



PARENT PRESENTATION  
SPRING 2022



WELCOME to CLASS OF 2029



# Introductions

John Massaro, CMS/CHS Principal

Lemma Taha, CMS/CHS Assistant Principal

Michael Stone, Director of Guidance

Lana Shtofmakher, Middle School Guidance Counselor

Alexis Peck, Supervisor of Science and Social Studies

Judy Beekman, Supervisor of World Languages & ESL

Grace Chun, Supervisor of English and Mathematics

Erik Roth, Director of Curriculum

Dr. Janelle Amato, Director of Special Services

Beth Del Vecchio, Athletic Director/Supervisor of Physical Education



# Goals of tonight's presentation

Introduction and overview of CMS and the 6th grade experience

- Key Events
- Academic and Social-Emotional Transitions
- Recommendations for Parents

# Mission Statement of Cresskill Public Schools



*The Cresskill Schools will utilize the core curriculum content standards to promote academic excellence and foster self-esteem in a dynamic, caring environment and will prepare students to be lifelong learners and contributors in an evolving and ever-changing world.*

# Cafeteria



# Auditorium



# Media Center



# 6th grade area - upper B-wing







# Cresskill Middle School Schedule

|               |       |       |
|---------------|-------|-------|
| Period 2      | 8:29  | 9:17  |
| Period 3      | 9:21  | 10:06 |
| Period 4      | 10:10 | 10:55 |
| Period 5      | 10:59 | 11:44 |
| Period 6      | 11:48 | 12:33 |
| 6th/7th Lunch | 12:37 | 1:22  |
| Period 8      | 1:26  | 2:11  |
| Period 9      | 2:15  | 3:00  |



# Key Events for incoming 6th grade students

- 5th grade visits with Ms. Shtofmakher at EHB & MMS
  - Overview of Middle School
  - Teach students how to read a middle school schedule
  - Learn how to use a combination lock
  - Opportunity for Q & A
- Orientation - June & September *(possibly subject to change)*

# Academic Transition



# Academic Transition



## Elementary School

Single classroom + 1 teacher

“Homeroom” class + Specials

Class moves as unit

Grading “1-4”

Trimesters (3)

Parent Conferences



## Middle School

7+ teachers and 7 classrooms

7 periods of changing classes

Variations in student schedules

“Letter grades” w/ numerical value

Marking periods (4)

Direct communication, progress reports



# CMS 6th Grade Academics

| <b>Core Academic Classes</b>                                | <b>Elective Classes (3 Options)</b>   |
|---|---|
| English 6*  | Band 6  |
| Science 6   | Chorus 6  |
| Math 6 or Algebra 6   | Band and Chorus 6   |
| US History 6  | Cycle 6 (one marking period each)<br><i>Coding, Art, Debate, STEM</i><br>Offerings may vary on a yearly basis |
| Physical Education/Health 6                                 |   |
| World Language Cycle 6**<br><i>French, Italian, Spanish</i> |   |

\*or English as a Second Language, if applicable

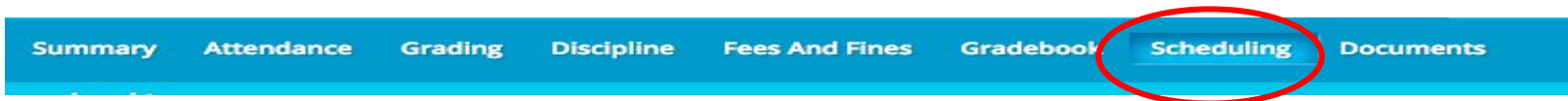
\*\* or Study Skills 6 if part of IEP



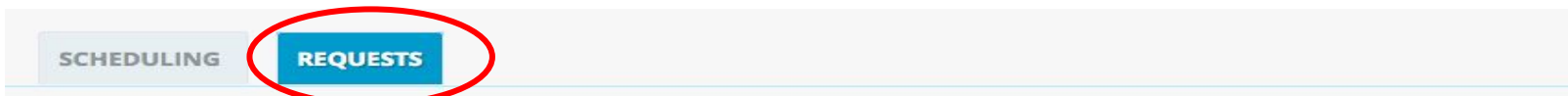
# Grade 6 Elective Selection on Genesis Parent Portal

Please collaborate with your child to select the class requests!

1. Go to the “Scheduling” tab



2. Go to the “Requests” tab



3. Choose **EITHER** Subject area elective (Cycle Classes) **OR** Visual- Performing Arts (Band or Chorus or Band/Chorus)

Choose courses to request below:  
Requested by parent Remove my request

| COURSE                   | REQUESTED BY |                  |
|--------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Subject Area Electives   | Subject Area | Request a course |
| Visual - Performing Arts | Subject Area | Request a course |



Make sure to only select one option:

1. Cycle
2. Band
3. Band and Chorus
4. Chorus



# Ongoing Support at School

- Extra help with teachers
- National Honor Society Tutoring
- Who to Contact?
  - If your child is having a problem in a particular class → Contact teacher directly
  - If you have a questions about a content area → Contact Area Supervisor
  - If you have questions about overall academic performance and/or social/emotional growth → Contact Ms. Shtofmakher
  - If you have questions about attendance or daily school operations topics →Contact Mrs. Collins in the main office

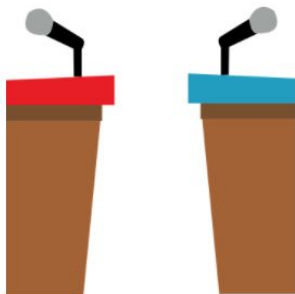


# Genesis Portal for Parents & Students

- Attendance
- Current numerical grade in each class
- Progress reports/report cards
- Honor Roll
- Updated contact information & required forms
- Students have a separate account login to view grades directly



# Student Life



Novice Debate Club



MS Environmental Club



Brain Busters



Lighting and Audio Crew



MS French Club



MS Spanish Club



CMS Newspaper



MS Student Organization



# Middle School Performing Arts and Music

Principal Players - Fall Drama, Spring Musical (Audition)

Middle School Jazz Band (Audition)

Middle School Vocal Ensemble (Audition\*)

Outside CMS opportunities - County, Region Band and Jazz Band

Region and All-State Orchestra



# Middle School Athletics



| <b>Fall</b>      | <b>Winter</b>    | <b>Spring</b>   |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Girls Volleyball | Girls Basketball | Track and Field |
| Girls Soccer     | Boys Basketball  | Softball        |
| Boys Soccer      |                  | Baseball        |

Contact Ms. Beth Del Vecchio, Athletic Director, with any questions  
[bdelvechio@cboek12.org](mailto:bdelvechio@cboek12.org)



# Social-Emotional Transition for 6th Grade

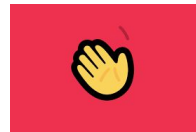
- New, larger school = new faces
- Social changes/conflict
- Desire for independence
- Executive functioning challenges
- Hormonal changes
- Peer pressure (“FOMO”)



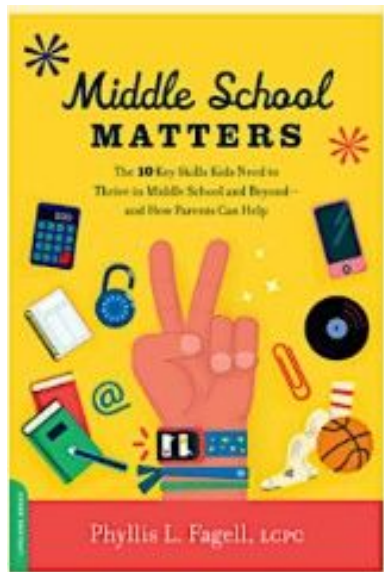


# Social Media and Pre-Teens

- Social media in the hands of adolescents may contribute to negative self-image, feelings of isolation or being left out (FOMO)
- Commonly used apps below require a user to be age 13 or older
- A “joint account” or monitoring your child’s account **does not** prevent your children from being exposed to content that is inappropriate for their age and social development
- Claims of social media harassment, bullying, etc. can be challenging to investigate when the offender is unclear or unknown

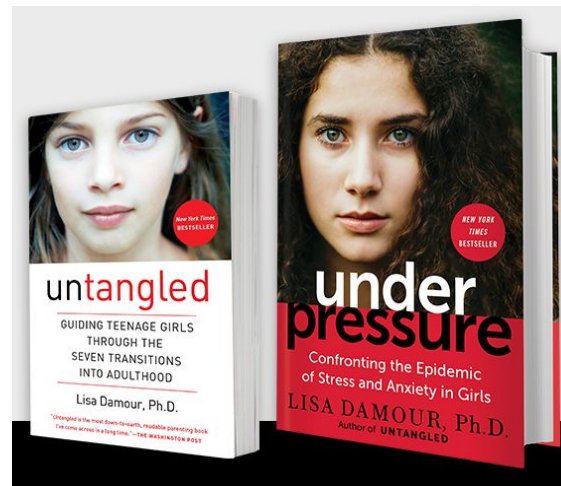


# Recommended reading for MS parents/guardians



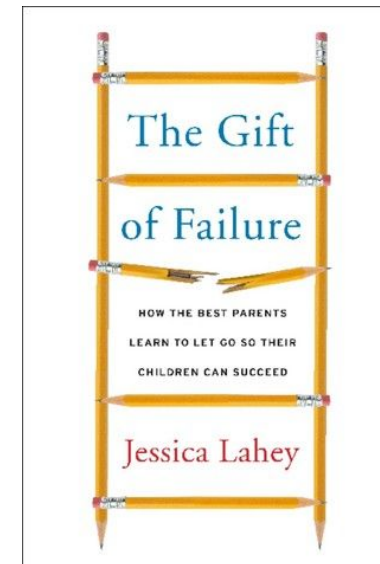
Middle School Matters

Phyllis Fagell, LCPC



Under Pressure and Untangled

Lisa Damour, Ph.D.



The Gift of Failure

Jessica Lahey



## Next Steps...

- Look for

Information about selecting elective in Genesis

Information about upcoming 5th grade Orientation events

Further communication from the school regarding the 22-23 year

Enjoy the remainder of the elementary school experience and take some well-earned time to relax and recharge!