

MIDDLEBROOK MESSENGER

AUGUST 2019 – BACK TO SCHOOL EDITION

Hello Middlebrook Families,

We know this is a lengthy newsletter, so pace yourself ... take breaks, stay hydrated, stretch those hammies ... within these pages you will find the school calendar, walk-thru info and supply lists! And check out www.middlebrookpta.org for the latest news throughout the year!

Student Walk-Thru Day - Thursday, August 22

Meet your teachers, explore the school, and come by the lobby to join the PTA -- plenty of ways to volunteer with us throughout the year! www.middlebrookpta.org

7th & 8th Grades – 12:00 - 1:00 pm

6th Grade – 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Open Houses

- Come meet teachers on your student's team, and learn the curriculum. Sessions start in the cafeteria, with **PTA information tables open from 6:30 to 7:00** each evening.
- **6th Grade Parents** -- Wednesday, September 4th 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- **7th Grade Parents** -- Tuesday, September 10th 7 to 8:00 p.m.
- **8th Grade Parents** -- Tuesday, September 17th 7 to 8:00 p.m.

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome back to school! This summer flew by in our house and getting back on a schedule won't be easy! As your kids get back into the swing of school, please consider volunteering for one of our open PTA positions! Contact [Meire Mouracade](#) (Nominating) or [Chandra Ring](#) to learn more. This edition of the *Back to School Messenger* is chock-full of helpful information to get you and your student ready for the new school year. But did you know there is a slimmed down version of the *Messenger* that goes out every Sunday night to prepare you for the week ahead? It answers the all important what day number is Monday, provides a calendar of events, and lists programs taking place that week. Be sure to update your email on PowerSchool so you don't miss a thing.

The PTA provides volunteer and financial support to activities that directly benefit every Middlebrook student. But we cannot do it without your help and here's how:

***JOIN THE PTA** and gain instant access to our online/mobile directory. You can call or email directly from the app on your phone, so convenient! Download the app from the app store and follow the directions!

***DONATE** to our annual appeal to support all we do.

***VOLUNTEER AND PARTICIPATE** by donating your time to help at an event, or choose an ongoing program like volunteering at the Library Media Center. Contact [Meire Mouracade](#) (Nominating) to learn more about available volunteer opportunities.

We look forward to your support and hope your student(s) will enjoy all that **the PTA** offers!

Best,

Chandra Ring

Middlebrook PTA President



**Join the PTA
beginning
August 22nd and
gain access to our
Mobile Directory!**

Get instant access when you join – no waiting, easy updates to address or phone number changes throughout the year! Join at: www.middlebrookpta.org

It's green, searchable and portable! Available on phones, tablets and computers!

Parents can update their profiles at any time

One easy spot to register for all your kids' PTAs and make a donation at the same time!

Questions? Email our Membership VP
Donna Arnold
mallorysleeping@gmail.com

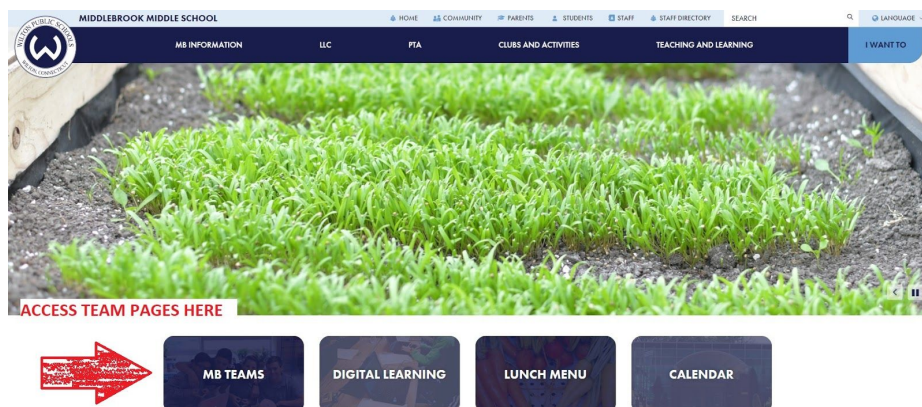
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Find Help Online

Middlebrook School and Wilton School District websites are great resources that can answer many of your questions even before you turn to our Middlebrook Parent Community Facebook page.

Every Middlebrook Team has their own TEAM PAGE accessible through the Wilton Public School website. Check out your TEAM PAGE for information on supplies, homework, field trips, points of contact and more!

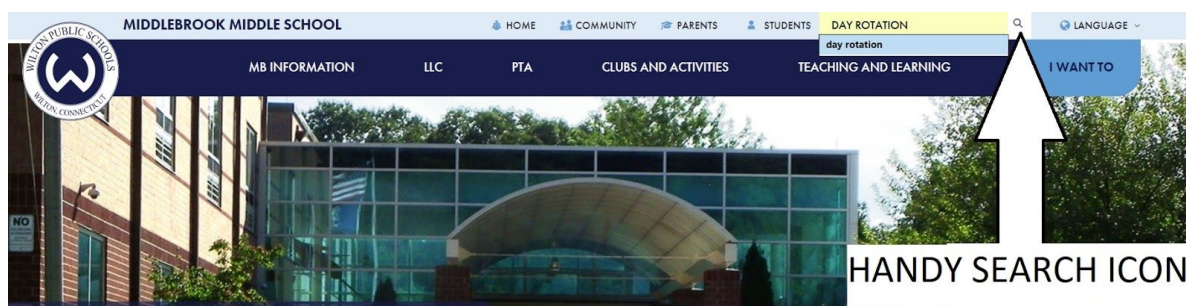


or [Access Team Pages here.](#)

The district home page and the Middlebrook homepage have a menu item called 'I WANT TO' which features many popular links-- just look at the topics it includes:



If you cannot find the information you are looking for quickly, you can use the search feature to find an answer in a flash. Click on the magnifying glass and enter your search term. It's like Google for Wilton Public Schools.



New To Middlebrook?

If you're new to Middlebrook, there are lots of things that seem mysterious and so many questions you need answered. We are taking a crack at your list:

Snacks-- There is no set snack time at MB. Snacks may be allowed at the discretion of the teachers on the team. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's team leader directly.

Gym Clothes-- Students change for gym into shorts, leggings, or sweatpants and a t-shirt and sneakers. They may wear any color they wish. Unless you remind your student to bring them home for washing, you may not see them until the end of the year.

Late Arrival-- you can totally stay in your pj's, just drop off your student by the main entrance, no need to walk them in like at CM or MD. Feel free to hug and kiss your child goodbye to embarrass them completely and be sure to call out "Love you, pumpkin muffin" for guaranteed side-eye.

Early pick up-- if your student needs to be picked up early, just send in a note, which they must bring to the front office upon arriving at school. You will need to go into school to pick them up. It's helpful to consult the [bell schedule](#) (on the MB site and a link on our FB page) so that you can time your pick up during the passing time between classes.

Day Numbers-- MB schedule operates on a 6-day cycle. If there is a holiday, that day is skipped ... for example, if Friday is Day 4 and Monday is Columbus Day, then Tuesday is Day 5. In cases of snow days, if Friday is Day 4 and Monday is a snow day, then Tuesday is Day 6. Every Sunday, our Messenger will have the Day Numbers for that week ahead.

Clubs-- MB offers over 20 clubs. Most clubs meet after school, but a few clubs meet before school. There is a \$25 participation fee. Once the fee is paid, students have unlimited access to participate in as many clubs as they wish. Be sure to talk to your student about clubs that might interest them. Students learn about clubs during September's Club Fair, from their teachers, and from various bulletin boards around school. Information is also available on the [school website](#).

No More School Dismissal Manager-- middle schoolers are responsible for their own dismissal plans. If your student is going home with a friend, or taking a different bus (to go into town, for example) you do not notify the school. It is important to make sure that you and your student have a common understanding of the plan - if they leave with a friend, there is not a way for school staff to track them down for you.

Buses-- students are allowed to ride other buses. But, note that students assigned to each bus have priority. If more students want to ride a bus than seats are available, your student will not be allowed to board the bus. This occurs most frequently with the town bus, especially on Fridays. [Check special bus assignments here](#). If your child was hoping to get on a bus and they can't because there wasn't room, they need to work out their alternate arrangement. This could be calling an adult for a ride or walking if the destination is close enough.

Lunch Options-- besides the hot lunch menu that changes every day, there is always a sandwich/panini bar and pizza available for purchase. Indeed, there are more options than most kids realize. You can access menus online through Nutrislice. Find the link [here](#).

Message Center-- do not call or text your student on their personal cell phones during the school day. Please call the Message Center at 203-834-4967 and leave a message which will be given to your student before the day ends. In the event of an emergency, please call the school.

Start/Dismissal Times--

Normal School Day:	8:20 am - 2:50 pm
Shortened Day:	8:20 am - 12:30 pm
Snow/Emergency Early Closing:	8:20 am - 10:30 am

Delayed Starts -

- 1 Hour Delay starts at 9:20 am
- 2 Hour Delay starts at 10:20 am
- 3 Hour Delay starts at 11:20 am

Parent Community on Facebook

If you are on Facebook, be sure to join our Parent Community. You will be able to ask questions, read old posts, and see what is coming up at Middlebrook. Be sure to click on **Announcements** and familiarize yourself with all the great information that has been compiled already!



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL - – LAUREN FELTZ

Dear Middlebrook Parents, Guardians, and Students,

After a busy summer, the Middlebrook faculty and staff are eager to welcome you back for the 2019-2020 school year. The Deans and I are looking forward to a smooth start to the school year. Together, we will make this a safe, fun, and productive year of learning!

We hope you will join us for the Parent/Student Walk-Through on Thursday, August 22, 2019. Students, accompanied by their parents, are invited to visit their new classrooms and meet their new teachers. While it is not required, I recommend that you print a hard copy of your child's schedule from the parent portal and bring it with you for the walk-through.

As you shop for back-to-school supplies, please remember that all students are required to change into gym clothes for class and out of gym clothes after class. Students can wear any gym appropriate garments: shorts, leggings, sweatpants and a t-shirt. Students must wear sneakers. We encourage you to label all gym clothes. In addition, locks are needed for the locker room (preferably combination locks).

Please join me in welcoming the following new staff members for 2019-2020:

Mr. Mike McLachlan will be teaching Writing Workshop on 6 Green. (Mr. Gunn has shifted to teach a new STRIDE class - Statistics and Probability.)

Ms. Anna Fernandez will be teaching Physical Education in a position shared between Middlebrook and WHS. (Mr. Tegano has shifted to fill the full time position at MB.)

Ms. Julie Toich will be teaching Writing Workshop on 7 Red. (Mrs. Randazzo has moved down to the Reading classroom on 6 Yellow following Mr. Koch's move to Genesis.)

Ms. Angelica Jara will be joining our Orchestra program in the part-time role Mrs. Puerta filled last year.

Our communication with parents remains a top priority for us. All student schedules will be available via the PowerSchool Parent Portal on Tuesday, August 20. The portal can be accessed by following this [link](#).

If you have any questions about your child's schedule, please contact our school counselors via email. Your questions are important to us, and our counselors will address them as soon as possible. Middlebrook school counselors will be onsite beginning Wednesday, August 21.

Grade 6	Ms. Bonnie O'Brien	obrienb@wiltonps.org
Grade 7	Mr. Bill Gerundo	gerundow@wiltonps.org
Grade 8	Mrs. Anne McManus	mcmannusa@wiltonps.org

Having trouble resetting your password? Please visit the Middlebrook website and under the "MB Information" menu click on "MB Course Registration 2018-2019". There you will find FAQ's and "How To" request PowerSchool password reset. ([Use this link to get there directly](#))

Parent login information for PowerSchool remains the same as it was last year, even for students transitioning from Cider Mill to Middlebrook. Families new to Wilton will receive activation codes via email after completing the registration process. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time if you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's educational program. For the safety of the children and the staff, we urge you to review carefully with each of the drivers in your family the Drop-Off and Pick-Up Procedures outlined in this issue of the Middlebrook Messenger. As always, we appreciate your cooperation. I look forward to our year together!

Sincerely,

Lauren Feltz

2019-2020 SCHOOL YEAR VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There is no better way to know your child's school and be a part of the Middlebrook environment than by getting involved in the Middlebrook PTA. Please review the list of volunteer opportunities below and see additional detail in the following pages. We NEED your help and support. Contact the committee chairs indicated below for events that interest you!

- ___ **School Photos:** Help on photo day - September
Contact: Dana Quick → danaquick@yahoo.com
- ___ **Fall Activity Night:** Chaperone this fun Friday evening event
 - ___ 6th Grade - October 19 Contact: Kris Getty → Kagtty@optonline.net
 - ___ 7th Grade - October 26 Contact: Artie Rokkam → artierokkam@gmail.com
- ___ **Book Fair:** Help sort, setup, and sell books – December 2019
Contact: Lara Paschalidis → larasmith1@netzero.net
- ___ **Science Fair:** Assist co-chairs with planning and coordination - late January 2020
Contact: Lorelee Hamilton → loralee_hamilton@hotmail.com
- ___ **Fundraising:** Help with fundraising activities throughout the year
WE NEED A CHAIR FOR THIS POSITION Contact Meire Mourcade to learn more.
- ___ **6th Grade Ice Cream Social:** Assist with organizing and scooping for this end-of-year event -June 2020
Contact: Carolyn Lyon → carolynlyon@optonline.net
- ___ **7th Grade Ice Cream Social:** Assist with organizing and scooping for this end-of-year event - June 2020
Contact: Elizabeth Etzbach → etzbach@optonline.net
- ___ **8th Grade Dinner Dance:** Help with food and decorations for this end-of-year event - May 2020
Contact: Tara Snow → tarasnow4@yahoo.com
- ___ **8th Grade Soaring Ahead Reception:** (6th and 7th grade parents only) Help with decorating - June 2020
Contact: Cristin Wallace → ctmwallace@optimum.net
- ___ **International Food Cooking Competition:** Help organize and run this much loved event (March or April)
Contact: Aimee McDonald → arfm76@gmail.com
- ___ **Media Center:** Work in the Media Center 2-3 hours per week - training provided
WE NEED A CHAIR FOR THIS POSITION Contact Meire Mourcade to learn more.
- ___ **Project Adventure:** Belay students on ropes and other apparatus during gym classes (Volunteers are needed during Fall (6 weeks) and Spring (6 weeks). Training is available.
Contact: Renee Rafferty → raffertyrenee@gmail.com or Margo Silvian margosilvian@me.com
- ___ **Hospitality:** Prepare food during Fall and Spring luncheons
Contact: Annemarie Aronowitz → annemariearonowitz@yahoo.com
- ___ **Turnover Shop:** Volunteers work with a partner at the front desk one 3 hr shift per month during the school year. Proceeds benefit our schools –***the Wilton PTAs received \$45,000 for the 2018-19 school year from this wonderful organization!*** Contact Dawn Padovan at dawnlp@aol.com to discuss volunteering. www.turnovershopwilton.org

PHOTO DAY – THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

We're looking for volunteers to ensure Photo Day 2019 runs smoothly. If you're available to volunteer for two hours on September 5th to help photographers and students get the shots just right, please contact:

Dana Quick

Please indicate which of the three shifts you prefer: 8:20-10:20, 10:20-12:20, or 12:20-2:30.

This is a **fun and rare** opportunity to spend some time at Middlebrook during school hours. Order forms are handed out to the students during the first week of school. Please complete an online order form for each child at Middlebrook, or have your child return the completed order form with check payable to "Lifetouch" on Photo Day, Wednesday, September 5thth.



SIXTH GRADE ACTIVITY NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, October 18th - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
\$5 entrance fee at the door

DJ, Snacks, Open Gym, Games,
and Fun with Friends!

PARENTS: We need chaperones to run this event! Please email:

Kris Getty - Kagtty@optonline.net

SEVENTH GRADE ACTIVITY NIGHT

SAVE THE DATE!

Friday, October 25th - 7:00-9:00 p.m.
\$5 entrance fee at the door

DJ, Snacks, Open Gym, Games,
and Fun with Friends!

PARENTS: We need chaperones to run this event! Please email:

Artie Rokkam artierokkam@gmail.com

Meera Lingam meeralingam@gmail.com

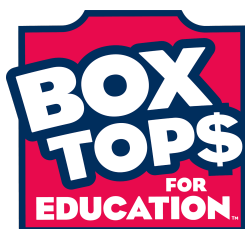
STOP & SHOP REWARDS



You shop, we save! Sign up with the Stop and Shop School Rewards Program and Middlebrook School earns money every time you visit Stop and Shop! Last year we had over 200 parents supporting the program, we would love to have more this year. [Sign up here](#)

Stop and Shop Rewards allow the school to grant 'Some Day Wishes' to students.

BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION



Box Tops are going Digital this fall. Here's what you need to do.

1. Download the BoxTops App from your App store
2. Register yourself - very easy, two minutes maximum to register
3. When you have shopped, simply scan your store receipt using the Box Tops App and your cell phone.

Old Box Tops are still valid. Don't throw them out. We will be collecting them all this fall in our **October Box Tops Challenge**.

Box Tops for Education can be found on hundreds of everyday products from companies like Food Should Taste Good, Yoplait, Kleenex, Scott, Ziploc, Hefty, Old El Paso, Green Giant, Land O Lakes, and Hanes. Proceeds from Box Tops go directly to the school to help buy new equipment and supplies. If you would like more information about this program, including participating brands, visit www.btfe.com, or contact Jennifer Acerra- Markey at jtm4jla@optonline.net.

LIBRARY LEARNING COMMONS VOLUNTEERS

The Library Learning Commons staff would greatly appreciate your help in the school media Center to assist them with a variety of responsibilities and projects. Shifts are extremely flexible- you can pick the time and day that works best for you! Can be weekly/ biweekly/monthly, or just periodically throughout the year! If you are interested or would like more information, please contact [Chandra Ring](#). We also need a coordinator for the media center volunteers!

PROJECT 2024



Project 2024 kicked off last spring with a family picnic. Over the next five years, there will be informational, social, community service and fundraising events, culminating in senior year when the Class Project parent volunteers organize a Post-Graduation Party (PGP) for the students. The purpose of the PGP is to have an all-night event where all students are entertained, fed and most importantly included and safe. It is a parent-driven event that fosters community and is accessible to all. Class Projects and the PGP are incredible opportunities to create and foster connections among parents. Please visit our [website](#) or join our [Facebook](#) group for more information. If you are interested in getting involved, please email us at classproject2024@gmail.com

Wilton SEPTA

The Wilton SEPTA's mission is to build compassionate, trusting, and collaborative relationships with all members of our schools and community. We strive to ensure that the diversity of all children receiving Special Education and related services will be supported, celebrated and socially embraced. Collectively, we will work to increase access to resources; empowering every child with the opportunity and inspiration to thrive. Please visit our website or get in touch via email to find out how to get involved. Email wiltonsepta@gmail.com

PROJECT ADVENTURE



Project Adventure is one of the only opportunities you have to volunteer at Middlebrook and work with your child!

Middlebrook's PE Department offers students a chance to climb, swing, and belay on an outdoor ropes course in Fall and an indoor course in Winter. Adults are needed to assist students, the more volunteers the more opportunities students have to climb! **You can sign up for as little or as much time as you like, but you must take a belay training course and become certified (Rock Climb Fairfield works great).**

If you are interested in Project Adventure or have any questions please contact

Renee Rafferty at raffertyrenee@gmail.com or
Margo Silvian at margosilvian@me.com

WILTON YOUTH COUNCIL

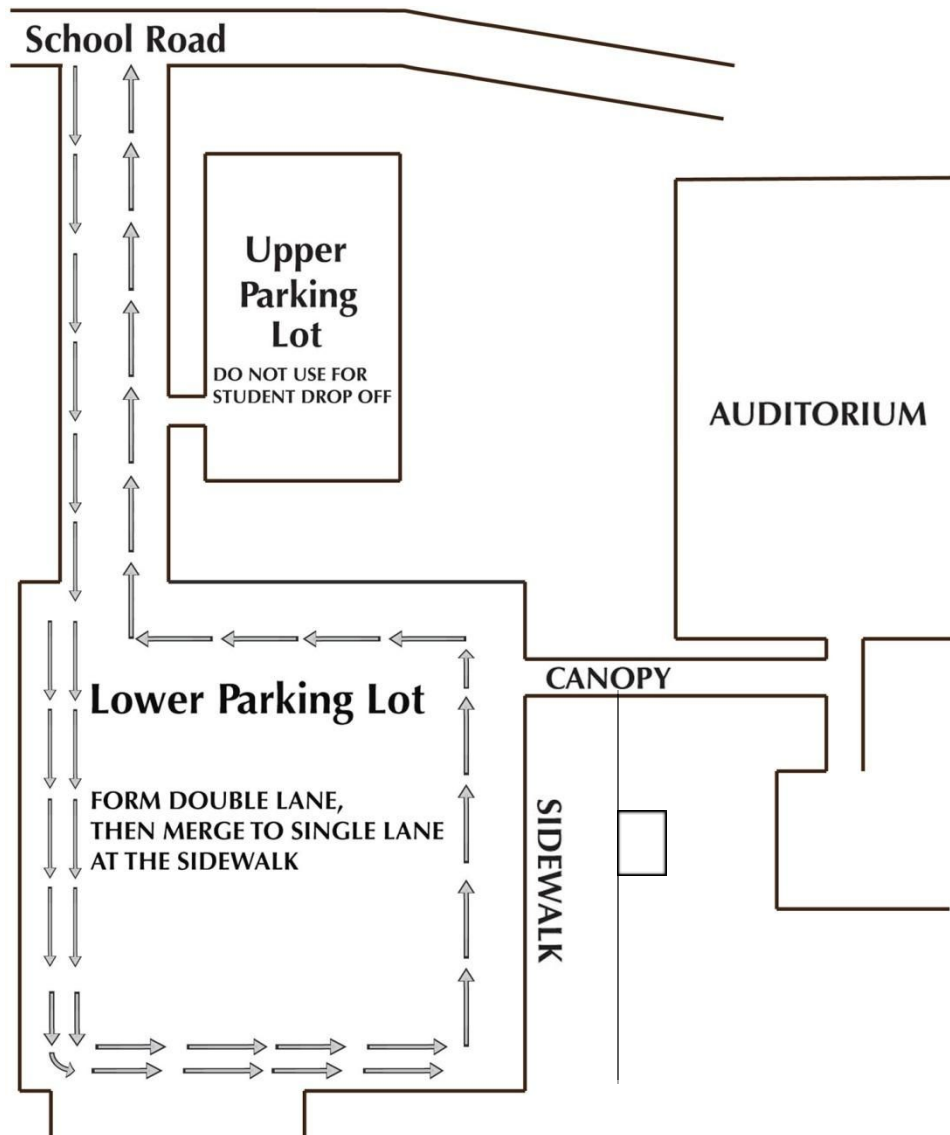
WYC's Youth to Youth will have two informational meetings in September 2019. Join us for a full year of leadership training, community service projects, and many fun activities (ski trips etc). Questions? Tanya Leonard at leonardt@wiltonps.org

Wilton Youth Council also offers Parent Connection (Parent Education events) and PeerConnection at Middlebrook. See page ?? of this newsletter for our upcoming year of programs. Visit www.wiltonyouth.org to learn more about our organization.

STUDENT DROP OFF PROCEDURES

Please share this information with all the drivers in your family.

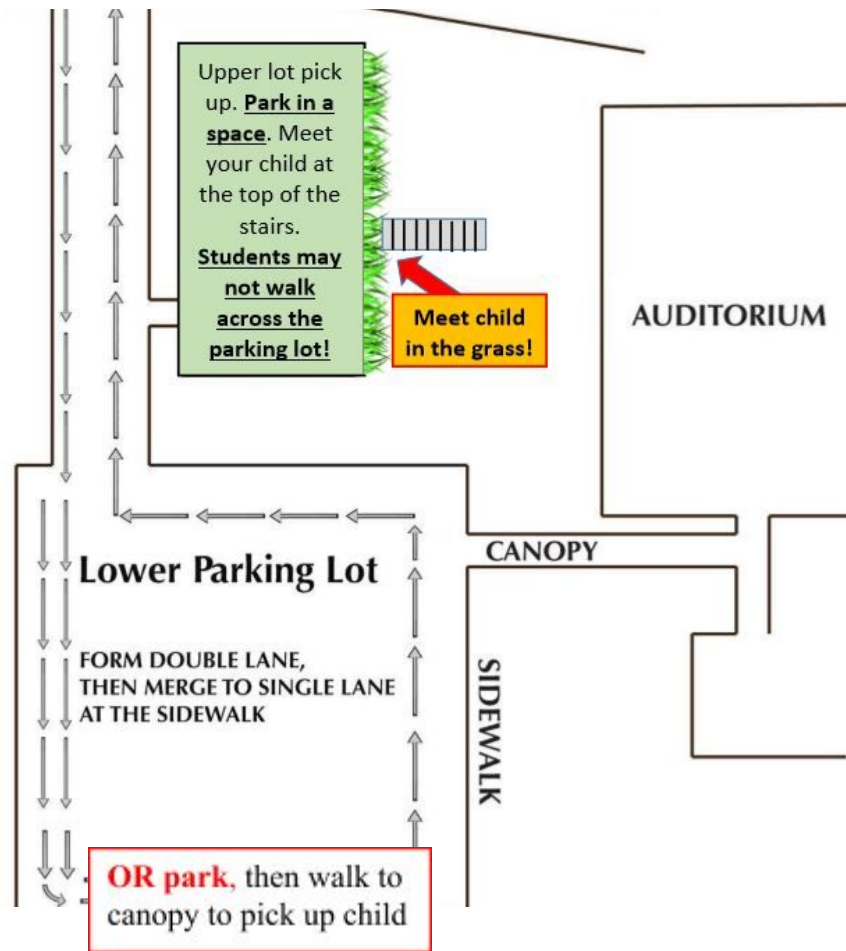
1. Students may be dropped off after 8:00 a.m. on the sidewalk in front of and to the right of the rear canopy. Students arriving to school early for extra help may be dropped off at 7:30 a.m. at the rear canopy entrance. Please use the entire length of the sidewalk for drop-off to enable all students to arrive at their classes on time. Please refer to the diagram below.
2. DO NOT drop off students:
 - in the lower parking lot, other than at the designated sidewalk
 - anywhere in the upper parking lot
 - at the front entrance of the school (unless arriving after 8:30 a.m.)
3. If your child has a physical disability, he/she may be dropped off and picked up at the front entrance ONLY if you have a pass from the nurse or the main office.



STUDENT PICK UP PROCEDURES

Please share this information with all the drivers in your family.

1. The procedure for NORMAL student pick-up is the same as the drop-off procedures for students not taking the bus. Students will be released from classes after the bell rings at 2:50 p.m. They will leave the building through the rear canopy exit and can be picked up along the sidewalk in front of and to the right of the canopy. Please use the entire length of the sidewalk for pick-up. **DO NOT attempt to drive through the lower parking lot aisles to pick up your child - it is not safe, blocks traffic flow, and parks in cars that are following instructions!**
2. EXPRESS pick-up procedure for students who need to be picked-up right at 2:50 p.m. - Parents/drivers **must park** in either parking lot in a designated parking space and walk to the grass area at the top of the stairs to meet their students. **Do NOT double park anywhere blocking parking spaces.**
3. **DO NOT double park in either lot!** Drive through pick up is ONLY to be done at the designated sidewalk area!
4. Do not pick up students from the front entrance of the school unless you are making an **office pick-up prior to 2:50 p.m.**



School Supplies

ALL TEAMS/ALL GRADES

ART: 9x12 spiral bound sketchbook preferably with a hard or plastic cover. Our art teachers hope students will use the same sketchbook during their 3 years at Middlebrook.

PE: Students are required to change into exercise appropriate clothing and footwear for gym class. Students are required to change out of gym clothing after gym class.

AIM: Single subject notebook (any type is fine)
2 pocket folder (any type is fine, plastic holds up better)
Plenty of pencils (any type is fine)

Supplies vary by team. Lists for each team can be found on the Team pages of the [Middlebrook School Website](#) or alternatively, follow the links below:

SIXTH GRADE SUPPLY LISTS 2019-2020

6 Green

6 Red

6 Yellow

SEVENTH GRADE SUPPLY LISTS 2019-2020

7 Green

7 Red

7 Yellow

EIGHTH GRADE SUPPLY LISTS 2019-2020

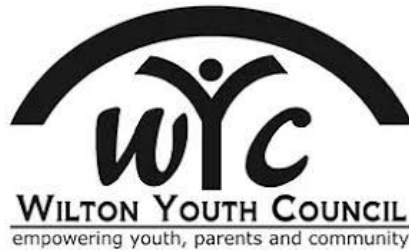
8 Green

8 Red

8 Yellow

MIDDLEBROOK EVENTS THROUGH – OCTOBER 2019

		Day	Date	Event
AUG		Thursday	22	Walkthrough: Grs 7 & 8: 12p.m. to 1 p.m. Gr 6: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
		Tuesday	27	First Day of School for Students
SEPTEMBER	MAP Testing - grades 6 & 7			
		Monday	2	Labor Day - NO SCHOOL - DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED
		Wednesday	4	Grade 6 Parent Open House - 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.
		Thursday	5	New Parent Coffee - Library Learning Center - 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
		Thursday	5	Photo Day for Students - Lifetouch
		Tuesday	10	Grade 7 Parent Open House - 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
		Tuesday	17	Grade 8 Parent Open House - 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
		Thursday	19	MB PTA Meeting - 9:00 a.m.
		Thursday	26	Lockdown Drill
		Monday	30	Rosh Hashanah - NO SCHOOL - DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED
OCTOBER	10/11 PSAT - grade 8 10/11 OLSAT - grade 7	Wednesday	9	Yom Kippur - NO SCHOOL - DISTRICT OFFICES CLOSED
		Monday	14	Columbus Day - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS - DISTRICT PROFESSIONAL LEARNING
		Tuesday	15	Professional Development - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
		Thursday	17	MB PTA Meeting - 9:00 a.m.
		Friday	18	Grade 6 Activity Night - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
		Monday	21	Grade 8/WHS Choral Rehearsal - 6:00 p.m.
		Wednesday	23	Grade 8/WHS Choral Concert - 7:30 p.m.
		Thursday	24	Parents New- to-Wilton Coffee - 9:00 a.m.
		Friday	25	Grade 7 Activity Night - 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
		Tuesday	30	Grade 8/WHS Orchestra Concert - Clune Center 7:30 p.m.
		Wednesday	31	Cider Mill Halloween Parades - Grs 7 & 8 bands



Please save the date for these Wilton Youth Council parent education programs! Like us on Facebook and visit www.wiltonyouth.org for more information about our programs for youth, parents and community. While you are there, sign up for our newsletter. Questions? Email Genevieve Eason at geason@wiltonyouth.org.

College Frenzy 2.0: How to Manage and Minimize the Stress

Thursday, Sept. 26, 2019, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Wilton Library, Brubeck Room

Parent Coach and Clinical Psychologist Susan Bauerfeld, PhD and College Consultant Victoria Hirsch offer tips, strategies and suggestions for viewing the college process as a natural next step and for managing the process to foster connection and resilience. This presentation is aimed at parents of 8th-12th graders. All parents and interested parties are welcome to attend

College Frenzy 2.0: Follow-up discussion

Monday, Oct. 7, 2019, 10:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.

Wilton Library, Rimer Room

Bring your questions for an informal conversation based on College Frenzy presentation. Minimum of 25 registrants for program to run.

The Resilience Formula: Giving Kids Roots and Wings

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

(Two opportunities!) Wilton Library Brubeck Room

In this interactive session, Donna Volpitta, Ed.D, will teach the simple brain science behind raising emotionally healthy, resilient kids.

Raising the Touch Screen Generation: The Role of Technology in Our Children's Lives

Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. OR 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (Two opportunities!)

Wilton Library Brubeck Room

Alicia Farrell, Ph.D., leads a discussion about the fine line between healthy and unhealthy technology use (screen-time, social media, entertainment) and how parents, mentors and educators can help children walk it