

Middle School Survival Guide

ORGANIZATION: It is the overall key to success. The following is a list to support your transition:

- Classroom Preparedness
- Expectations
- Homework
- Lockers
- Organizational Ideas
- Uniform

➤ Classroom Preparedness:

- Have all necessary materials for each class with homework.
- Know what it is expected for each class the minute you walk in the door.
 - Hand in homework or get it out to check it.
 - Complete problem of the day on board.
 - Prepare for test.
 - Get out specific materials needed.
- Bring Assignment Books to every class.
- Pens (blue, black and red), pencils and highlighters are needed every day. Use a small soft sided pencil pouch to store them.
- Some teachers require a small box of crayons or colored pencils.
- Students never leave the classroom without permission from the teacher and without having signed out and taken a pass.
- Put your name on every paper, using proper heading for all papers, especially when pulling out loose-leaf notebook paper.
- In Math class have at least 2 sharpened pencils and eraser(s). Have pencils sharpened ahead of time or complete immediately upon entering class to avoid interruptions during class.
- Best effort every day; pay attention; participate; ask questions; be a team player and supportive of all classmates.

➤ Expectations/Other:

- Understand/Know what is expected from each teacher's class.
- Your teachers are on your side. Ask for help. Do not let things go. Don't avoid doing anything because you do not understand. ASK! Do not be afraid to get help or ask for clarification. The teachers want you to be successful and be responsible for your own learning as well.
- Always do your best work the first time. It shows how proud you are of what you accomplish.
- It is okay to be nervous; after all, you are starting a new experience.
- If you arrive late, as the 8:15 bell is ringing, you must first report to homeroom, then get permission to go to your locker. Students should not be at their lockers during morning prayer and announcements.
- Food items that have been purchased from the cafeteria and are left over may NOT be carried back to the classroom. All unused drinks/food must be put away in a lunchbox or backpack, or thrown away at the end of lunch.

- Water bottles can be carried in warmer months to class as long as they are secured from spilling and damaging class materials, and discarded properly if needed.
- Put your name in/on all of your belongings.

➤ Homework:

- Use an assignment book to record daily assignments.
- Carry home only books needed for homework.
- When doing Math homework, you must show all of your work.
 - If you struggle with Math homework and cannot complete it, come prepared with questions to ask the next day.
- Homework will be posted on teacher web pages, BUT you must know what it is prior to leaving school so that you have the necessary materials.
- It is expected to be completed. Missed homework assignments will lead to Academic Detention.
- If you are absent, you are responsible for turning in assignments that were due; scheduling make-up work/tests and checking in overall for what was missed. Utilize teacher web pages to assist you in this process.
- Long-Term Assignments:
 - Use Assignment Book to record daily assignments.
 - Do not wait until the last minute. Plan ahead and get pieces of the assignment done ahead of time. Teachers will help you understand how to do this.

➤ Lockers:

- Learn how to use a combination lock.
- Save your money! “Cute and fun” locker accessories for decorating are unnecessary. Keep it simple, otherwise, you will be asked to take them home.
- Collapsible locker shelves are a disaster. They do exactly that: collapse. If you want shelving to help organize, get something like a narrow crate that will not collapse.
- Backpacks are stored in the classroom closet area; therefore, all items should be unpacked into the lockers at the beginning of the day.
- Locker Times:
 - We have built in 2 minutes for changing between classes.
 - This is not time to stand and chat with your friends. Rather, students should be focused on making sure they have the necessary books/supplies for their classes.
 - Talking about anything other than what you need for class or to take for homework at the end of the day while at the lockers often results in students grabbing the wrong thing or forgetting items.
 - Teachers will work with you on key times to go to your lockers based on which classes you have when and where, and what all you need to carry.
- Locker Etiquette:
 - There is someone above you or below you and/or beside you - do not spread everything out all over the floor. Time will be given for locker clean out at other designated times.

- When switching out books, place the books just used in front of you, take out the new books needed and then place the old books in the locker.
- Loose papers should not be placed in the locker. They will become buried, crushed and/or lost.
- The three days (Aug. 20 - 22) prior to school opening, **6th Grade students** and **new students** will have access to school to get to your lockers. You will be given your exact locker assignment and locker combination number to practice and set up your locker for organizational purposes.

➤ Organizational Ideas:

- Use a daily Assignment/Agenda Book to record homework/assignments.
- Use a small soft sided pencil pouch to keep pens, highlighters, pencils, and crayons.
- Develop an organizational system for papers, worksheets, handouts, study guides, etc. Find one that works best for you, such as:
 - Accordion folder
 - Slim binder with folders (one for each class)
 - A couple of larger binders that share classes
 - One big binder for all classes
 - Notebooks with filing pockets
- Classes move quickly and locker time is short. So getting a system down is an “ounce of prevention that is worth a pound of cure”.
- Binders and/or your folder system should be cleaned out regularly. It is impossible to store months of paper from each subject.
 - Create a storage system at home to keep old study guides, packets, notes, etc. that will be used again to study for long-term tests and the final exam at the end of the year.

➤ Uniforms: Some tips for avoiding common oversights by students that are a violation.

➤ P.E. Uniform & Additions to the Regular Uniform Policy will be in the 2017-18 Handbook.

GIRLS	BOYS
Hair-bands are for hair not your wrists.	TIES: Keep top button buttoned and ties up.
Waistbands on skirts should NOT be rolled.	Haircuts! Hair above the ears, neck & eyebrows
No make-up or dangle/hoop earrings. NO nail polish; Clear only Knee high socks are a must	Wear belts! Socks can be black, brown, navy blue or white No logos
Do not wear bandanas, large scarves or large hair accessories.	Shirts stay tucked in.

We hope this will help you be prepared for an exciting, new experience at STS. We look forward to all of your successes and accomplishments this coming year.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! See you August 23rd!

Mr. Shore & the Middle School Team