

Things to do:



1. Sports for 6th graders

- Fall Cross Country, 6th grade winter basketball, and track in the spring
- Regularly scheduled lunch time intramurals (*by grade*)

2. **SAAB:** Student Activities Advisory Board: One student from each homeroom per quarter will serve.

3. **FM:** You may choose to attend the Friday Morning prayer group that meets from 7:15–7:30. Doughnuts, milk and juice are provided monthly thanks to School Circle. Parents are welcome!

4. **Accountability Groups:** These groups of students and an adult leader are formed in 6th grade and stay together through MS. The groups generally meet two times a month. Each Friday begins with a time of singing followed by a chapel speaker or accountability group time.

5. Annual 5th/6th and 7th/8th grade mixer activities.

6. **Turkey Bowl** (every other Nov.)
7. **Annual Talent/ Variety Show** and Christmas Parties

8. The annual 5–8 **Spelling Bee**
9. The annual 5–8 **Geography Bee**
10. **Exploratory Classes** in October and/or February

11. **Hush Day** on Valentine's and St. Patrick's Days. You are welcome to bring valentines for friends.

12. **March Mayhem** (similar to January Perk-Ups)
13. **Science Olympiad** (March)
14. **Michigan's Adventure** (June)

Welcome 6th graders

Dutton Christian Middle School



The Many Faces You Will See



Mrs. Jennifer Bergsma,
Art Teacher



Mrs. Diane Bonnema,
MS Learning Support and RTI
Coach



Mrs. Kathy Burgess,
Administrative Assistant



Mrs. Jenna Conlin,
Spanish Teacher



Mrs. Julie DeShetler,
Middle School Parapro



Mrs. Pam Diephuis,
Band Teacher



Mrs. Cindy Groot,
Curriculum Director



Miss Amanda Feyen,
Elementary General Music/
Choir



Mrs. Julie Knoll,
6th grade English & 7th
grade Bible



Mrs. Anne Kuiper,
7th grade Literature &
7th/8th grade English



Mr. Dan Netz,
Administrator



Mrs. Carol Netz,
MS Technology/Academically
Talented Program



Mrs. Kerri Nitz,
Librarian



Mrs. Sarah Renkema,
Orchestra Teacher



Mr. Tony Rozema,
6th-8th grade Math & 8th
grade Bible and Physical
Education



Mr. Alan Sloterbeek,
6th grade Bible, Literature &
Social Studies



Mr. Reuben Sportel,
6th-8th grade Science



Mrs. Kathy tenHaaf,
Middle School Parapro



Mr. Jon Teune,
7th/8th grade History &
6th/7th grade Physical
Education



Mrs. Sandy Thornburg,
Learning Support



Mrs. Lynne VanderWall,
7th/8th grade math

What Students Can Expect

1. You will move from class to class with your assigned homeroom class. If you have a study hall, you will meet in Mr. Sloterbeek's room or the library.

2. Middle School is fun, but there is more responsibility. Some say the work is more difficult, and there is more homework.

3. 5th and 6th graders will have one wing, while the 7th and 8th graders are in a separate wing. There are limited opportunities for the 5th/6th graders to mix with the 7th/8th graders. Our intramurals are separate and so are all classes. We may mix in the exploratory classes in February.

4. We do not do many activities with other schools except sports.

5. During our break and lunch you may go outside, but you do not have to. The gym is open at most breaks during the winter. We also put out ping pong tables in the winter. There is always a teacher on duty during breaks and lunch.

Outside, you can play on the basketball courts, four square, or gaga ball. You can also swing or play tether ball.

If you want to be certain to have a ball to play with, you should bring your own equipment to use outside.

6. You will have PE two times a week and will have to wear gym clothes from home. Mr. Teune will explain his expectations during your first PE class.

7. On the day before Spring Break, the 6th graders go to the Holocaust Memorial in Farmington Hills, Michigan. In late May or early June the 6th and 7th graders spend a day at Michigan's Adventure. There may be some other trips as well. The 8th graders go on a trip to Cedar Point.

8. You will do lots of reading. We do not use reading records, but use the Accelerated Reader quizzes frequently.

9. You can bring a birthday treat to school, but you do not need to feel like you have to.

10. If you lose something, there is a 'Lost and Found' in the sports equipment room. See a teacher for help.





What Parents Can Expect

Parents can check the [DCS Handbook](#) for lots of important information. This is found under Parent Resources on the DCS home page or in your child's assignment notebook.

1. **Visiting Days:** All current 5th graders will participate in a visiting day in the Spring. However, if you or your child would like another opportunity to visit the MS before the first day, please call in early August, and one of the sixth grade teachers would be glad to show you around.

2. The **magazine sale** begins on the second day of school and **your sixth grader is required to sell two magazine subscriptions to defray the cost of their Michigan's Adventure trip.** If they do not sell these subscriptions, they are required to pay for the trip in June. Sixth grade students with an eighth grade sibling are excused from this requirement due to the dollar amount 8th graders are required to sell.

3. **Book Fee:** 6th grade students pay a one-time book fee of \$15. See the [DCS Handbook](#) for more information.

4. **Lockers** are assigned for the year. They are not locked, so caution should be used when keeping valuable items in them.

5. **Hot Lunch** prices currently are \$2.45 per day using the same online system. Students have a morning break where they may have a snack.

6. **Trip orders** can be turned into the office.

7. **RenWeb** is a school database that is very useful for finding information about grades and homework. You should also use the web pages of the individual teachers to keep up to date. Mr. Sloterbeek writes a newsletter each quarter with updates on what is being done in class. A link will be sent to you at approximately three and six weeks into the quarter so you remember to check your child's current grades.

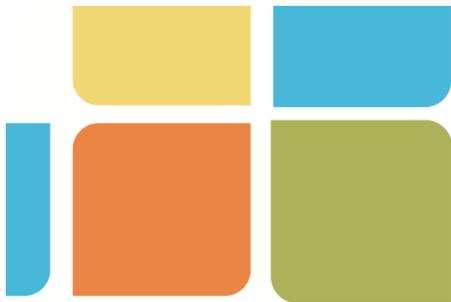
8. **Conferences** are held in November and March.

9. **Assignment books** are filled out daily in their homeroom study time (20 minutes.) This book does not have to be signed as it does in the elementary unless a need arises due to incomplete work or other student organization issues. There is a link on the Middle School section of the website with homework spreadsheet.

10. **Attendance:** If your child will be absent for a family vacation and you would like homework prior to the trip, give the teachers advance notice. There is no guarantee the teachers will be able to tell exactly where they will be in the lesson at the time you are away, but they will do their best to accommodate your child.

Please call the school in the AM if your child will be sick. If there is an appointment before or during school, your child will need to check in and out of the office using an In/Out Slip. Notes to the school should be sent for any planned absences.

Each student is partnered with at least one other student as a 'Study Buddy.' These partners gather homework and fill out an assignment sheet for your child when he/she is absent.



A Typical Day

• Arrive by bus or car. Orchestra and band students, you can bring your instruments to the instrument storage room. Unpack your backpack.

• Be seated in homeroom by 8:05am

• The Tardy Bell rings at 8:10am, then homeroom begins devotions

• There are three minutes between classes. If extra time is needed, go to your next classroom first and ask for permission.

• You will usually have two classes before 10:00am then a 15 minute break where you can play outside, in the gym, or hang out with friends in the building.

• There are usually 2 more classes before 11:45am, and then a 35 minute lunch.

• Most of the time there are three classes before 2:40pm. The day ends with a homeroom/study time until dismissal at 3:05pm.

• You need to be on time for the buses and car pool that leave by 3:10pm.

• If you are involved in something after school, know your transportation arrangements.

• Each evening complete your homework & prepare for the next day.



11. **Electronics** (such as cellphones and ipods) are allowed in their lockers for use *after* school or on the bus. These may not be out during the school day or they will be confiscated.

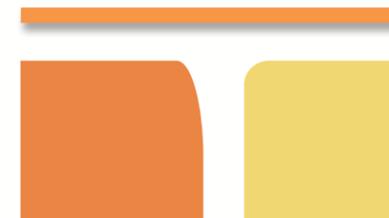
12. **Internet:** Students and parents will sign a pledge for safe and appropriate use of the internet.

13. **Medication** may not be in their lockers. Please see the [DCS Handbook](#) for more details regarding this policy.

14. **Discipline policy:** Please refer to the [DCS Handbook](#) for more detailed information regarding green, yellow, and red card system as well as the Christian Character policy.

We try to recognize when kids do something good as well as hold them accountable for poor behavior. We hand out Green Cards to students who are caught showing kindness to others or demonstrating some Christian character. Students and homeroom teachers receive a copy of this card.

15. The **school phone** may be used for contacting parents during the day or after school, but it not to be used for setting up social arrangements.



16. **Busing/Carpool:** Students are dropped off in the circle drive by bus or car. The doors are open by 7:40 AM.

Dismissal is at 3:05pm. Students are picked up by bus in the circle drive. Students who have car pool at the elementary may take the DCS bus over at the end of the day.

Car poolers who are picked up at the Middle School will meet their parents in the parking lot. Parents should not go through the circle drive at the end of the day.

16. **Adjustments:** Many students face a big adjustment coming to middle school.

Deodorant and personal hygiene become more important at this age.

We are especially concerned with students' academic adjustments. To support them in this transition, we have the LSS Room (Learning Support Services) as well as classroom teachers available to provide added assistance.

Students have a 20 minute homeroom study time each day. Many students will have up to three study halls a week if they are not in band/orchestra or Spanish.

Students have daily homework, averaging approximately one hour per night.



Sample Schedule

8:10 – 8:17 Homeroom/Devotions
Homeroom

8:20 – 9:05 History
Mr. Sloterbeek

9:08 – 9:53 Technology
Mrs. Netz

9:53 – 10:08 Break
Outside or Gym in Winter

10:11 – 10:56 Math
Mr. Rozema

10:59 – 11:42 Bible
Mr. Sloterbeek

11:42 – 12:18 Lunch
Homerooms, then intramurals or freetime

12:21 – 1:06 English
Mrs. Knoll

1:09 – 1:54 Band/Orch/Span/Study
Diephuis, Renkema, Conlin, Sloterbeek

1:57 – 2:42 Literature
Mr. Sloterbeek

2:45 – 3:05 Homeroom
Homeroom

