

Lakeview Middle School

Moving To Middle School



A Guide to Middle School Transition

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Dear Parent:

The transition from elementary to middle school is often an exciting, yet nerve-racking time for students. Anxiety can be a normal feeling during this transition. Preparing your student for this transition is very important and helpful.

- *Address Fears – Listen to your child's concerns and fears. Talk about your own fears you had at their age and how you handled it.*
- *Focus on the Positives – New friends, teachers, and new opportunities. (Sports, Art, Band, Clubs, Gifted Classes)*
- *Attend School Events – Take advantage of orientations, many include tours of the building. (Check out the website to be familiar with the school as much as you can.)*
- *Reach Out for Support – If your student is experiencing high levels of anxiety about the upcoming transition, use all your available resources such as books, internet, family, friends, school counselors, and teachers.*
- *Stay Connected – Stay connected to your child, his/her friends, and the school.*

The best case scenario would be that each rising 6th grader feels prepared for middle school. This transition guide was created to enhance students' comfort level with this change by exposing them to some of the aspects of Lakeview Middle School.

Please feel free to contact the school if you need additional information or assistance.

Sincerely,

Lakeview Middle School Administration and Sixth Grade Teachers

Table of Contents

I.	General Information.....	Page 1
	1. Who's Who in Middle School?.....	Page 2
	2. What are Teams?.....	Page 3
	3. Required Courses.....	Page 4
	4. Day-to-Day Specifics.....	Page 4
	a. What does a Day Look Like?.....	Page 4
	b. Lunch Prices.....	Page 4
	c. Drop-Off and Pick-Up.....	Page 5
	d. Transition Between Classes.....	Page 5
	e. ELT.....	Page 5
	5. Discipline.....	Page 5
II.	Academic.....	Page 6
	1. Grading.....	Page 7
	a. Parent Portal.....	Page 7
	b. Renaissance Program.....	Page 7
	c. Homework Requirements.....	Page 7
	2. Time Management/Study Habits.....	Page 7
	3. Agenda and Binders.....	Page 8
	4. Core Classes.....	Page 8
	a. Language Arts.....	Page 8
	b. Mathematics.....	Page 9
	c. Science.....	Page 10
	d. Social Studies.....	Page 10
	5. Connection Classes.....	Page 11
	6. Gifted Program.....	Page 11
III.	Social.....	Page 13
	1. Problem-Solving, Making Good Choices and Responsibility.....	Page 14
	2. Making/Choosing Friends.....	Page 14
	3. Cliques.....	Page 14
	4. Peer Pressure.....	Page 14
	5. Bullying.....	Page 15
IV.	Extracurricular/Getting Involved.....	Page 16
	1. Sports.....	Page 17
	a. Fall Sports.....	Page 17
	1. Football.....	Page 17
	2. Softball.....	Page 17
	3. Volleyball.....	Page 17

	4. Cross-Country.....	Page 17
	b.Winter Sports.....	Page 17
	1. Basketball (Girls).....	Page 17
	2. Basketball (Boys).....	Page 17
	3. Wrestling.....	Page 17
	c.Spring Sports.....	Page 18
	1. Baseball.....	Page 18
	2. Golf.....	Page 18
	3. Soccer (Girls).....	Page 18
	4. Soccer (Boys).....	Page 18
	5. Track.....	Page 18
2.	Cheerleading.....	Page 18
3.	Clubs.....	Page 18
	a.FBLA.....	Page 18
	b.FCA.....	Page 19
	c.Renaissance Committee.....	Page 19
	d.Student Council.....	Page 19
	e.7 th Grade Leadership Team.....	Page 19
	f.NJHS.....	Page 20
	g.Academic Bowl Team.....	Page 20
4.	Band.....	Page 20
V.	Transition to Middle School.....	Page 21
	1. Registration Information.....	Page 22
	2. Transition Programs.....	Page 22
VI.	Tips for Parents.....	Page 23
	1. General Tips for Middle School Parents.....	Page 24
	2. Homework Hints for Parents of Middle School Students.....	Page 25
VII.	Forms/Documents.....	Page 26
	1. Parent Portal Registration.....	Appendix A
	2. Mobile App for Infinite Campus.....	Appendix B
	3. Physical Form.....	Appendix C
	4. Volunteer Interest Opportunities at LMS.....	Appendix D
	5. Map of School.....	Appendix E

I. General Information



General Information

The transition to middle school can be challenging for students due to differences in middle and elementary school settings. This section will provide general information about the functioning of the middle school.

1. Who's Who in the Middle School?

In addition to their teachers, students may notice when they get to the middle school that there are several adults around. However, they may not always be sure what those adults do and who to ask for help.

Administration - Steve McClure (smcclure@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Principal at Lakeview Middle School. His office is located in Office B. Our Assistant Principals are Jeff Chastain (jchastain@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Vince Phillips (vphillips@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Their offices are in Office A. Our administrators are “hands-on” and are in the classroom on a daily basis.

School Counselors – We have three school counselors at Lakeview Middle School.

- John Travillian (Full-Time) - jtravillian.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us
- Regina Wright (Part-Time) – rwright.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us
- Erin Reardon (Part-Time) – ereardon.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us

One very important thing for students to understand is that their middle school counselors are there to help them, just like their elementary counselors. The counselors’ offices are located in Office B. The counselors are not administrators and are not responsible for disciplinary actions.

Office Staff – There are two offices at Lakeview Middle School.

- Office A (by the flagpole) - This office is where visitors sign-in when they come into the building and where you would come to sign-out your student if they need to leave early or arrive late.
 - Receptionist – Crystal Herpst (cherpst.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
 - Secretary – Pat Cash (pcash.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
 - Bookkeeper – Susan Bailey (sbailey.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)
- Office B
 - Registrar – Kristi McElroy (kmcelroy.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us)

School Nurse – Lakeview Middle School has a full-time school nurse. As of the printing of this document, the selection of the nurse for the 2015-2016 school year has not been finalized.

School Resource Office (SRO) – The SRO for Lakeview Middle School is Officer Travis Shrader (tshrader@catoosa.k12.ga.us). His presence on campus can be intimidating if students are unaware of the role the resource officer plays within the school. Officer Shrader is not a security guard, but a Catoosa County deputy. He is on campus to maintain student safety. Almost all middle schools in the county have one, so it does not mean our school is a tough school because our school has a full time resource officer. Officer Shrader is very approachable and another source of help for students.

School Social Worker – The Social Worker for Lakeview Middle School is Regina Dorsey (rdorsey@catoosa.k12.ga.us).

Attendance Secretary - The Attendance Secretary for Lakeview Middle School is Stacey Newell (snewell.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us).

Academic Coach – Kathy Moore (kmoore.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Academic Coach for Lakeview Middle School. She works with students and teachers to improve learning opportunities for students.

Communities in School (CIS) Site Coordinator – Jerry Hullander (jhullander.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) serves as the CIS Site Coordinator for LMS. In this role, Mr. Hullander works to create a community of caring adults who work hand-in-hand with educators to make sure young people have the tools they need to stay in school and achieve in life.

Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) – Zina Ledford (zledford.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the PIC for Lakeview Middle School. The PIC provides assistance in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. She coordinates the volunteer program and seeks to involve parents of all demographics as volunteers. Her office is located in the Family Resource Center.

Cafeteria Bookkeeper – Rita Kirby (rkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) is the Cafeteria Bookkeeper for Lakeview Middle School.

2. What are Teams?

Students at Lakeview Middle School are assigned to a team. The team is usually comprised of four core teachers. Teaming is an important component to the middle school concept. Teaming allows the teachers to work together to create interdisciplinary units, which enhances student learning. Teams go on field trips or have team days together. LMS tries to balance teachers on teams so that teacher personalities are diverse. Having this mix of teachers' personalities means that each child can almost always find at least one teacher on their team with whom they can

connect. In addition, students are placed on teams in a way that promotes academic and demographic equity. Teams are great for parents because the parent can contact one teacher and get information to, or from, his or her child's whole team of teachers. There are two teams per grade at LMS:

- Team 6A / Team 6B
- Team 7A / Team 7B
- Team 8A / Team 8B

3. Required Courses

Lakeview Middle School requires each regular education student to take Language Arts, Social Studies, Math, and Science. With the exception of Band Students, students also have four additional Connections classes (one each nine-week period).

4. Day-to-day Specifics

Students in middle school have to deal with lockers, class changes, bathroom breaks, and a variety of other transitional activities. Lockers at LMS have built-in locks. (Students will receive practice on working the lock during summer orientation sessions.) The students do not need to visit their lockers after every class period.

What Does a Day Look Like at Lakeview Middle School?

- ◆ 7:35 – Begin serving breakfast in the cafeteria.
- ◆ 7:50 – Bell rings for students to go to lockers.
- ◆ 8:00 – Homeroom / 1st Period
- ◆ 9:20 – 3rd Period
- ◆ 10:30 – 4th Period
- ◆ 12:10 – 5th Period
- ◆ 1:20 – 6th Period
- ◆ 2:30 – 2nd Period (ELT)

NOTE: Lunch begins at 11:00 a.m. on ELT days and 10:35 a.m. on non-ELT days. Students eat according to their grade level and team.

Lunch Prices

- Student Breakfast - \$1.10 (Reduced Price - \$.30)
- Student Lunch - \$2.05 (Reduced Price - \$.40)

Beginning in the 2014-15 School Year, Catoosa County Schools Child Nutrition Department is excited to offer the On-Line Prepay System. This new payment option will not replace cash and check payments, but is an additional payment option for your convenience. Go to

www.LunchPrePay.com to set up your child's account. You will need your child's Student ID number to set up an account. If you do not know your student's ID number, you can contact the cafeteria bookkeeper (rkirby.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us).

Drop-Off and Pick-Up

If you bring your sixth grade student to school each day, you will need to drop them off at the back of the school behind the cafeteria. Sixth graders who arrive before 7:50 will report to the cafeteria. Seventh and eighth grade students report to the gym. You will also need to pick up your sixth grade student behind the cafeteria at the end of the school day.

Transition Between Classes

Transition time between classes is short, approximately five minutes. However, this is plenty of time as long as students do not continuously stop in the halls and engage in long conversations with friends.

ELT (Extra Learning Time) – ELT is an opportunity during the day that affords students who need extra time to complete assignments or receive additional assistance and for other students to participate in enrichment activities. ELT is offered approximately 90% of the school year.

5. **Discipline**

It is important that middle school students are aware early of the policies for the county and for LMS. Catoosa County and LMS policies (including the Dress Code) can be found in the Student Handbook (www.lms.catoosa.k12.ga.us). Students need to understand the differences between their elementary school rules and the new middle school rules and expectations. Topics such as dress code policy and other common violations should be talked about at length with students. Consequences for discipline offenses vary depending on the frequency and severity of the offense. (ISS, Lunch Detention, Detention, Saturday School, OSS, Gateway).

II. Academic



Academic

1. **Grading**

Lakeview Middle School students earn letter grades of A, B, C, D, or F on their report cards. They may also be assigned a grade of “I” for “Incomplete” if, because of an emergency, they do not complete work by the end of the grading period. The “Incomplete” becomes an “F” if work is not finished by an assigned time. Letter grades have the following numerical values:

- A – 90-100
- B – 80 – 89
- C – 74 – 79
- D – 70 – 73
- F – BELOW 70

Parent Portal – Parents can access the online grade books of every teacher your child has for class. The parent must complete the *Catoosa County Public Schools Parent Portal Acceptable Use Procedures Acceptance Form* (included in this guide) and return to Ms. Stacey Newell (snewell.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Ms. Newell will mail you a password to create an account, as well as the appropriate website needed for the account process. You are encouraged to check your student’s progress throughout the grading period.

Renaissance Program - Each quarter our Renaissance Program recognizes all the students that make A’s, B’s, and C’s on their report card. This recognition includes t-shirts, Renaissance cards (with discounts), prizes, field trips, and attendance to various activities, including our Academic Pep Rallies. In addition, students who receive A’s receive additional recognition, including: Movie and a snack, lunch, and field trips to Lake Winnie and Movie and Lunch off campus.

Homework Requirements

Homework at the elementary level is used for skills practice and is an indicator of understanding of concepts. It is not supposed to be used to determine a student’s level of proficiency.

Homework at the middle school level most often is graded and averaged in as a portion of a student’s grade. This must be explained to rising sixth graders so they understand that they will be held accountable for correctly completing homework, and that their grades may drop if they consistently do not turn in completed homework in a timely fashion.

2. **Time Management / Study Habits**

In middle school, time becomes a precious commodity. Students normally have six classes in a school day – with six different teachers, six different expectations, and sometimes six different homework assignments! Along with being responsible for all of the above, students must also be responsible for managing time; both at school and at home. One major academic process that students must fit in to their busy schedules is homework – whether completing homework

assignments, major projects, or studying for tests. Learning and utilizing study skills will both qualify and quantify time for a sixth grader.

3. **Agenda and Binders**

One of the most important objects a student will possess in middle school is his/her agenda, which is provided to all students. The agenda is essentially a planning book in which students can write down homework assignments, upcoming projects, dated activities, or any other important information. The agenda is arranged by weeks and is sectioned off into days. Each day has spaces to write information about each class. Because sixth graders will have many different classes and teacher expectations to keep track of, writing everything down is essential.



In addition to agendas, teachers suggest an organizational system comprised of folders and binders. Sixth grade teachers at LMS prefer students to use a zippered binder. Inside the binder, students should have five pocket-folders (one for each core subject and one for connections) and a zippered pencil pouch. The following items should be included in the pencil pouch: a hand-held pencil sharpener, pencils, colored pencils, and erasers. Students will be provided with a more complete list of supplies at the beginning of the school year.

4. **Core Classes**

Sixth grade students study language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.

LANGUAGE ARTS

In 6th grade, students apply skills they learned in earlier grades to make sense of longer, more challenging books and articles. That includes learning about how authors try to influence readers and find reasons to support their ideas. Focusing on how authors make their points and support their arguments with evidence and reasoning helps 6th grade students sharpen their ability to write and speak with more clarity and coherence. Students will expand their vocabularies and use new words in their stories, reports, and essays. To meet these literacy goals, students must devote significant attention to precise details in their reading and when writing. These skills are in accordance with the Common Core of Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).

When you talk to your student's language arts teacher, do not worry about covering everything. Instead, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics. In 6th grade, these include:

- Reading closely and citing evidence from grade-level fiction and nonfiction to support an analysis of what the materials say
- Developing a rich vocabulary of complex and sophisticated words and using them to speak and write more precisely and coherently.

Ask to see a sample of your child's work. Ask the teacher questions such as: Is this piece of work satisfactory? How could it be better? Is my child on track? How can I help my child improve or excel in this area? If my child needs extra support or wants to learn more about a subject, are there resources to help his/her learning outside the classroom?

MATHEMATICS

The skills and understanding that your child will gain during 6th grade are among the most important foundations for college and career readiness. These include working with ratios and rates and working with variables and variable expressions – the building blocks of algebra. Many of this year's topics will remain a major emphasis throughout the middle school years and into high school. Skills include:

- Understanding ratios and rates and solving problems involving proportional relationships
- Dividing fractions and solving related word problems
- Using positive and negative numbers together to describe quantities; understanding the ordering and absolute values of positive and negative numbers
- Working with variables and expressions by generalizing the way numbers work
- Understanding the process of solving simple equations
- Writing equations to solve word problems and describe relationships between quantities
- Reasoning about relationships between shapes to determine area, surface area, and volume

When you talk to the teacher, keep the conversation focused on the most important topics:

- Analyzing and solving problems using concepts of ratio and rate
- Working with variables and expressions
- Analyzing and solving word problems using equations

SCIENCE

Sixth grade students use records they keep and analyze the data they collect. They observe and explain how an aspect of weather can affect a weather system. They use different models to represent systems such as the solar system and the sun/moon/earth system. They use what they observe about the earth's materials to infer the processes and timelines that formed them. Sixth graders write instructions, describe observations, and show information in graphical form. When analyzing the data they collect, sixth graders can recognize relationships in simple charts and graphs and find more than one way to interpret their findings. The students replicate investigations and compare results to find similarities and differences.

The middle school earth science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, resources, and human impact on the earth.

Major Concepts/Skills

- Meteorology: Impact of weather and climate on the Earth
- Oceanography
- Earth Materials: Composition and Structure of the Earth
- Earth in Space
- Interactions: Human Impact on Earth
- Energy Sources

SOCIAL STUDIES

Sixth grade is the first year of a two-year World Area Studies course. Sixth grade students study Latin America, Canada, Europe, and Australia. The goal of this two year course is to acquaint middle school students with the world in which they live. The geography domain includes both physical and human geography. The intent of the geography domain is for students to begin to grasp the importance geography plays in their everyday lives. The government/civics domain focuses on selected types of government found in the various areas so as to help students begin to understand the variety of governments in the world. The economics domain builds on the K-5 economics; however, the focus shifts from the United States to how other countries answer the basic questions of economics. The history domain focuses on major events in each region during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Exams are given for the core classes at the end of the semester. Students can earn an exemption from taking final exams. Exemptions are based on attendance and grades/average in each individual class. Students will be notified regarding their exemption status prior to the start of exams.

5. **Connections Classes**

Lakeview Middle School also offers a program of Connections Classes in addition to the Core Courses. Connections courses are offered in a nine-week format. Connections classes offered at LMS include:

- Art
- Band
- Consumer Science
- Health
- Keyboarding
- Physical Education

Testing for Connections Classes is at the end of the nine-weeks. This testing is called the Student Learning Objectives (SLO) testing.

6. **Gifted Program at LMS**

If your child was in the Horizon program in the fifth grade, s/ he will be in at least one gifted class at Lakeview Middle School. The following is used to determine which class(es) a student is served in:

- What are his/her strength(s)? This can be determined by their state test scores + their grades (which usually reflect effort and ability in class) + teacher recommendations (based on observations during class).
- Classes cannot exceed 26 students by state law, so sometimes every student cannot be served in every area that we would like to give them.
- We try to offer as many gifted classes as a student can handle and that are available.
- The class(es) s/he is enrolled in depend on test scores and teacher recommendations.

There are three teachers who teach in the Gifted Program at Lakeview Middle School.

- Mrs. Petty (ppetty.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) teaches gifted language arts and is the contact person at LMS concerning gifted questions.
- Mr. Harris (dharris.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) teaches gifted social studies.
- Mrs. McKown (kmckown.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) teaches gifted math.

All three gifted teachers follow the Georgia Common Core Standards for each grade level, but the gifted classes challenge students through the complexity of the texts, the pace at which they move (dependent on student needs) and both the depth and breadth of exploration and understanding of concepts.

In addition to teaching the core subjects, Mrs. McKown and Mrs. Petty also teach a gifted ELT class at the end of the day (Monday through Thursday). Mrs. Petty focuses on research and projects with oral presentations, as well as novels that add to the research. Mrs. McKown focuses on critical and logical thinking and decision making, in addition to extending student comprehension of advanced math concepts. Mrs. Jenkins is our media specialist and she is also gifted certified. She teaches an enrichment ELT that focuses on utilizing the media center and library skills. These ELT classes will switch to one of the other gifted teachers approximately every nine weeks. Mr. Harris is one of the two teachers who are facilitating an on-line American government class for eighth graders. This class is for high school credit.

III. Social



Social

1. Problem-solving, Making Good Choices, and Responsibility

It is important to remember that students' first priority in middle school is to learn! That being said, social skills can greatly enhance their chance of having a positive environment in which to learn. As with everything in life, students will get out of middle school what they put into it. Efforts and choices will directly affect grades, opportunities to participate in sports and/or other extracurricular activities, peer interactions, and relationships with adults, both in and out of school. Part of growing up and gaining independence involves gaining the trust of both teachers and parents. To do so, students must demonstrate responsibility and the ability to make good choices across settings. The students' ability to problem-solve and choose positive ways to interact with parents, teachers, and peers will aid in making their middle school experience successful.

2. Making/Choosing Friends

Going to middle school is a great opportunity to make new friends. Some tips for making new friends are:

- Get involved in school activities.
- Introduce yourself to students who sit around you in your classes.
- Choose different partners during group work assignments in your classes.
- Sit with different groups of people at lunch

3. Cliques

Groups of friends with similar interests are healthy and natural. However, cliques are formed when people gather together and begin excluding other people from their group based on superficial reasons (i.e. not pretty enough, not smart enough). Stereotyping, discrimination, and negative social interactions with other groups are possible outcomes of joining cliques.

4. Peer Pressure

Middle school is a time of great transition emotionally, physically, and socially. All of these changes can either be nurtured or hindered by peers. Remember, peer pressure can be either positive or negative. Examples of positive peer pressure might include encouraging friends to study by offering to study with them or motivating them to work hard at a sport. Examples of negative peer pressure might include someone encouraging students to smoke, drink alcohol, or skip school. In order to best handle social pressure, the following tips might be helpful.

- Find friends with similar interests, values, and beliefs.

- Be assertive – tell friends what you like/don't like.
- Don't use alcohol or other drugs.
- Avoid situations in which you know that you could get into trouble.
- Learn to handle conflicts in a positive way.
- Talk with trusted adults about situations that you don't understand and/or make you feel uncomfortable.

5. **Bullying**

Bullying is unwanted behavior that is repeated and where there is real or perceived imbalance of power. The three types of bullying are: verbal, social, and physical. The following tips are ways that parents can help their children:

- Listen to your child. (Some may struggle to talk about it.)
- Help them understand the definition of bullying.
- Share advice on what to do if they see it or experience it.
- Create a plan to protect them. (For example, "Stay in a group.")
- Communicate with the school. (Administration, Counselors, and Teachers)
- Encourage students to become involved in extracurricular activities
- Model how to treat others with respect.

Let's work together to stop bullying. For more information, go to: www.stopbullying.gov.

Lakeview Middle School is set up so that sixth graders are in teams and interactions with upper classmen are limited to before and after school or during special activities. Just as in elementary school, positive social interactions of all students are encouraged, and bullying is not tolerated. If students find themselves in uncomfortable situations in which they feel they need help, they should be aware that teachers, counselors, administrators, and/or other school personnel are there to help them.

IV. Extracurricular Activities / Getting Involved



Extracurricular Activities / Getting Involved

1. Sports

An activity that rising 6th graders often look forward to in middle school is the opportunity to represent their school in athletics. Following is a list of sports available at Lakeview Middle School.

Fall Sports

- Football – JV Football is coached by Coach Jerry McAfee (jmcafee.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). A parent meeting will be held in May with additional information. Tryouts are usually held in July and games begin in August.
- Softball – Softball is coached by Coach Melissa Wilbanks (mwilbanks.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Johnny Phillips (jphillips.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are held in May and games begin in mid-August.
- Volleyball – Volleyball is coached by Coach Abby Bray (abray.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in May and practices begin the week of August 1st. Matches begin in mid-August.
- Cross-Country – Cross-Country is coached by Coach Patrick Johnston (pjohnston.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). If you are interested in cross-country, please let Coach Johnston know during the first couple of weeks of school. Meets begin in August.

Winter Sports

- Basketball (Girls) – JV Girls Basketball is coached by Coach Jerry McAfee (jmcafee.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in late October and games begin in December.
- Basketball (Boys) – JV Boys Basketball is coached by Coach Traye Carpenter (tcarpenter.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in late October and games begin in December.
- Wrestling – Wrestling is coached by Mr. Kehir (ckehir.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in late October and matches begin in November.

Spring Sports

- **Baseball-** JV Baseball is coached by Coach Trea Daugherty (tdaugherty.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March.
- **Golf** – Golf is coached by Coach Tommy Lindsey (tlindsey.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in February and matches begin in March.
- **Soccer (Girls)** – Girls Soccer is coached by Coach Patrick Johnston (pjohnston.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March.
- **Soccer (Boys)** – Boys Soccer is coached by Coach Traye Carpenter (tcarpenter.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in February and games begin in March.
- **Track (Boys and Girls)** – Track is coached by Coach Kelly Williams (kwilliams.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in February and meets begin in March.

IN ORDER TO TRY OUT FOR A SPORT, A PHYSICAL MUST BE ON FILE IN OFFICE A. PHYSICALS ARE VALID FOR ONE YEAR. A COPY OF THE PHYSICAL FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS GUIDE AND CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP IN OFFICE A.

Even if students do not participate in a sport, they are encouraged to come to athletic events and support their teams and the school. Games are not only a great way to plug into the school, they are a great way to meet new friends and hang out with your old ones.

2. **Cheerleading**

Cheerleading is another way for students to get involved and represent Lakeview Middle School. The Cheerleading Coach is Amanda Elkins (aelkins.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Tryouts are usually held in March, prior to the beginning of the new school year.

As in the other athletics, in order to try out for cheerleading, a physical must be on file in Office A. Physicals are valid for one year.

3. **Clubs**

Lakeview Middle School also has several clubs available for students.

- **Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA)** – FBLA is led by Ms. Hackett (ehackett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). In the middle level, FBLA has more than 20,000 members nationwide. Members participate in a variety of activities including job shadow programs, community service projects, and competitive events. Members can earn

recognition on local, state, and national levels. The Middle Level Achievement Program (MAP) is an individual member program designed to reward those FBLA-Middle Level members who excel in their participation in a variety of activities in the areas of service, education, and leadership. If your student is interested in developing leadership, communication, and team skills, he/she should consider joining with our chapter at Lakeview Middle School. Dues are \$12.00 and you must adhere to the code of conduct for the LMS – FBLA. Opportunities are available for students to earn money to pay their fees for this club by helping with fund raiser events.

- **Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)** – FCA is led by Ms. Edgeman (kedgeman.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Ms. Lollis (mlollis.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). FCA meets most Thursday mornings at 7:30 throughout the school year. All students are welcome to attend the FCA meetings, not just athletes. The meetings consist of guest speakers, games, and giveaways. FCA also sponsors several service projects throughout the year.
- **Renaissance Committee** – The Renaissance Committee is led by Michele Privett (mprivett.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us), Kristin Edgeman (kedgeman.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us), and Kara White (kwhite.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). In order to serve on the Renaissance Committee, students must complete an application at the beginning of the school year. Grades, behavior, and teacher recommendations are used to select approximately 30 students each year.
- **Student Council** – The LMS Student Council is a service organization dedication to improving our school and community and is led by Ms. Vischetti (yvischetti.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). One student per homeroom is selected during the month of September and they meet at least once a month, with the exception of January and February, at 7:30 a.m. before school. Each representative takes information back to his or her homeroom to encourage school-wide participation in the various campaigns. Sample projects include: Thanksgiving Food Drive, Christmas Toy Drive, donations to St. Jude’s Research Hospital, donations to other organizations, and funding spring testing incentives.
- **7th Grade Leadership Team** – The 7th grade Leadership Team is sponsored by Ms. Baugh (mbaugh.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us) and Regina Wright (rwright.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). It is a group of 10 students nominated by sixth grade teachers and their 7th grade teachers, based upon their leadership abilities, grades, and behavior. The Leadership kids do many things around the school, such as providing tours and locker help with 6th grade orientation during the summer and at the beginning of the school year. In the beginning of the school year they also help the next sixth graders with finding their Connections classes and opening their lockers. They also do community service with Rosewood Assisted Living by visiting with them several times during the school year.

- **National Junior Honor Society** (8th Grade Only) – The National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is a national organization established to recognize outstanding middle school level students. NJHS is sponsored by Ms. Kim Jenkins (kjenkins.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). To be considered for membership a student must maintain a 90 or above yearly average in each academic class throughout 7th and 8th grade and also demonstrate characteristics of good citizenship and service.
- **Academic Bowl Team** – The Academic Bowl Team is sponsored by Mr. Kehir (ckehir.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). The Academic Team season is from January through May and matches are usually on Monday afternoons. To join, students must participate in the week-long tryouts and answer at least 10 questions correctly within the week. To compete in matches, the student must come to practice the week before.

4. **Band**

The Lakeview Middle School Band is led by Ms. Jaqueline Miller (jmiller.lms@catoosa.k12.ga.us). Fifth grade students need to sign up for band when Ms. Miller comes to the elementary schools in the spring for a performance and to recruit for middle school band. At this time, Ms. Miller will distribute information sheets to the students and they should notify their fifth grade teacher if they are interested in participating in band at Lakeview Middle School. Band starts on the first day of school. In early fall there will be a band rental and information night.

V. Transition to Middle School



Transition to Middle School

1. Registration Information

Prior to the end of the school year, fifth graders from each of the feeder elementary schools (Battlefield Elementary, Cloud Springs Elementary, and Westside Elementary) participate in a field trip to Lakeview Middle School. During this visit, teachers are given registration forms to complete for their students. LMS counselors will use these forms to schedule students for their sixth grade classes.

2. Transition Programs

Lakeview Middle School makes every effort to ease students' transition from elementary school to middle school.

- Prior to the end of the school year, fifth graders from the three elementary feeder schools (Cloud Springs Elementary School, West Side Elementary School, and Battlefield Elementary School) participate in a field trip to LMS. During this field trip they are able to tour the school, meet teachers, and see what an actual school day is like.
- The Principal and the Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) are available to speak to parents at each of the feeder elementary schools. These sessions include a Question and Answer Session and parents receive a transition packet for LMS.
- The PIC attends graduation ceremonies at each of the feeder schools and distributes transition packets. These packets contain:
 - A letter from the PIC welcoming the student (and parent) to LMS
 - An invitation to participate in an orientation session prior to the beginning of school
 - A Volunteer Interest Survey
 - A map of the school
 - Information about the Parent Portal
 - Middle School Matters! (Middle School Transition Guide for Families and Students)
- In the month prior to the beginning of the new school year, sixth graders and their parents are encouraged to participate in one of four “orientation” sessions. At these sessions, students and parents are able to:
 - Meet and talk with sixth grade teachers.
 - Meet and talk with school administrators.
 - Learn helpful organizational skills
 - Practice with lockers
 - Become more familiar with the school (Teacher and Student led tour)
 - Learn about the Parent Portal / Web Site
 - Learn about Sports and Clubs

VI. Tips for Parents



General Tips for Middle School Parents

Parent participation in education is closely related to student achievement. Both of you will be affected by this change to middle school. The key during adolescence is to balance your support while promoting responsibility and independence in your child.

- √ Become informed about Lakeview Middle School by attending orientations. Read school guides and student handbooks and visit the school website (www.lms.catoosa.k12.ga.us) regularly for current information.
- √ Remain involved in your student's education at middle school. Visit the school and take advantage of the many volunteer opportunities available. (See Ms. Ledford, the Parent Involvement Coordinator.)
- √ Students of all ages benefit when family and school cooperate and have a positive relationship. If you have questions or concerns, don't hesitate to call or email the school staff. Know your student's team (A or B) and your student's homeroom teacher.
- √ Ask to see your student's agenda – assignment notebook with communications from the teachers – regularly.
- √ Organization and time management skills must be developed so students will not feel overwhelmed. Provide a quiet study area, and expect to see your child working regularly on homework and long-term projects. Set rules about TV, computer, and other electronics usage.
- √ Know the dress code and check to see that your child is wearing appropriate attire each day.
- √ Check the calendar (in the monthly newsletter sent home with your student and on the school website – www.lms.catoosa.k12.ga.us).
- √ Be sure Office A has current contact information. Don't assume your child will share changes in phone numbers or addresses.
- √ Talk to your child about school and peers. Listen for comments that reflect what they are feeling and thinking. Expect your child to make mistakes and have personal struggles. Give them time to think and make decisions about how to handle their problems and deal with the consequences.
- √ Peer acceptance and self-esteem issues become increasingly important. Provide opportunities for your child to develop their interests and socialize with friends, but be sure to monitor their choices.

Homework Hints for Parents of Middle School Students

Many of the most frequently asked questions by middle school parents have to do with “How can I help my child with studying and homework?” Some of the best guidance that we can pass along to you comes from the September 2002 issue of *Mathematics Teaching in Middle School*, a resource for math teachers. Even though it is written about math, the helpful hints are universal to all content areas.

- ◆ Identify a good homework place. At home, make sure lighting is good and space is adequate.
- ◆ Talk to your child about how to get started. Help prioritize the work for the evening. Checking on progress once in a while helps with time management. Encourage independent decisions about when and in what order assignments should be completed. Suggest a break when it is necessary. Help refocus when distractions occur. Bedtime is important – set a time limit!
- ◆ Once in a while, the entire family may be involved in a homework task. This is your chance to show enthusiasm for learning and to work together with your child. Other times, the homework is for the student alone, but you should be available to respond if assistance is needed.
- ◆ Parents don’t have to know all the answers or processes, but it is good for students to develop a voice in their heads that asks guiding questions about solving problems. “Telling” a student how to solve a problem is less helpful in the long run than “Teaching” or “Coaching” them to think through problems. You can coach them by asking the following questions:
 - Do you understand what the question is asking?
 - How do you think you might start this problem?
 - Have you seen any problem like this before?
 - Do you have a similar problem in your notes from class that we might look at?
 - Can you show me a simpler problem like this one that might give us a clue as to how to begin?
 - As you write on your paper, talk me through what you are thinking.
 - Does your answer sound reasonable? Does it answer the original question? How do you know?
 - Explore some web sites that are designed to help parents and students with homework, such as the following:
 - www.mathforum.org/students
 - www.figurethis.org
- ◆ Your relationship with your child should always be kept safe from interference that homework may present. Talk with your child’s teachers when difficulties arise. Asking for information has two advantages: First, it can clear up any misunderstandings about homework and your role as a parent. Second, it lets the teacher know you are supportive and involved.

VII. Forms/Documents