE D
8:22-8:30	Advisory Homeroom	8:22-8:30	Advisory Homeroom
8:34-9:22	CORE D	8:34-9:22	Electives
9:26-10:14	CORE A	9:26-10:14	CORE B
10:18-11:09	SRBI *Morning Show	10:18-11:09	SRBI *Morning Show
11:11-12:00	CORE C	11:11-12:00	CORE C
12:04-12:31	LUNCH 6 th /7 th	12:04-12:31	LUNCH 6 th /7 th
12:35-1:23	Core B	12:35-1:23	Electives
1:27-2:15	Electives	1:27-2:15	CORE A

Grading



- Letter grade system (Power School)
- Report cards four times a year (calendar will have the dates for when these will come home)
- Honor Roll:
 - High Honors: grades between A- and A+ or with one grade in the B to B+ range
 - Honors: grades between B- and A+ or with one grade in the C to C+ range
- Questions on grades – contact teacher individually or call school counselor to schedule a team conference
- Schoolnotes, Remind 101
- Team teachers talk daily to ensure big projects/assignments are not due the same day as tests

School Activities



- Ropes course in 6th grade for team building
- Homework Club – Tuesdays and Thursdays until 4
- Sports – soccer, cross country, basketball, baseball, softball, cheerleading
- Book Clubs (meet during lunch)
- Clubs– Student Council, Science Movie Club, Lego Club, Basketball Club, Chess Club, etc.
- Earth Day Celebration and Activities
- Wheeler Give Back Day

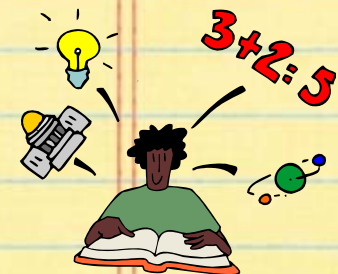
(Afterschool activities: need to be with an adult; students are not allowed to stay in the building unsupervised)

Lion's PRIDE Program

- Quarterly recognition program
- Students must earn a B- average or higher, with no D's or F's
- Fewer than 6 tardies to school and/or class
- Preference of no Level II office referrals, under Administrator discretion
- The student is respectful, responsible, honest, and safe

What to Expect in Middle School

- New things to adjust to: new teachers and more of them, lockers, changing classes
- More independence and more responsibility: expected to be responsible enough to handle the additional freedom you are given
- Greater academic pressure: courses are usually more difficult and may have more homework; expected to do more work on your own
- More social events: Lion's PRIDE, field trips, dances, etc.



How to Be Successful

(And what parents/guardians can do to help)

Students:

- School supplies and a place to study
- Complete homework and ask questions
- Plan for long-term projects: may not have daily work and can do a little work each night
- Set academic goals
- Daily attendance and be to school on time
- Check PowerSchool/Schoolnotes regularly
- Organizational skills and time management
- Follow the 4 pillars – respect, responsibility, safety & honesty

Parents/Guardians:

- Encourage involvement in school activities
- Check your child's planner and ask them to show you their completed work
- Time management skills & organization: clean backpacks, plan for long-term assignments, create study plans for tests/quizzes
- Communicate with the school: email teachers with any questions you have
- Ask your child about their day
- Attend parent/guardian programs
- Check PowerSchool/Schoolnotes



Staying Connected

- **Schoolnotes/Remind 101**
- **Teacher's websites**
- **Weekly Email**
- **Power School**
- **Social Media:**
 - **Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:**
 - **Mrs. St. Germain**
 - **Counseling Department**
 - **Band**
 - **Wheeler Art Gallery**
 - **Mr. Chaney's Blog**



Words of Wisdom

A lot of freedom and independence but it comes with responsibility.

Stay calm on your first day; the teachers will help you!

Don't stress if you get a bad grade – just try harder next time.

There are many lunch choices!

The schedule rotates and it is different every day.

Band and PE are across the street.

You have break in the morning where you get to eat breakfast.

Speak up in class. You may not have the right answer but if you give an educated guess, the teachers will give you points for that.

Check Power School to know how your grades are so you can improve them and make Lion's PRIDE.

When you transition you're going to want to bring a binder big enough to carry quite a bit of stuff, for you have few locker times.

Study Africa's countries and capitals.

Be safe and respectful in the hallways.

Keep up with your homework.

Words of Wisdom

You need a clean locker to stay organized and you might want to join Homework Club if you have distractions at home because it requires a lot of concentration.

You have much more freedom and having a locker is awesome!

There's a lot to do but it goes by fast. It will overwhelm you in the first 2 weeks but it will get easier and easier every day.

If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask your teacher for help.

You don't have recess but there is time to go outside after you eat lunch.

Don't bring water into the computer lab.

If you are worried about getting to class on time, don't worry. You have enough time to travel between classes.

You get to have a locker for personal belongings.

Just have fun, not too much fun. Get your work done and behave and you will be fine. Its actually really fun and cool.

Always have a book!

Always bring a snack for SRBI or you will starve!

5th Grade Visit

- 5th grade visit to Wheeler is June 6th
- meet your core teachers
- visit classrooms
- Have lunch with the 6th grade!



Questions?

