Dear New Patuxent Valley Middle School Families,

Welcome! We are so excited that you will be joining our family next year. Before you begin to delve into all the information outlined in the packet, I want to take this opportunity to extend a personal hello to each of you. Your child’s experience at our school will be marked by incredible academic growth, as well as emotional, social and physical development that will leave you scratching your head and marveling at your child’s accomplishments. The teachers and I look forward to getting to know you and your children as we guide them on their journey.

Big Changes Are Coming!

For years, both you and your child knew what to expect when school started. As a basic routine, you knew the day the teacher gave a spelling test, you understood the homework rules, and if you had a problem, you knew how to get help.

And now come the middle grades!

It’s an exciting time that marks the beginning of an important new phase in your child’s education and personal development. The curriculum is more varied and goes into more detail. Students have increased activities available to them. It’s a time to start thinking about careers, life choices, and plans for higher education.

It can also be a bewildering time.

As the parent of a child entering the middle grades, you’ve probably noticed changes both big and small in your child over the last year or so. At times, you may wonder what stranger is living under your roof!

Younger children are generally friendly. They pretty much do what parents tell them to do. And they actually like them! Suddenly, they are aloof and they have minds of their own. Parents probably are no longer their best friends.

All these changes are perfectly normal. They are a natural part of growing up.

What to expect?

Students in the middle grades change rooms and teachers throughout the day. Your child may worry that he or she may not find his/her way from room to room. Will they remember their locker combination? What if they don’t know anyone in their classes? Will they be able to do the homework? You as parents, have your own concerns; how will you know what’s going on in school? Will you know your child’s friends? How will you stay in touch with all those teachers? How will you even know who the teachers are? And how will your child, who can’t always find his/her shoes, be able to keep track of their homework? This packet can help! It is full of important information and practical advice for helping your child succeed in middle school.

On behalf of the staff and students of Patuxent Valley Middle School, I welcome you! I look forward to the next three years of getting to know you and your child and making your experiences at PVMS both positive and rewarding.

Warmest regards,

Robert A. Motley
Principal
Every student at Patuxent Valley is assigned a locker. Opening a locker may be tricky and confusing at first, but students will be able to practice the first week of school. It may be a good idea to purchase a combination lock and practice using the combination.

**WARNING**—Locker combinations should not be shared with anyone. It is against school policy to share a locker with anyone.
In middle school, students are faced with many new opportunities and challenges. Middle school students have lockers, they change classes, and they have more teachers to deal with. The school is often bigger and the coursework is usually more difficult. Middle school students also find that they’re expected to be more independent, more focused, and more responsible than they were in elementary school.

Most students feel excited and a little apprehensive as they start middle school. Students wonder if they’ll fit in, if they’ll like their teachers, and if they’ll be able to succeed in the courses they’re taking.

During this transition period, it’s important to keep the lines of communication open. Talk to your children and listen to what they say. Let them know that you’re there to help make the transition to middle school as smooth as possible.

This is not only a transition period for students, it’s also a time of transition for parents. Your children are growing and changing, and you can see their focus shifting from their families to their friends. As middle schoolers become more independent and socially active, being a parent becomes more complicated, and often more difficult.

It’s very important for you to be involved in your children’s lives during these middle school years. You need to make sure that your children are making good choices and that they’re doing well in school. Now, more than ever, your children need your guidance, encouragement, love and understanding.

Middle school is a great place to be. Middle school students are full of energy, and there’s so much growth during these years. It’s very exciting.

--Linda O’Brien, Middle School Parent Guidebook
Rising 6th Grade Parent Orientation
February 27, 2014

WEBSITES AND RESOURCES

Howard County Public School System
http://www.hcpss.org/

HCPSS News
https://www.hcpssnews.com/
Sign-up soon to receive messages from Patuxent Valley! If you are already registered, be sure to change your settings so they include Patuxent Valley Middle.

Patuxent Valley Middle School
http://pvms.hcpss.org/

The Middle School Program of Studies
http://www.hcpss.org/academics/ms_program/
Visit this website to learn more about the Middle School Program. Topics/links include:
- Middle School Program
- World Class Curriculum
- Disciplinary Literacy
- New Schedule
- World Language
- Common Core State Standards

Building the Foundation for High School and Beyond
A Course Guide for Parents of Sixth Graders
A link to download this document can be found at the bottom of this website: http://www.hcpss.org/academics/ms_program/
## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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<td>HR</td>
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<tr>
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<td>7:41 - 8:31</td>
<td>Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8:34 - 9:24</td>
<td>Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>3A / 3B</td>
<td>9:27 - 10:17</td>
<td>Applied Academics</td>
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<td>A-Day Sem 1 / A-Day Sem 2</td>
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<td></td>
<td>B-Day Sem 1 / B-Day Sem 2</td>
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<td>12:39 - 1:29</td>
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<td>7A / 7B</td>
<td>1:33 - 2:23</td>
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<td>B-Day Sem 1 / B-Day Sem 2</td>
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6th Grade Supply List for 2014-2015*

Please check at the beginning of each quarter to replenish supplies as needed.

1. 3-ring binder, 3”
2. 3-ring binders, 1” (poly or other)
Constant supply of loose leaf paper
2. Dividers, 8-pack
7. 1-subject spiral notebooks
1. 5-subject spiral notebook
3. Marble composition books
7. Pocket folders
Constant supply of black or blue ink pens
Constant supply of #2 pencils
1. Red ink pen
3. Highlighters (any color)
1. Glue stick
1. Ruler
1. Protractor
1. Compass
1. Scissors
1. Set of colored pencils
2. 3x5 index cards, 100/pk
1. 3x3 Sticky Notes, 100/pk
1. USB Flash Drive (file storage)
(Optional for Pre-Algebra students) TI-84 Plus Silver Edition Graphing Calculator

*Proposed list (an updated list will be sent with the summer letter in August and will be on the PVMS website)

FAMILY PORTAL

The HCPSS Family Portal is an Internet-based system used to improve communication between parents/guardians, students and teachers. It allows parents/guardians & students to login and view student grades, assignments, scores, assignment completion, etc.

Parents will receive information at the beginning of the school year to sign up for an account. All parents are encouraged to check their account weekly.

PVMS AGENDA BOOKS/PLANNERS

-Planners will be given to students at the beginning of the school year.
-Teachers will write the assignments on the board, a chart, or the overhead for students to copy.
-Students will copy ---in ink--- the assignment in planners when assigned.
-Tests, quizzes, assignments, and long-term projects should be recorded on the date they are to be taken or to be completed.

*PLAN AHEAD!
-Planners may be checked periodically. Points and/or grades can be given for recorded and completed assignments.
-Parents are asked to initial and communicate with teachers through the planner.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

PVMS Administrative Team
(410-880-5840)
Mr. Motley........Principal
Mrs. Mussaw.......Assistant Principal
Mrs. Chrobak......Administrative Intern

School Website
http://pvms.hcpss.org

Patuxent Valley Counseling Center
(410-880-5846)
Mrs. Harig...6th / 7th Grade Counselor
Ms. Taylor......7th / 8th Grade Counselor
Ms. Reidy.......Guidance Secretary

Mr. Jonathan Glanz.....6th Grade Team Leader
Email: jonathan_glanz@hcpss.org

August Student Orientation
Friday, August 22, 2014
Last Names that begin with:
A-L will meet 7:45 - 8:15 AM
M-Z will meet 8:30 - 9:00 AM
IMPORTANT DATES:
Back to School Night
September, 2014 @ 6:30pm
Join Mr. Motley and other PVMS staff for a night of information and a tour of the school.

August Student Orientation
Friday, August 22, 2014
Last names that begin with:
A-L will meet 7:45 - 8:15 AM
M-Z will meet 8:30 - 9:00 AM

6th Grade Student Supply List
The student supply list for 6th graders will be posted on the school website http://pvms.hcpss.org/
In addition, a copy will be sent with the incoming 6th grade summer letter and academic schedule in mid-August.
Patuxent Valley Middle School PTA Welcomes You

The PVMS PTA welcomes you and your student to the upcoming 2014-15 school year!

By becoming a member of the PVMS PTA you will support many of the programs that enrich your child’s educational experience.

In the past, the PTA has supported and helped fully or partially fund many activities/programs such as:

- Academic Celebrations
- Needy Student Assistance Cultural Arts Program
- Student Government National Jr Honor Society School Store
- Positive Behavior Program
- Classroom Enrichment  8th Grade Dance

We encourage each family to join the team as we support the administration and staff in providing the best education experience for our children.

Membership Registration for 2014 – 15 School Year Begins August 25

Membership Interest Form

Please Print
Name: ______________________________________________________________________

Email Address (one only please): ________________________________________________

Primary Phone Number:  _____________________________________________

If you have any questions about PVMS Membership, please contact Eleanor Dixon-Terry, PTA Membership Coordinator, at eleanord_terry@yahoo.com