Learn, Listen, and Lead.

Northampton Area Middle School
1617 Laubach Avenue
Northampton, PA 18067
(610) 262-7817
(610) 262-6583 (FAX)

Office hours: Monday - Friday
7:00 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Welcome to Northampton Middle School!

HAVE A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR

new beginnings
new ideas
new energy
exciting and surprising
Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this pamphlet is to provide information that will help your child have a successful transition from elementary school to the middle school. This is the first step to ensure that your child will succeed as they enter middle school. You will receive information regarding your child’s placement during the summer months and the exact times of the orientation programs.

Our goal at the middle school is to provide your child with the best educational experience possible. We will accomplish this by working together, providing a solid curriculum, and giving your child an opportunity to become involved in activities. We encourage you to be an active participant in your child’s education. If you have any questions, please contact the middle school office. We look forward to having your child attend the Northampton Area Middle School.

Sincerely,

Patrice M. Turner, Principal
David A. Lafferty, Assistant Principal
Elizabeth Grammes, Assistant Principal

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What time does school start?
A. Students need to be seated for homeroom at 7:24am.

Q. Will we have lockers?
A. Students are issued a locker with a combination lock to use to store coats and books not being used. You will receive your lock and combination in Homeroom on the first day of school.

Q. How long are class periods?
A. All 9 academic class periods are approximately 43 minutes in length and each lunch period is approximately 35 minutes. When the bell rings, you will have 3 minutes to travel to your next classroom but be allowed to stop at your locker throughout the day.

Q. How much does lunch cost?
A. A student lunch is $2.15 and includes an entrée and up to 4 sides. There are additional snack items offered daily. You will use the same account number to purchase your lunch. Additional money is accepted every morning in the cafeteria before school. Students with a negative balance may charge three meals only after that point.

Q. How can I contact my student’s teachers?
A. Teachers may be contacted by going to the school’s website and accessing the School Staff link on the middle school web page. Teachers may also be contacted by calling the main office and leaving a message on their voice mailbox.

Q. Do you have to change for Physical Education?
A. Students do change into athletic clothing and sneakers for Physical Education as well as a swimsuit for the swimming rotation of Physical Education. Students are issued gym lockers to use for changing.

Q. Is there a dress code?
A. There is a dress code that students follow in the middle school located in the Student Handbook. Generally, students need to cover their shoulders and cannot wear shorts, skirts, or shorts. No flip-flops or pajama pants are allowed.
Procedures Concerning School Problems
The school district has established the following procedures for the parent or public to follow when looking for answers to concerns. If the problem concerns your child or your child’s teacher, follow the appropriate chain:

1. Contact your child’s teacher and/or School Counselor.
2. Contact your child’s Assistant Principal.
3. Contact your child’s Principal.
4. Contact the District Administration Offices and appropriate department.
5. Contact the Assistant Superintendent.
6. If all contacts fail to resolve the issue, contact the Superintendent or submit a written appeal to the President of the School Board.

Illness During the School Day
In case of illness or other medical, health, or personal problems during the school day, students proceed to the Nurse’s Office, located in room 281. Students may not leave school property without parental permission. Under no circumstances should a student leave school for illness without first seeing the School Nurse. The School Nurse may be reached at 610-262-7817, Option 3.

Homework Requests
Parents can directly contact teachers for any missed assignments at any time. Many of the students’ textbooks and assignments are posted on Schoology. If their absence exceeds two (2) days, work can also be requested through Mrs. Demyan either by phone at 610-262-7817 Option 2 or email at demyank@nasdschools.org. Work will be gathered and can be picked up between 2:30 pm-3:30 pm in the Guidance Office.

*Please Note: Per PIAA, 7th-12th grade students only are permitted to participate on PIAA sanctioned sports teams sponsored by NASD. All 6th grade students must continue to participate in our local youth athletic associations.

Athletic Office: 610-262-7816

Fall Sports – sign ups late May-early June
Cross Country-TBD
Field Hockey-TBD
Football- Steve Clemons (HC) clemonsw@nasdschools.org
            Zach Winter (Asst) winterz@nasdschools.org
Girls Volleyball- Jason Winchenbach winchenj@nasdschools.org

Winter Sports
Boys Basketball-Scott Johnson
Girls Basketball-Adam Bastidas (HC) bastidaa@nasdschools.org
            Emily Reightler reightle@nasdschools.org
Wrestling-Seth Lisa (HC), lisas@nasdschools.org
            Jason Kocher

Spring Sports
Boys Volleyball- Jessica Finlayson finlaysj@nasdschools.org

*Fall only- 8th graders can sign up for HS sports since they will be going to 9th grade the next school year and can also sign up for Golf, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer and Girls Tennis.
performs at numerous community performances entertaining when the whole chorus would not be appropriate. Auditions are held in May of the year before. Members of Show Choir must participate in the full chorus as we sometimes supplement our community concerts with chorus music.

**Ski Club**
*Advisor:* Mrs. Jamicky jamickyjm@nasdschools.org  
*Description:* The cost ranges from $200-$260 depending on whether or not the student rents equipment. This cost includes mandatory lessons and transportation. All lessons and bus will be at the Valley Lodge. No experience necessary.

**Student Council**
*Advisor:* Mrs. Jamicky jamickyjm@nasdschools.org  
*Description:* Middle School Student Council is made up of representatives from each academic team. 6th grade representatives are elected by teachers and in 7th and 8th grades by your teammates. The Student Council strives to make the Northampton Area Middle School community a better place. As a member of the Student Council you will listen to the needs of the students and give voice to their concerns. All members promote responsibility, leadership, pride, and interest in our school by sponsoring student activities that encourage cooperation, and community service. Members serve as a link between administration and the students to maintain a harmonious school atmosphere.

**Yearbook Club**
*Advisor:* Mrs. Knepp  
*Description:* Students selected for the Yearbook Club will work to create the NAMS Yearbook by taking pictures throughout the school year of various events and assembling them by using online software. Yearbook is a great opportunity for creative students who want to compile a year’s worth of memories!
Counseling Services

Individual counseling is available to all students. Any problem, personal or school related, can be discussed freely and confidentially with a student’s respective counselor.

The School Counselors are also available for consultations with parents. Parents are encouraged to contact the School Counselor any time during the school day to discuss problems that their children are experiencing. Parents are particularly urged to discuss with the teachers or counselors any academic difficulties students may be encountering such as:

- Adjustment to the middle school
- At Risk Assessment/Crisis Management
- Development of successful study habits
- Social/personal family adjustment
- Interpretation of ability/achievement levels
- Career information
- Peer relationships
- Homebound Instruction

More information about the Counseling Department can be found on the NAMS Website, under School Counselors.

NAMS School Counselors 16-17 School Year

6- Mrs. Deana Ferry  
  ferryd@nasdschools.org

7- Mrs. Jennifer Borzillo  
  borzillj@nasdschools.org

8- Mrs. Katherine Carney  
  carneyk@nasdschools.org

Students’ assigned School Counselor will follow them through middle school. Middle School Counselors confer with Elementary School Counselors to assist with transition.

Newspaper Club
Advisor: Mrs. Becker beckerc@nasdschools.org
Description: Newspaper Club students learn how to become a reporter, how to find school related news, how to write newspaper articles, and how to pull all of the elements of a newspaper together. We try to publish our newspaper, the Konkrete Kronicle, four times each year as this depends on the commitment of the student reporters. Students who participate in Newspaper Club gain a basic understanding of how journalism writing differs from "classroom" writing, and can go on to take Newspaper as an elective class at the Senior High School.

Orchestra
Advisor: Mr. Mertz mertzry@nasdschools.org
Description: This is the primary ensemble for all orchestra members. Instruments include violin, viola, cello, string bass and piano. Music is distributed according to part and playing level of the student. There are three primary concerts each year: Holiday, Spring and District-wide Concerts. Students also have the opportunity each year to participate on a music trip at a designated location.

Honors Orchestra
Advisor: Mr. Mertz mertzry@nasdschools.org
Description: This is audition-based ensemble for all orchestra members. Instruments include violin, viola, cello, string bass and piano. Students are given specified music selections at the start of the school year. Performances included the Spring Concert and other community opportunities.

Show Choir
Advisor: Mr. Steigerwalt steigerb@nasdschools.org
Description: Show Choir is the select group for 7-8 chorus members. Students sing more challenging music and combine it with choreography. This ensemble rehearses after-school year round. In addition to the two main concerts, the Show Choir
Jazz Band
Advisor: Mr. Barz barzc@nasdschools.org
Description: Jazz band is an ensemble open to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students on an audition basis. Students in this ensemble will learn the basics of playing in different jazz styles from swing, to latin, to ballads. Students will perform at both the spring concert and at a local jazz festival.

KAB- Kids Against Bullying
Advisor: Mrs. Whittaker whittaks@nasdschools.org
Description: Kids Against Bullying is the peer support branch of the Konkrete Konnection Anti-Bullying Program. It is a program for students who want to help the school take a stand against bullying and assist with anti-bullying programs. Students who are in good academic standing must submit an application that includes approval from teachers.

Lunch Bunch
Advisor: Dayna Kline 14daynak@gmail.com
Description: Lunch Bunch provides children with the social opportunity to enhance friendships. Students are selected to eat together in the privacy of a small room and often play games, discuss and share ideas, learn basic conversation skills and form friendships.

Marching Band
Advisor: Mr. Barz barzc@nasdschools.org
Description: Marching band is an outdoor performing ensemble. Members rehearse the basics of marching, memorizing music, and outdoor performance. Students will get the opportunity to perform at several local marching band shows and at a high school football game.

Backpacks
Book bags and backpacks have been found to be a security concern; therefore, students are not permitted to carry solid-material book bags or backpacks in hallways or classes. Cinch-style mesh, regular mesh backpack, or clear plastic backpacks are permitted to be used throughout the school day and can be purchased at the school store. Athletic bags and equipment must be stored in designated areas (as per coach's instructions) prior to the start of the school day and picked up at the appropriate dismissal time. Oversized bags/purses are not permitted. An oversized bag is defined as one that is large enough to carry a textbook.

Middle Level Overview
Core Subjects
Science- 6-8 grades
English- 6-8 grades
Math- 6-8 grades
Reading- 6-8 grades
Geography- 6th grade
World Gov’t/Civics- 7th grade
US History 1- 8th grade

Related Arts
Art
Music
Physical Education
Family and Consumer Science
Tech Ed
Health
Swimming
World Language
Career Exploration
Computer Technology

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Report Cards/Progress Reports

Parents may access Sapphire's Community Portal to monitor their child’s class progress and grades. Progress Reports and report cards are only available online. Official report cards are posted online approximately ten (10) days after the marking period ends.

Special Grades:

P- Passing- Has met minimum requirements/to be used only as a final grade.

I- Incomplete- Used for Incomplete work

M- Medical issue prohibits completion of class work

*Phys. Ed, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra are not computed in the GPA for the Honor Roll.

The grading scale for all courses is as follows:

- 100-95 A
- 94-90 A-
- 90-87 B+
- 86-83 B
- 82-80 B-
- 79-77 C+
- 76-74 C
- 73-72 C-
- 71-68 D+
- 67-65 D
- 64-0 F

Club Ophelia
Advisor: Mrs. Ferry ferryd@nasdschools.org
Description: This girl’s group combines arts/crafts with fun activities under the theme of empowerment and confidence. Girls will be paired with a high school volunteer mentor and will participate in group activities each week. Girls will discuss the power of choice, how their actions affect others, healthy relationships, and how to integrate what they have learned into their own lives.

Color Guard
Advisor: Mr. Barz barzc@nasdschools.org
Description: Color guard provides visual accompaniment to the marching band as they perform on their instruments. Students involved in color guard will learn the basics of flag spinning, marching, and drill maneuvering. The color guard will perform along with the band at several local marching band shows as well as at a high school football game.

Concert Band
Advisor: Mr. Barz barzc@nasdschools.org
Description: Concert band will further learning of instruments chosen in elementary school. Students will play works by popular modern composers as well as historical composers. This class will also allow students to learn about musical theory, ensemble responsibilities, and instrument care/maintenance. Students will perform in a winter and spring concert on repertoire rehearsed during the months leading up to the concert.

Drama Club
Advisor: Mrs. Apostolopoulos apostolh@nasdschools.org
Mrs. Marto martoc@nasdschools.org
Description: "All the world is a stage!" Join the NAMS Drama Kids for the chance to be in the spotlight! Learn the basics of the theater, hone your acting skills, and be a part of a wonderful theater family as we work to put together our big show. Actors and crew members of all experience levels are welcome.
Selected clubs and activities will meet during and/or after school throughout the school year. For more information on sign-ups and dates, please contact the advisor listed. Opportunities for participation are offered in the following areas:

**Art Club**

Advisor: Ms. Miller

Description: Students will need to fill out an application, as classroom size limits the size of the club. Art Club provides further art activities for students interested in art. The club members will help decide which variety of mediums they will use during the year to create various projects.

**Chorus**

Advisor: Ms. Risley

6th Grade: Ms. Steigerwalt

Description: In 6th Grade Chorus we will explore harmony, melody, movement and dance all while having fun. It is the main singing group for 7th and 8th grades! All will have 2 concerts, one in the winter and one in spring. All will have the opportunity to sing at selected events and competitions throughout the school year including a spring music trip for 7th and 8th grades. Rehearsals are held during the day and after school as needed. A select group will be chosen by audition to participate in The Nutcracker at Lehigh University in December with full orchestra and ballet. Come join us and have a blast. This will be your favorite class of the day! All are welcome!

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Schoology is an online learning, classroom management, and social networking platform that improves learning through better communication, collaboration, and increased access to curriculum and supplemental content.

Schoology is accessed from the NASD Home page, on the left side, right above the Quick Links. Students use their NASD network Username and Password to sign in. Additional resources including electronic textbooks are available online.

The Sapphire Suite is a web-based, state-of-the-art administrative tool that allows school administrators, teachers, nurses, office staff, and parents to interact more closely with student information, giving them access to students' progress and school activities anytime and anywhere they have access to the internet. For information on obtaining a parent account, please visit the NAMS School Counselor webpage. Parent Portal Account directions are available under Forms and Documents. If you have difficulties please contact Mrs. Demyan at 610-262-7817, Guidance Option 2.

Project P.R.I.D.E

The Project P.R.I.D.E initiative aims to provide every middle school student with their own Internet capable laptop computer. This initiative was piloted to all 6th graders during the ‘15-’16 school year with the goal of expanding to additional grade levels each year to eventually provide every area middle school student with this resource.

No student is being bullied and they see a KAB rep in the area, that student can “call a KAB” at any time of the school day, in hallways, by the lockers, in locker rooms, in the cafeteria, or any other area of the school building that bullying takes place. The KAB rep will help the student remove him or her from the bullying situation and walk the student in need to their next class.

No Place For Hate

No Place for Hate®, an initiative of the Anti-Defamation League, enables schools and organizations to challenge racism and bigotry in all forms. By providing an innovative and powerful model for creating more inclusive environments, No Place for Hate aims to reduce bias and bullying, increase appreciation for diversity and build communities of respect.

NAMS promotes acceptance and tolerance of all students in all classes and activities.
**Anti-Bullying Initiatives**

**Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP)**

NAMS adopted the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, the “Konkrete Konnection”, during the ’08-’09 school year. It is a research-based program designed to prevent and reduce bullying in elementary and middle schools. It also helps to make school a safer, more positive place where students can learn. Through school wide classroom meetings, parental and community involvement, and continuous reinforcement of positive social norms in the school community, our goal of making NAMS a safe learning environment free of distractions and inappropriate bullying behaviors is achievable.

**KAB**

Here at NAMS, we have a program called Kids Against Bullying, or KAB. It is a way for students to help other students who are being bullied. Our KAB students stand up for others who can’t stand up for themselves. This program promotes a safe and comfortable learning environment for all students at NAMS. The program’s main goals are to create a safe and comfortable environment during school hours and to promote optimal learning experiences for all students. Members of KAB wear an orange rubber bracelet every day so it is easy to identify these students. Their role is to support students who are in need of peer support stemming from bullying in and out of school. If a

**Assignment Books**

Your student will be provided an assignment book that they will be expected to utilize daily. The assignment book allows your student to write their homework assignments in but also acts as their pass to use during the school day when leaving the classroom. Consistent use of the assignment book is vital to your child’s success at the middle school. Should your student lose their assignment book, another may be purchased for six (6) dollars at the school store.

**KAT- Kids Achievement Team**

KAT was created as a response to the PA Core standards. The math and ELA curriculum is demanding, so the team provides additional instructional opportunities in both of those subject areas. There are two functions of KAT: to identify areas of student need and enhance academic growth, and to provide opportunities to enrich a student’s educational experience with problem-solving scenarios. Through these KAT classes, students will gain a deeper understanding of the curriculum and in turn be successful in future courses.

**KORE**

The KORE (Konkrete Opportunities for Responsive Education) Program provides academic options for NAMS regular education students in the Northampton Area School District with academic and individual needs. The Highly Qualified instructional staff members deliver the NASD standards-aligned curriculum while creating a culture of high expectations for the success of students.

The KORE Program also provides a strongly coordinated counseling component that fosters student support, overall well-being, a sense of pride and a safe learning environment. For further details, please contact Ms. Charlene Belletsky at belletsc@nasdschools.org.
Improving student academic and behavior outcomes is about ensuring all students have access to the most effective and accurately implemented instructional and behavioral practices and interventions possible. SWPBS provides a framework for achieving these outcomes. More importantly, SWPBS is NOT a curriculum, intervention, or practice, but IS a decision making framework that guides selection, integration, and implementation of the best evidence-based academic and behavioral practices for improving important academic and behavior outcomes for all students.

Listed below you will find several initiatives to aid in your child’s success in our school:

**P200 Club**

The Principals 200 Club is a school-wide reward system in place for all students who meet our SMART expectations. Students are given an orange ticket, which puts them in a drawing for a prize, allows their name to be displayed throughout the school, and a “good news” contact home.

**At Northampton Area Middle School students and staff follow “SMART” expectations:**

- **S** Safe Environment
- **M** Make Everyone Matter
- **A** A+ Attitude
- **R** Responsible Actions
- **T** Treat Yourself and Others With Respect

**MTSS**

At NAMS, we are committed to providing as many supports necessary in order to ensure every student’s success. Our Multi-Tiered Support System Team is composed of the guidance counselors, teachers, and administrators. We understand students face multiple barriers and are committed to identifying students who are having difficulty in school. Our MTSS team works closely with our Student Assistance Coordinator to provide the appropriate supports needed including:

- Mentoring
- Small group counseling
- One-on-one counseling
- Referrals to appropriate community agencies for assessment and treatment
- Drug and alcohol evaluation

The team provides follow-up assistance to families and coordinates appropriate after-care services. Students are encouraged to speak to their Guidance Counselors who will then refer them to the Support Team. Parents, teachers, administrators, and students may make referrals.