



## Lakeview Middle School

### Moving Up To Middle School A Guide to Middle School Transition

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This guide was adapted from an Educators Resource Guide (*Packin' Up...*), Office of Counseling and Student Services, WCPSS, North Carolina.

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#### **Dear Parent:**

*The transition from elementary to middle school is often an exciting, yet nerve-racking time for students. Anxiety can be a normal feeling during this transition. Preparing your student for this transition is very important and helpful.*

- **Address Fears** – Listen to your child's concerns and fears. Talk about your own fears you had at their age and how you handled it.
- **Focus on the Positives** – New friends, teachers, and new opportunities. (Sports, Art, Band, Drama/Chorus, Clubs, Gifted Classes)
- **Attend School Events** – Take advantage of parent meetings and volunteering. (Check out the website to be with the school as much as you can.)
- **Reach Out for Support** – If your student is experiencing high levels of anxiety about the upcoming transition, use all your available resources such as books, the internet, family, friends, school counselors, and teachers.
- **Stay Connected** – Stay connected to your child, his/her friends, and the school.

*The best-case scenario would be that each rising 6<sup>th</sup> grader feels prepared for middle school. This transition guide was created to enhance students' comfort level with this change by exposing them to some of the aspects of Lakeview Middle School.*

*Please feel free to contact the school if you need additional information or assistance.*

*Sincerely,*

**Lakeview Middle School Administration and Sixth Grade  
Teachers**

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### **Please join our social media pages.**

Our social media pages host information and events at LMS.

**LMS communicates with parents through**

**Facebook/Instagram/Twitter**

**Monthly Newsletters**

**Text Alerts**

**Remind App**

**LMS Website**

**Warrior Echo**

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## **General Information**

The transition to middle school can be challenging for students due to differences in middle and elementary school settings. This section will provide general information about the functioning of the middle school.

### **Who's Who in Middle School? ([Click here for the LMS Website](#))**

In addition to their teachers, students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around. However, they may not always be sure what those adults do and who to ask for help.

**Administration** – Matthew Culbreth ([mculbreth@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:mculbreth@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the Principal at Lakeview Middle School. Our Assistant Principals are Joe Blackwood ([jblackwood@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:jblackwood@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) and Deidre Brown ([dbrown@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:dbrown@catoosa.k12.ga.us)).

**School Counselors** – We have two school counselors at Lakeview Middle School.

- Jennifer Smith [jsmith.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:jsmith.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Jessica Tatum [jtatum.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:jtatum.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

One very important thing for students to understand is that their middle school counselors are there to help them. The counselors' offices are located in Office B. The counselors are not administrators and are not responsible for disciplinary actions.

**Office Staff** – There are two offices at Lakeview Middle School.

- Office A (by the flagpole) - This office is where visitors sign in when they come into the building and where you would come to sign out your students if they need to leave early or arrive late.
  - o Receptionist –Teresa Burciaga ([tburciaga.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:tburciaga.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us))
  - o Admin Secretary– Zina Ledford ([zledford.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:zledford.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is available in the summer
  - o Bookkeeper – Susan Barrett ([sbarrett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:sbarrett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us))
- Office B
  - o Registrar – Tammie Graham ([tgraham.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:tgraham.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us))
  - o Attendance- Maggie Justice ([mjustice.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:mjustice.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us))

**School Nurse** – Janice Hollice ([jhollice.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:jhollice.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the full-time school nurse at Lakeview Middle School.

**School Resource Officer (SRO)** – The SRO for Lakeview Middle School is Officer Hannah Squires ([hsquires.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:hsquires.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)). Her presence on campus can be intimidating if students are unaware of the role the resource officer plays within the school. Officer Squires is not a security guard, but a Catoosa County deputy. She is on campus to maintain student safety.

**School Social Worker** – The Social Worker for Lakeview Middle School is Mariah Carroll ([mcarroll@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:mcarroll@catoosa.k12.ga.us)).

**Academic Coach** – Michelle Privett ([mprivett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:mprivett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the Academic Coach for Lakeview Middle School. She works with students and teachers to improve learning opportunities for students.

**Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC)** – Stacey Newell ([snewell.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:snewell.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the PIC for Lakeview Middle School. The PIC assists in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. She coordinates the volunteer program and seeks to involve parents of all demographics as volunteers. Her office is located in the Family Resource Center.

**Cafeteria Manager** – Lachelle Collier ([lcollier.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:lcollier.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the Cafeteria Manager for Lakeview Middle School.

**Cafeteria Bookkeeper** – Penny Kirby ([pkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:pkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)) is the Cafeteria Bookkeeper for Lakeview Middle School.

**What are Teams?**

Students at Lakeview Middle School are assigned to a team. The team usually consists of four core teachers. Teaming is an important component of the middle school concept. Teaming allows the teachers to work together to create interdisciplinary units, which enhances student learning. LMS tries to



balance teachers on teams so that teacher personalities are diverse. Having this mix of teachers' personalities means that each child can almost always find at least one teacher on their team with whom they can connect. In addition, students are placed on teams in a way that promotes academic and demographic equity. Teams are great for parents because the parent can contact one teacher and get information to, or from, his or her child's whole team of teachers. There are two teams per grade at LMS:

- Team 6A / Team 6B
- Team 7A / Team 7B
- Team 8A / Team 8B

## **Required Courses**

Lakeview Middle School requires each regular education student to take Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science. With the exception of Band students, students also have four additional Connections classes (one every nine weeks).

## **Lunch Prices**

- Student Breakfast - \$1.30 (Reduced Price - \$.30)
- Student Lunch - \$2.95 (Reduced Price - \$.40)

Catoosa County Schools Child Nutrition Departments offers the On-Line Prepay System. This payment option will not replace cash and check payments but is an additional payment option for your convenience. Go to [www.LunchPrePay.com](http://www.LunchPrePay.com) to set up your child's account. You will need your child's Student ID number to set up an account. If you do not know your student's ID number, you can contact the cafeteria bookkeeper ([pkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:pkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)).

## **Drop-Off and Pick-Up**

If you bring your sixth-grade student to school each day, Sixth-graders who arrive before 7:50 will report to the **Gym**. Seventh and eighth-grade students report to the OLD gym. You will also need to pick up your sixth-grade student behind the **cafeteria** at the **end of the school day**. Students who are not picked up before 3:45 will need to be picked up in front of the school.

## **Transition Between Classes**

Transition time between classes is short, approximately five minutes. However, this is plenty of time as long as students do not continuously stop in the halls and engage in long conversations with friends.

## **What Does a Day Look Like at Lakeview Middle School?**

Please sign up for the Volunteer Station Remind APP communication system for volunteers Text  
81010 @666387 Or on the app rmd.at/6663875

## TWO ELT Bell Schedule

Time	6th Grade	Time	7th Grade	Time	8th Grade
7:20-8:00	Breakfast				
8:00-8:10	Homeroom				
8:10-8:55	1st Period	Tier 2 Instruction for all students (Tue, Wed, Thu)			
		Study Hall/House Meetings/Club Meetings (Mon, Fri)			
8:55-9:55	2nd Period	8:55-9:55	2nd Period Connections for Students / Team Planning 7th Grade	8:55-9:55	2nd Period
9:55-10:55	3rd Period Connections for Students / Team Planning 6th Grade	9:55-10:55	3rd Period	9:55-10:55	3rd Period
10:55-12:35	4th Period Lunch	10:55-12:35	Lunch 4th Period	10:55-11:55	4th Period
12:35-1:35	5th Period	12:35-1:35	5th Period	11:55-1:35	Lunch 5th Period
1:35-2:35	6th Period	1:35-2:35	6th Period	1:35-2:35	6th Period Connections for Students / Team Planning 8th Grade
2:35-3:20	7th Period	Tier 3/Enrichment Groups			
		iReady/Reading Plus			

**ELT (Extra Learning Time)** – ELT is an opportunity during the day that affords students who need extra time to complete assignments or receive additional assistance and for other students to participate in enrichment activities. ELT is offered approximately 90% of the school year. I-Ready Math and Reading Plus are also utilized during this time.

### **Discipline**

It is important that middle school students are aware early of the policies for the county and LMS. Catoosa County and LMS policies (**including the Dress Code**) can be found in the Student Handbook ([www.lms.catoosa.k12.ga.us](http://www.lms.catoosa.k12.ga.us)). Students need to understand the differences between their elementary school rules and the new middle school rules and expectations. Topics such as dress code policy and other common violations should be talked about at length with students. Consequences for discipline offenses vary depending on the frequency and severity of the offense. (ISS, Lunch Detention, Detention, Saturday School, OSS, Gateway).

### **Positive Behavioral Intervention Supports (PBIS)**

PBIS is part of a state-wide effort to recognize and reinforce positive behavior choices. By making smart choices with behavior at school, students can receive numerous rewards. From Warrior Ones, given daily, to monthly rewards, students can win various prizes. Behavior Expectations posters will be posted throughout the school to remind students of school-wide expectations. We encourage all students to "Set High Expectations and Make Smart Choices" each day at Lakeview Middle School.

### **House Program-**



**Altruismo**-The black house is known as "The Givers." They care deeply about lifting others up, but they also maintain a fiercely competitive spirit and pride.



**Amistad**- The red house, whose name means "Friendship." A group of individuals that are quiet but powerful, they are known most for their kindness of heart.

**Isibindi**-The green house, whose name means "Courage." While new students might be quiet or shy at first, the longer that they are in the House, the more they begin to display the characteristics of strength and bravery.

**Reveur**-The blue house is known as "The Dreamers." The members who fill this group are students filled with freedom and wild abandon who recognize their dreams and will let nothing stand in the way of achieving them

### **Communication – Remind/Parent Portal**

Remind is a communication tool that helps teachers connect instantly with students and parents. Quick, simple messages can be sent to any device. Parent Portal also provides the teacher's email address for communication.

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## Academic Grading

Lakeview Middle School students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F on their report cards. They may also be assigned a grade of "I" for "Incomplete" if, because of an emergency, they do not complete work by the end of the grading period. The "Incomplete" becomes an "F" if work is not finished by an assigned time. Letter grades have the following numerical values:



- A – 90-100
- B – 80 – 89
- C – 74 – 79
- D – 70 – 73
- F – BELOW 70

**Parent Portal** – Parents can access the online grade books of every teacher their child has for class. The parent must complete the *Catoosa County Public Schools Parent Portal Acceptable Use Procedures Acceptance Form* and return it to **Chasity Purcell at 706-935-0673** or email [cpurcell@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:cpurcell@catoosa.k12.ga.us) at the Catoosa County Office Phone (706)965-2297 | Fax 6307 Cleveland Street, Ringgold, GA 30736

[Parent Portal Form and information click here](#)

### **Homework Requirements**

Homework at the elementary level is used for skills practice and is an indicator of understanding of concepts. It is not supposed to be used to determine a student's level of proficiency. Homework at the middle school level most often is graded and averaged as a portion of a student's grade. This must be explained to rising sixth graders so they understand that they will be held accountable for correctly completing homework and that their grades may drop if they consistently do not turn in completed homework in a timely fashion.

### **Time Management / Study Habits**

In middle school, time becomes a precious commodity. Students normally have five classes in a school day – with five different teachers, five different expectations, and sometimes five different homework assignments! Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit into their busy schedules is homework – whether completing homework assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Learning and utilizing study skills will both qualify and quantify time for a sixth-grader.

### **Core Classes**

Sixth-grade students study language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

### **LANGUAGE ARTS**

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, students apply the skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. That includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps 6th-grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students will expand their vocabulary and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and when writing.

When you talk to your student's language arts teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 6<sup>th</sup> grade, these include:

- Reading closely and citing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction to support analysis of what the materials say
- Developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently.

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help him/her learn outside the classroom?

## **MATHEMATICS**

In Grade 6, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing an understanding of statistical thinking.

Content standards for Grade 6 are arranged within the following domains and clusters:

- Ratios and Proportional Relationships
  - Understand ratio concepts and use ratio reasoning to solve problems
- The Number System
  - Apply and extend previous understandings of multiplication and division to divide fractions by fractions.
  - Compute fluently with multi-digit numbers and find common factors and multiples.
  - Apply and extend previous understandings of numbers to the system of rational numbers
- Expressions and Equations
  - Apply and extend previous understandings of arithmetic to algebraic expressions.
  - Reason about and solve one-variable equations and inequalities.
  - Represent and analyze quantitative relationships between dependent and independent variables.
- Geometry
  - Solve real-world and mathematical problems involving area, surface area, and volume.
- Statistics and Probability
  - Develop an understanding of statistical variability.
  - Summarize and describe distributions.

When you talk to the teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics:

- Analyzing and solving problems using concepts of ratio and rate
- Working with variables and expressions
- Analyzing and solving word problems using equations



## **SCIENCE**

Sixth-grade students use records they keep and analyze the data they collect. They observe and explain how an aspect of weather can affect a weather system. They use different models to represent systems such as the solar system and the sun/moon/earth system. They use what they observe about the earth's materials to infer the processes and timelines that formed them. Sixth graders write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing the data they collect, sixth graders can recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

The middle school earth science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, resources, and human impact on the earth.

### Major Concepts/Skills

- Meteorology: Impact of weather and climate on the Earth
- Oceanography
- Earth Materials: Composition and Structure of the Earth
- Earth in Space
- Interactions: Human Impact on Earth
- Energy Sources

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

Sixth grade is the first year of a two-year World Area Studies course. Sixth-grade students study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The goal of this two-year course is to acquaint middle school students with the world in which they live. The geography domain includes both physical and human geography. The intent of the geography domain is for students to begin to grasp the importance of geography in their everyday lives. The government/civics domain focuses on selected types of government found in various areas to help students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses on major events in each region during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Exams are given for the core classes at the end of the semester. Students can earn an exemption from taking final exams. Exemptions are based on attendance and grades/average in each class. Students will be notified regarding their exemption status before the start of exams.

## **5. Connections Classes**

Lakeview Middle School also offers a program of Connections Classes in addition to the Core Courses. Connections courses are offered in a nine-week format. Connections classes offered at LMS include:

- Art
- Band
- Consumer Science
- Keyboarding / Computer Applications/STEM

- Physical Education
- Chorus/Drama

Testing for Connections Classes is at the end of the nine weeks. This testing is called the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) testing.

### **Gifted Program at LMS**

What you probably know as the "Horizon" classes are just called "gifted" here at LMS. We offer four gifted classes in different academic areas: gifted English, gifted math, gifted science, and gifted social studies. If your child was in Horizon in elementary school, then he/she will still be gifted here at LMS. How many classes a student gets depends on several things. We look at individual student strengths based on Georgia Milestones scores (if we have them back in time), previous test scores to see a pattern of strengths, and teacher recommendations from the elementary school. We try very hard to place students in classes where they need the challenge but can also work successfully. Please understand that there is a state-mandated limit to the number of students in a gifted class and that once that limit is reached, the class is full.

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## **Social**

### **Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility**



It is important to remember that students' priority in middle school is to learn! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. As with everything in life, students will get out of middle school what they put into it. Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults, both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings. The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will

aid in making their middle school experience successful.

### **Making/Choosing Friends**

Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Some tips for making new friends are:

- Get involved in school activities.
- Introduce yourself to students who sit around you in your classes.
- Choose different partners during group work assignments in your classes.
- Sit with different groups of people at lunch

### **Peer Pressure**

Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative. Examples of positive peer pressure might include encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport. Examples of negative peer pressure might include someone encouraging students to smoke, drink alcohol, or skip school. To best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful.

- Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs.
- Be assertive – tell friends what you like/don't like.
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs.
- Avoid situations in which you know that you could get into trouble.
- Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way.

- Talk with trusted adults about situations that you don't understand and/or make you feel uncomfortable.

## **Bullying**

Bullying is unwanted behavior that is repeated and where there is a real or perceived imbalance of power. The three types of bullying are: verbal, social, and physical. The following tips are ways that parents can help their children:

- Listen to your child. (Some may struggle to talk about it.)
- Help them understand the definition of bullying.
- Share advice on what to do if they see it or experience it.
- Create a plan to protect them. (For example, "Stay in a group.")
- Communicate with the school. (Administration, Counselors, and Teachers)
- Encourage students to become involved in extracurricular activities
- Model how to treat others with respect.

Let's work together to stop bullying. For more information, go to [www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov).

Lakeview Middle School is set up so that sixth graders are in teams and interactions with upperclassmen are limited to before and after school or during special activities. Just as in elementary school, positive social interactions of all students are encouraged, and bullying is not tolerated. If students find themselves in uncomfortable situations in which they feel they need help, they should be aware that teachers, counselors, administrators, and/or other school personnel are there to help them.

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## **Extracurricular Activities / Getting Involved**



### **Sports**

An activity that rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders often look forward to in middle school is the opportunity to represent their school in athletics. Following is a list of sports available at Lakeview Middle School.

Coach Kelley Williams Coach is out Athletic Director [kwilliams.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:kwilliams.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

### **Fall Sports**

- Football – Tryouts are held in May and games begin in mid-August.
- Volleyball – Tryouts are usually held in May and practices begin in August. Matches begin in mid-August.
- Cross-Country – Tryouts will be the second or third week of school (August).
- Softball – Tryouts are usually held in May and practices begin in August

### **Winter Sports**

- Basketball – Basketball tryouts are usually held in late October and games begin in December.
- Wrestling – Tryouts are usually held in late October and matches begin in November.

### **Spring Sports**

- Baseball – Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March.
- Golf – Tryouts are usually held in February and matches begin in March.
- Soccer – Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March.
- Track – Tryouts are usually held in February and meets begin in March.

**IN ORDER TO TRY OUT FOR A SPORT, A PHYSICAL MUST BE ON FILE IN OFFICE A. PHYSICALS ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR. A COPY OF THE PHYSICAL FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE AND CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP IN OFFICE A. This includes Cheer and Dance**

## 2. **Cheerleading**

Cheerleading is another way for students to get involved and represent Lakeview Middle School. Tryouts are usually held in March, prior to the beginning of the new school year. The Cheerleading Coach is Coach Samantha Prescott

**Dance Team** - is another way for students to get involved and represent Lakeview Middle School. Tryouts are in April. The Coach is Chasity Daugherty.

## 3. **Clubs**

Lakeview Middle School also has several clubs available for students.

- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** – FCA is led by Kelly Williams [kwilliams.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:kwilliams.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us), Mr. Slaven [aslaven.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:aslaven.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- **Fishing Club**- Begins in January. Mr. Mccole is the fishing club sponsor. [amccole.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:amccole.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- **Leadership/Team** – Ran by Adam Slaven [aslaven.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:aslaven.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). It is a group of 7th-grade students nominated by teachers based on their leadership abilities, grades, and behavior. At the beginning of the school year, they help the sixth graders find their Connections classes and open their lockers. They also do community service several times during the school year.
- **House Officers**- This is led by Andrew Mccole. [amccole.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:amccole.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)  
Students in all four houses will run for president/vice President and representative in all grades. They are chosen by their peers in each of their houses.
- **National Junior Honor Society** (8<sup>th</sup> Grade Only) – The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a national organization established to recognize outstanding middle school-level students. NJHS is sponsored by Ms. Lesa Carnes ([lcarnes.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:lcarnes.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)). To be considered for membership a student must maintain a 90 or above yearly average in each academic class throughout 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade and also demonstrate characteristics of good citizenship and service.

## 4. **Band**

The Lakeview Middle School Band is led by Mr. Jon Elliot [jelliott.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us](mailto:jelliott.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Fifth-grade students need to sign up for band when Mr. Elliott comes to the elementary schools in the spring for a performance and to recruit for the middle school band. At this time, Mr. Elliott will distribute information sheets to the students and they should notify their fifth-grade teacher if they are interested in participating in band at Lakeview Middle School. The band starts on the first day of school. In early fall there will be a band rental and information night.

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# Transition to Middle School

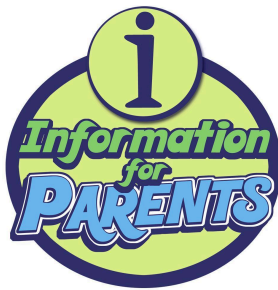
## **Registration Information**

Prior to the end of the school year, fifth-graders from each of the feeder elementary schools (Battlefield Elementary, Cloud Springs Elementary, and Westside Elementary) participate in a field trip to Lakeview Middle School. During this visit, teachers are given registration forms to complete for their students. LMS counselors will use these forms to schedule students for their sixth-grade classes.

**Transition/Orientation Programs** Lakeview Middle School makes every effort to ease students' transition from elementary school to middle school.

- Before the end of the school year, fifth-graders from the three elementary feeder schools (Cloud Springs Elementary School, West Side Elementary School, and Battlefield Elementary School) participate in a field trip to LMS. During this field trip, they can tour the school, meet teachers, and see what an actual school day is like.
- Before the end of school, Lakeview Middle School hosts a meeting for parents of rising sixth-graders from the three elementary feeder schools (Cloud Springs Elementary School, West Side Elementary School, and Battlefield Elementary School). Counselors, administration, Parent coordinators from LMS, WSE, CSE, BES, and other representatives from the school participate in this meeting. Parents receive a transition/orientation packet and can ask questions. The transition packets contain:  
Moving Up to Middle School" (Transition Guide for LMS)
- In the week before the beginning of the new school year, sixth graders and their parents are encouraged to participate in Open House. At Open House, students and parents can:
  - o Walk around and tour the building
  - o Meet and talk with sixth-grade teachers.
  - o Meet and talk with school administrators.
  - o Become more familiar with the school

## **Tips for Parents**



Parent participation in education is closely related to student achievement. Both of you will be affected by this change to middle school. The key during adolescence is to balance your support while promoting responsibility and independence in your child.

- √ Become informed about Lakeview Middle School by attending orientations/Parent Meetings. Remain involved in your student's education at middle school. Visit the school and take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities available. (See Ms. Newell, the Parent Involvement Coordinator.)
- √ Organization and time management skills must be developed so students will not feel overwhelmed. Provide a quiet study area, and expect to see your child working regularly on homework and long-term projects.
- √ Know the dress code and check to see that your child is wearing appropriate attire each day.
- √ Be sure Office A has current contact information. Don't assume your child will share changes in phone numbers or addresses.

## **Homework Hints for Parents of Middle School Students**

Many of the most frequently asked questions by middle school parents have to do with "How can I help my child with studying and homework?" Some of the best guidance that we can pass along to you comes from the September issue of *Mathematics Teaching in Middle School*, a resource for math teachers. Even though it is written about math, the helpful hints are universal to all content areas.

1. Identify a good homework place. At home, make sure the lighting is good and the space is adequate.
2. Talk to your child about how to get started. Help prioritize the work for the evening. Checking on progress once in a while helps with time management. Encourage independent decisions about when and in what order assignments should be completed. Suggest a break when it is necessary. Help refocus when distractions occur.
3. Parents don't have to know all the answers or processes, but it is good for students to develop a voice in their heads that asks guiding questions about solving problems. "Telling" a student how to solve a problem is less helpful in the long run than "Teaching" or "Coaching" them to think through problems. You can coach them by asking the following questions:
  - Do you understand what the question is asking?
  - How do you think you might start this problem?
  - Have you seen any problems like this before?
  - Do you have a similar problem in your notes from class that we might look at?
  - Can you show me a simpler problem like this one that might give us a clue as to how to begin?

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- As you write on your paper, talk me through what you are thinking.
  - Does your answer sound reasonable? Does it answer the original question? How do you know?
  - Explore some websites that are designed to help parents and students with homework, such as the following:
    - [www.figurethis.org](http://www.figurethis.org)
    - <https://www.khanacademy.org>
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