WELCOME TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS!

PARENT COFFEE HOUR GRADE 6
OCTOBER 2018

Mr. Riviello (A–F)  Mrs. Stone (G–N)  Mrs. Urso (O–Z)

Mr. Kevin Colon, Director of Guidance and Student Related Services
THE ROLE OF THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR

➔ to involve family, school, staff, and community in supporting the healthy development and success of all students

➔ help students sort out problems, discuss feelings, explore options and reach decisions

➔ how do we get to know our students?
WHAT ARE MIDDLE SCHOOLERS MOST CONCERNED WITH?

Friends --- Self Image --- School --- Activities
PARENT BASICS – SOCIAL/EMOTIONAL

➔ Remember that they are little kids in big bodies. They need boundaries, love and patience
➔ Always listen first, talk later
➔ Get to know their friends
➔ It’s ok to be the the bad guy or the “uncool” parent
➔ Reach out to your counselor – don’t be embarrassed to ask for help, most of us have been doing this a long time and we have probably helped a family through this before

They are moving very quickly
from this to this
HELPFUL HINTS:

Coping with negative feelings:

➔ Your children will look to you for comfort and some will want you to “fix” what they perceive as “problems”

➔ Proceed carefully and try not to “rescue”

➔ Offer support, not a way out
  ○ Validate feelings
  ○ Brainstorm ideas
  ○ Compliment ideas
  ○ Help them carry out their solutions

***Do not take ownership of their problems***
Organizing a 6th Grade Student

- Monitor homework via the student agenda and, if applicable, Google classroom
- Use checklists - help your child get into the habit of creating a to-do list
- Designate a study space - a quiet place with few distractions
- Make specific time for homework each night
- Keep organized notebooks and give all papers a “home”
- Have your child conduct a weekly clean out of their binders/notebooks/backpacks
- Prepare for the day ahead (pack backpack, lay out clothes, etc)
- Provide needed support while your child is learning to become more organized
- Be available to explain directions if needed
- Set project timelines for child – use “family” calendar
HOW CAN YOU HELP?

➔ Set realistic expectations – rethink straight “A’s”

➔ Be on call – most problems will resolve themselves while others may require your guidance

➔ Encourage responsibility – allow children to make mistakes
WHEN A PROBLEM ARISES:

Academic
1. Encourage your child to speak to his/her teacher first
2. Contact the teacher directly
3. Arrange a parent/teacher conference through the counseling center

Social
1. Encourage your child to make an appointment with their counselor
2. Call the counselor to discuss your concern

Disciplinary
1. Children should immediately report any type of bullying or harassment that occurred on the bus, in the hallways, or in the classroom to a teacher, counselor or administrator
WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT:

➔ More demanding workload

➔ Teachers grade more on performance than effort

➔ Slight decline in grades

➔ A child who may have some added frustration
THINGS TO KNOW...

➔ Report cards/mid marking quarter progress
➔ LOTE (Language Other Than English) selection
➔ NJHS (National Junior Honor Society)
➔ Accelerated programs
➔ Clubs/Sports
➔ Communicating with teachers/team meetings
STAY CONNECTED – BE INVOLVED

➔ District web page: www.smithtown.k12.ny.us
➔ Great Hollow Twitter page @SCSD_GMS
➔ Parent Portal
➔ School Calendar
➔ Virtual backpack
➔ Email teachers
➔ Speak with teachers, counselors, and administrators
Contact Information

Counseling Center  631.382.2810
Main Office  631.382.2805
Attendance/Health Office  631.382.2825

Mr. Riviello (A–F)  triviello@smithtown.k12.ny.us
Mrs. Stone (G–N)  sstone@smithtown.k12.ny.us
Mrs. Urso (O–Z)  murso@smithtown.k12.ny.us
Thank you for coming!