



# Upper Merion Area Middle School

*Inspiring Excellence*

## Transition Guide 2024-2025

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# Introductions

Hello from Adam Slavin, Iris Rolon, & Erika Harvey to incoming students and families,

Welcome to the Upper Merion Area Middle School! This will be a year of transitions and changes for students and their families. We all work very hard to ensure your child's experience with these changes is positive and successful. Our teams of teachers are a close knit group that help out in numerous ways so that all of our children meet the challenges with success. If you ever have any concerns, please let your child's team of teachers know, as we truly want to be partners in education. By working together, we will have a successful year and build a strong foundation for an awesome middle school experience.

This guide is to help students and parents find quick answers to questions they may have about the transition to Upper Merion Area Middle School. Most of the information in this guide was taken from various web pages of the Upper Merion Area School District website and the UMAMS Student Handbook, <https://www.umasd.org/Page/7048>. Any questions about content should be directed to Erika Harvey, Lower House Principal, [eharvey@umasd.org](mailto:eharvey@umasd.org), 610-205-8808.

## How to contact someone at the Middle School

### MAIN OFFICE:

Adam Slavin, Principal  
610-205-8801, [aslavin@umasd.org](mailto:aslavin@umasd.org)

Becky DiSanto, Secretary to the Principal  
610-205-8803

Kim Procello, Main Office Secretary  
610-205-8802

Annemarie Oswald, Receptionist  
610-205-8820

Monica Johnson, Attendance Clerk  
610-205-8811

### HOUSE PRINCIPAL OFFICES:

Erika Harvey, Lower House Principal – Grades 5 & 6  
610-205-8808, [eharvey@umasd.org](mailto:eharvey@umasd.org)

Iris Rolon, Upper House Principal – Grades 7 & 8  
610-205-8807, [iron@umasd.org](mailto:iron@umasd.org)



Carin Massaad, Secretary to the House Principals  
610-205-8809

**2024 - 2025 GUIDANCE OFFICE:**

Mandi Donahue, School Counselor – Grade 5  
610-205-8838, [adonahue@umasd.org](mailto:adonahue@umasd.org)

Duperly Hadrick, School Counselor – Grade 6  
610-205-8835, [dhadrick@umasd.org](mailto:dhadrick@umasd.org)

Justin Bonner, School Counselor – Grade 7  
610-205-8836, [jbonner@umasd.org](mailto:jbonner@umasd.org)

Kara Howell, School Counselor – Grade 8  
610-205-8837, [khowell@umasd.org](mailto:khowell@umasd.org)

Karen Fugelo, School Counselor's Secretary  
610-205-8833



## Five Fabulous 5th Grade Teams for 2024-2025

The five, fifth grade teams are : Adventurers, Explorers, Pathfinders, Trailblazers, & Voyagers.

### **Adventurers**

Mrs. Colden – Language Arts - C120 - [kcolden@umasd.org](mailto:kcolden@umasd.org)

Mrs. Quinn – Science/Social Studies - C122 - [tquinn@umasd.org](mailto:tquinn@umasd.org)

Mrs. Frignito – Math - C118 - [mfrignito@umasd.org](mailto:mfrignito@umasd.org)

### **Explorers**

Ms. Randolph - Language Arts - C128 - [trandolph@umasd.org](mailto:trandolph@umasd.org)

Mrs. Yoder - Science/Social Studies - C119 - [lyoder@umasd.org](mailto:lyoder@umasd.org)

Mrs. Cosgriff - Math - C126 - [mcosgriff@umasd.org](mailto:mcosgriff@umasd.org)

### **Pathfinders**

Ms. Barber - Language Arts - C125 - [kbarber@umasd.org](mailto:kbarber@umasd.org)

Mr. Thompson - Science/Social Studies - C121 - [jthompson@umasd.org](mailto:jthompson@umasd.org)

Mrs. Cirafesi-Keszcyk - Math - C127 - [dcirafesi@umasd.org](mailto:dcirafesi@umasd.org)

### **Trailblazers**

Mr. Rule - Language Arts - C226 - [srule@umasd.org](mailto:srule@umasd.org)

Mrs. Kempes - Science/Social Studies - C217 - [skempes@umasd.org](mailto:skempes@umasd.org)

Ms. Downie - Math - C221 - [tdownie@umasd.org](mailto:tdownie@umasd.org)

## **Voyagers**

NEW TEACHER - Language Arts - C115 - [newteacher@umasd.org](mailto:newteacher@umasd.org)

Mrs. Collins - Science/Social Studies - C124 - [kcollins@umasd.org](mailto:kcollins@umasd.org)

Ms. Papst - Math - C117 - [tpapst@umasd.org](mailto:tpapst@umasd.org)

Mrs. Bacani – 5th Grade Special Education, Language Arts - [tbacani@umasd.org](mailto:tbacani@umasd.org)

Mrs. Nazzario - 5th grade Special Education, Math - [anazzario@umasd.org](mailto:anazzario@umasd.org)

6th Grade - Manatees, Marlins, Rays, Sea Lions

7th Grade - Earth, Fire, Water

8th Grade - Andor, Drekki, Jorr

## **Unified Arts Teachers**

Art - Mrs. Manderachi, Mrs. Loncar

Family & Consumer Science - Ms. Newman

Computers - Mr. Scales, Dr. Johnson

Health/Physical Ed. - Mrs. Pierce, Mrs. Devers, Mr. Scioli, Mrs. Kushner

Music - Mrs. Edge, Ms. Rado, Mr. Hodgson, Mr. Nguyen, Mrs. Helmetag, Ms. Sprague

Technology Ed. - Mr. Bueche, Mr. Lorch

Leadership - Mr. Guest, Mrs. Spinelli

## **Special Education Teachers**

These are some of the 5th grade instructors:

Mrs. Ryan, Mr. Lindelow, Mrs. Bacani, Mr. Armenio,

Mrs. Nazzario, Ms. Swartz-Hanley, Mr. Thorum,

Mrs. Luke, Ms. Hagan, Mrs. Kreckmann



## **5th Grade Transition**

To help students adjust to life in middle school, we have implemented several activities to assist students as they move from their elementary schools into their new home at the middle school. We are always considering more programs to help with the transition. Please let Mrs. Harvey know if you have suggestions.

- All 4th graders attended the middle school drama production
- Middle School Principals attend an Elementary PTC meeting in the Spring.
- Through their elementary schools, all students have an opportunity to spend a day touring and eating lunch at the middle school.
- Transition guide can be reviewed during Elementary conferences as needed.

- Elementary and middle school counselors and principals meet to review student data.
- The Middle School Counselor meets with 4th grade teachers to discuss students.
- Elementary and middle school special education teachers meet to discuss IEP details.
- A 5th grade family transition night - **AUGUST 20, 2024 @ 6:30p.m.**
- Several opportunities to attend tours of the middle school and walk a “day in the life” of a 5th grader (See Middle School Web site for detail). Sign up on MS website.
- In the 5th grade hallway of the middle school, a bank of lockers is available all summer so students can practice opening a locker.

## Middle School Schedule Start & End Times

The middle school opens its doors for students at 7:35 AM, with classes starting at 8:00 AM. Attendance is taken with the Block 1 teacher. The school day ends at 2:50 PM. After 3:00 PM, students are not permitted in the building unless supervised by an adult.

Our middle school Lower House schedule has three academic blocks. These comprise our Math, Language Arts and Science/Social Studies courses. There is also a 45-minute Elective & a 45-minute Unified Arts period scheduled each day. These periods are for “specials”. The 5th grade teams also end their day with a short “*Viking Time*” period for support and intervention. We look forward to utilizing *Viking Time* to support all of our students with their varying needs. Please review the updated student and teacher schedule by visiting our website, [www.umasd.org/Page/10361](http://www.umasd.org/Page/10361).

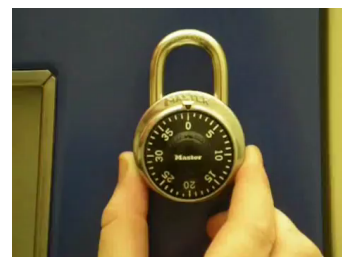
## Lunch Time

At the middle school, we have 4 lunch periods, the lunch period is 30 minutes in length. Our 5th grade lunch is scheduled from 11:38 -12:08.

## Lockers

We will have a bank of lockers available for the entire summer for students to practice their locker combination skills. The combinations are posted on the lockers, feel free to stop in throughout the summer. The only times lockers would not be available is when our custodians are cleaning the floors and/or hallways.

Here is a very helpful video to watch prior to trying your middle school locker:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gCs3DIsShWQ>. Practicing throughout the summer with any typical combination lock is very helpful.



Other details... Each student is assigned a locker with combination locks. The general use locker is located near the student's academic team rooms. Students are able to secure all personal belongings and should share their locker combinations with NO ONE.

The school assumes no responsibility and will not reimburse students for any personal article, equipment or cash that is lost or stolen from any locker. Each student is to use only the locker assigned to them, and no student should allow another person to use their locker or to learn their combination. Lockers are to be kept clean and orderly; each student is responsible for any damage to the lock or locker assigned them. Lockers may be reassigned or revoked for various reasons. Problems should be reported to the Main Office.

The Upper Merion Area School District retains special rights regarding lockers; students and their parents/guardians should be familiar with the district's policy on the use of lockers.

## **Academic & Unified Arts Grading & Schedule**

The middle school has four, 45-day marking periods throughout the year. The end of the quarter dates are approximately as follows: 1st quarter ends early November, 2nd quarter ends late January, 3rd quarter ends mid to late March, and 4th quarter ends the last day of the school year.

Grades are generally calculated based on percentages from; tests, quizzes, homework, etc... Teachers will have more detailed information regarding specific grading percentages.

### **ACADEMIC**

Percentage breakdown of grades

A:	Outstanding	= 90 - 100
B:	Good	= 80 - 89
C:	Satisfactory	= 70 - 79
D:	Needs Improvement	= 65 - 69
F:	Unsatisfactory	= below 65
I:	Incomplete	

Grade narratives

A:	Demonstrates outstanding performance with course objectives
B:	Exceeds performance expectations with course objectives
C:	Meets performance expectations with course objectives
D:	Meets minimum performance expectations with course objectives
F:	Unsatisfactory performance with course objectives
I:	Evaluation withheld until work has been completed



# Unified Arts

## Schedule and Grading Details

The Unified Arts rotation consists of four separate marking periods. One of the marking periods consists of courses that are taught in a consecutive day format. The following courses are taught using this format: Family & Consumer Science (FCS), Leadership, and STEM in Music. The remaining Unified Arts courses are taught in a “traditional” format, with courses running two days out of a four-day cycle for a 45-day marking period. The traditional courses taught in this format are: Health & Swimming, Computer Science, Art, Music, Technology Education, and PE/Fitness.

The Unified Arts - Art, Consumer Science, STEM in Music, Leadership, Computers, Health, Music, Physical Education, Swimming and Tech Ed are marked “O”, “S”, or “U”. Interim reports are only issued in our “traditional” UA marking period courses, not consecutive day courses.

Teachers will communicate with parents if a student is performing unsatisfactory. Arrangements may have to be made between a teacher and a student for makeup work to be completed in the final week of the course.

Outstanding (O):	Exceeds expected learning objectives
Satisfactory (S):	Meets expected learning objectives
Unsatisfactory (U):	Does not meet expected learning objectives

## Parent Teacher Conferences

The middle school has Fall and Spring conferences for parents to meet with teachers, counselors and administration. The Fall conference dates are generally mid to late November. Spring conferences are scheduled in early March. The conferences will have at least one evening available for parents to schedule times. The middle school uses My Conference Time (QR code - [www.myconferencetime.com/umams/](http://www.myconferencetime.com/umams/)) to organize our conferences. Contact your student’s team of teachers for specifics.



## Academic Awards

### HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll designation will be Distinguished Honors (all A’s, O’s and S’s) and Honor Roll (all A’s, B’s, O’s and S’s). To qualify for the Academic Awards in June, a student must make the honor roll in the first, second and third marking periods.

## **PRESIDENTIAL AWARD**

The purpose of this award is to recognize academic success in the classroom for 8th grade students upon transition to high school. To be eligible for the Presidential Award for Educational Excellence, students must meet the following two requirements:

- 1) Students must earn all A's in 5th, 6th, 7th, and the first semester of 8th grade.
- 2) Students must score Advanced on the most recent PSSA exam for reading or math.

## **One to One iPad Program**

One Student, One Device, Empowering Learning

We believe equitable access to technology will aid our students in becoming:  
Information creators and producers rather than information consumers.  
Self-directed learners and collaborative team players.  
Proper digital citizens.

Equal Technology access for all students will promote:

Collaboration  
Creativity  
Higher Order Thinking  
Problem Solving  
Digital Citizenship



Our Middle School 1:1 Initiative will:

Increase student engagement  
Promote greater collaboration (between teachers/students/parents)  
Integrate technology seamlessly into curriculum  
Increase project based learning activities  
Raise the SAMR levels of instruction

Frequently Asked iPad Questions - a long list of FAQ's - <http://www.umasd.org/Page/8085>

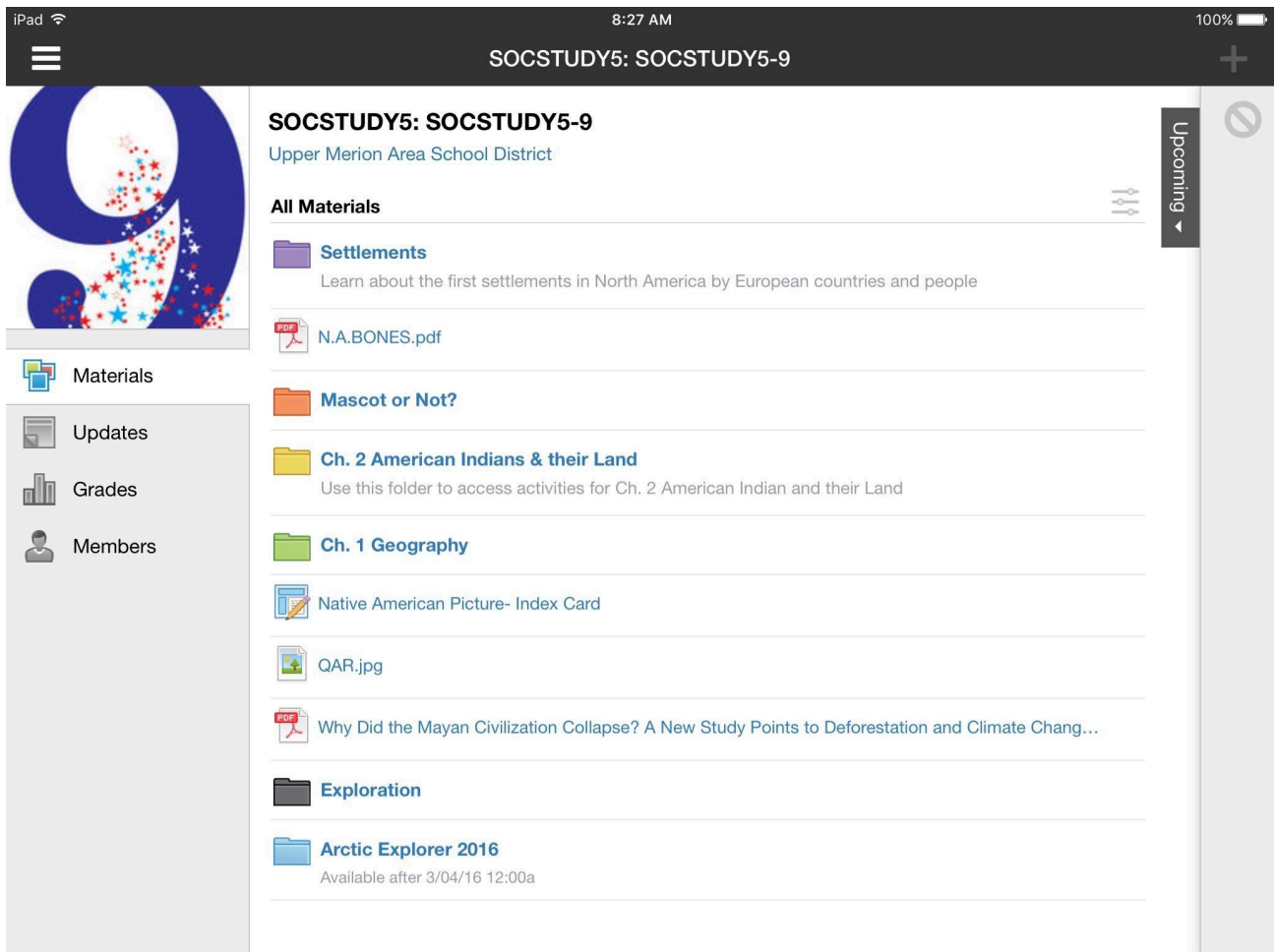
## **Schoology & Sapphire Info**

The Upper Merion Area School District uses the Sapphire Parent Web Portal. This portal will allow parents and legal guardians to check their child's grades and attendance through a secure web browser connection. To access the Parent Portal, please use the following web address:

<http://www.umasd.org/mygrades>

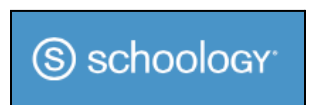
Attention Parents: Any parent that applied for and accessed the parent portal during the previous school year DOES NOT have to apply again for the next school year. Login username,



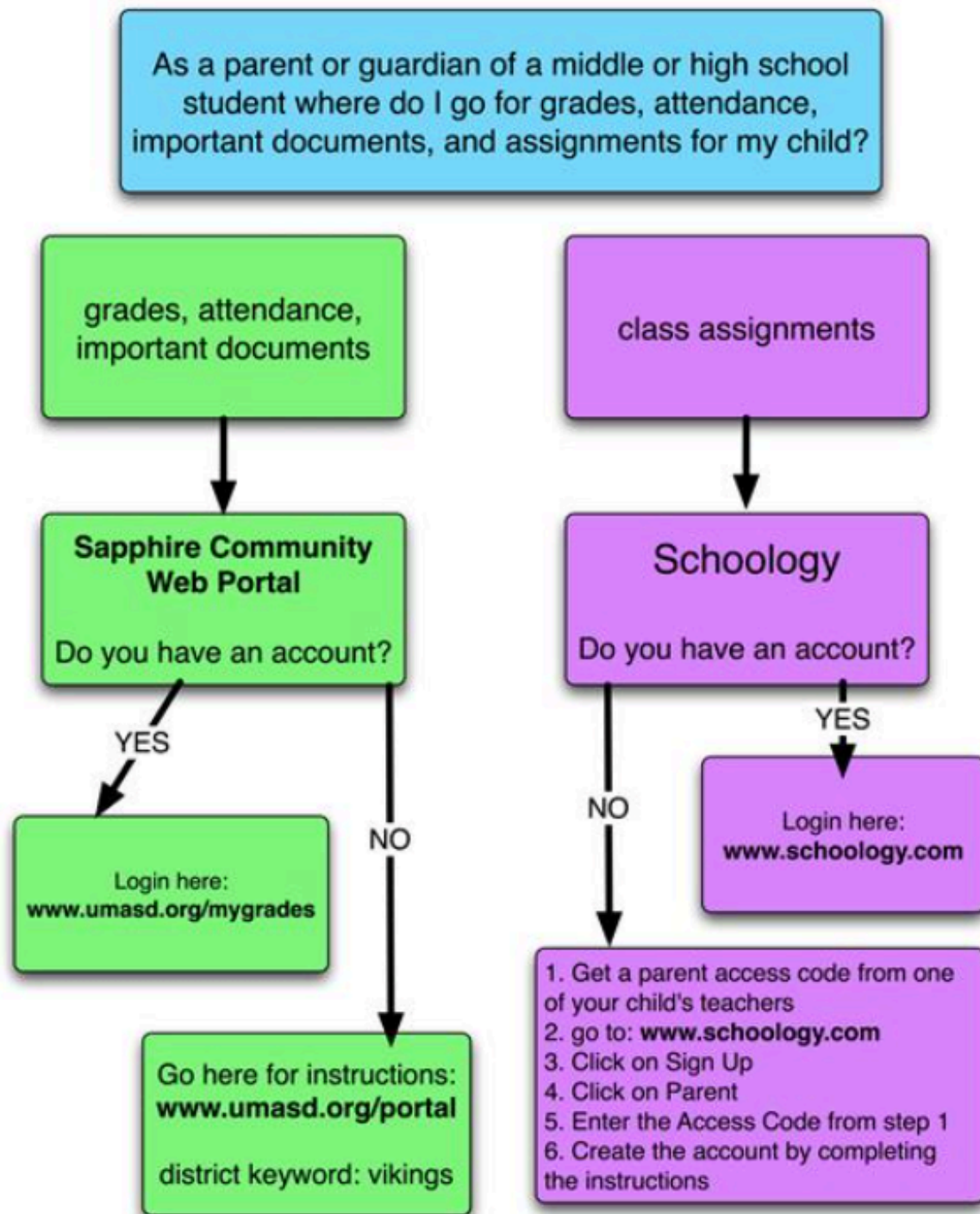


password will remain the same. If you have forgotten your login information, please email: [sapphirepp@umasd.org](mailto:sapphirepp@umasd.org).

**Schoology** /skoo.luh.jee/ — is the middle school's learning management system (LMS) that has the tools needed to organize and distribute engaging content, design lessons, and assess student understanding. Schoology incorporates the best of modern interfaces so it's very user friendly to learn and access relevant information on the student iPads.



Schoology Parent Access is where to get information about your student's assignments, once students receive their iPads. Parents will create a Schoology account by using an access code available from any of your student's teachers. All of your children can be connected to one parent login. Parent access to Sapphire and Schoology: <http://www.umasd.org/Page/9028>.



[Sapphire and Schoology web page link](#)

[Schoology Parent Access link](#)

[Sapphire Community Portal link](#)

# PBIS: Middle School Viking Values

## Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

The underlying theme of PBIS is teaching the behavioral expectations in the same manner as any core curriculum subject. Just like we teach math, we will be teaching proper behaviors. Reteaching expectations when needed, just as in any academic subject.



UMAMS Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) Core Team is a diverse, supportive community dedicated to student success. The UMAMS PBIS framework is an evidence-based approach to the development of a school culture that is built on the premise that behavioral expectations must be positively stated, easy to remember, and clearly defined. The framework highlights supporting students by helping them understand what to do and what not to do. More information later in this Guide, or available here: <https://www.umasd.org/Page/10897>.

Our school-wide expectations center on characteristics of UMAMS's VIKING VALUES:

**Be Respectful**

**Be Responsible**

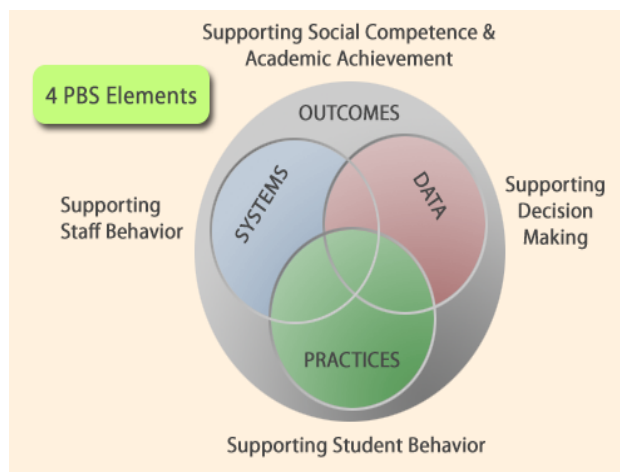
**Be Kind**

The school will focus on these three expectations that are positively stated and easy to remember. In other words, rather than telling students what not to do, the school will focus on the expected behaviors. Consistency from class to class and adult to adult in all settings is very important for successful implementation of PBIS.

For more information: <https://www.pbis.org/pbis/what-is-pbis>

## What is PBIS?

- Relies on research-based behavioral and instructional principles.
- Recognizes and builds upon the strengths of your school.
- Focuses on the critical link between instruction and desired student behavioral outcomes.
- Data-driven decision making is key to design and sustainability of behavior plans.
- Emphasis on a positive climate.
- Comprehensive - uses a variety of supports.
- Proactive and preventive.
- Ultimate outcome of SWPBIS is academic achievement for all students



### What PBIS is NOT:

- A packaged curriculum or a program
- A quick fix
- Newest, flashiest behavior program
- Just about tangible reinforcers
- Just about discipline
- A special education program
- Just for some of the students
- Just for students

## Middle School Library Information

Mrs. Specht, 5-8 Librarian  
Mrs. Puleo, Library Assistant

### How To Contact Us

Phone: (610) 205-8823, Fax: (610) 205-8998

Library Hours: 7:30 AM -- 3:30 PM

With its large picture window overlooking the courtyard, open seating areas and extensive electronic collection, the middle school library welcomes our 5th graders to take advantage of all the opportunities available.

The library's resources include over 18,000 items in the print collection and over 2,300 ebooks/audiobooks in addition to our databases. The one-to-one iPad concept allows the library to exist both as a physical location with traditional copies of books that have been genrified (humor, sports, realistic fiction, fantasy/sci-fi, adventure, historical fiction, and thrills and chills) and displayed using a style known as dynamic shelving, as well as a virtual 24-7 library with electronic resources accessed through the Middle School Library Web page and UMAMS Library app. We recently began hosting a weekly free book give-away as well!

The success of our library depends on our many volunteers. We are always in need of adult volunteers to help. If you have some time to assist us, please contact Mrs. Puleo, the library assistant at [epuleo@umasd.org](mailto:epuleo@umasd.org). Please note: parents/guardians must have their clearances in order to volunteer. Information can be found on the UMASD website> Departments> Human Resources> Clearances-Volunteers. We look forward to welcoming all of the 5th graders to an environment that encourages and supports life long reading and learning.

To get to our web page from home you should: Go to [www.umasd.org](http://www.umasd.org), Select Middle School then select Library.

# 5th Grade Music Information

## **BAND**

The 5th Grade Band picks up where the 4th Grade Band ended. Students get a short 30-minute lesson each week where they work on learning from the lesson book. They will learn how to better read music and rhythm with their instruments. They will learn how to play with better tone and increase the amount of notes they can play. Students will also have a short 40-minute Full Band Rehearsal each week where they will work on learning songs to play at the 2 concerts throughout the year. 5th grade band members are expected to practice at home regularly to continue growing as a band member. The 5th grade year is all about the journey from exploring a band instrument to the adventure of beginning to master one!

Major components of the Band experience are musicianship, ensemble skills, performance, creativity, and collaboration. For more information contact Mr. Nguyen: [dnguyen@umasd.org](mailto:dnguyen@umasd.org).

## **ORCHESTRA**

Orchestra students meet each week for a small group lesson and a full orchestra rehearsal. Students are encouraged to practice consistently at home for a total of 60 or more minutes each week. The 5th grade orchestra performs in a winter and spring concert, and for special events during the school year. 5th grade orchestra gives our students the opportunity to develop as musicians, create friendships, and enjoy making music! Interested students should contact Mrs. Edge to join 5th grade orchestra: [medge@umasd.org](mailto:medge@umasd.org).

## **CHOIR**

Chorus is open to any student who likes to sing! Rehearsals are generally once a week after school until 4:15 pm. The choir sings a variety of songs that develop musicianship skills and promote the enjoyment of making music! 5th & 6th grade Chorus performs in a winter and spring concert and often sings at a Reading Fightin' Phils game during baseball season, or other community events.

## **HANDCHIME ENSEMBLE**

The Bell Ensemble is open to all grades, but limited to twelve participants. Experience is not necessary. The ensemble primarily runs during the winter season, playing in the winter concert and community events. Rehearsals are generally before school once a week (7:30 am). Students interested in joining the group should contact Mrs. Edge: [medge@umads.org](mailto:medge@umads.org).

There are additional music opportunities as students move through our middle school grades.

# 5th Grade Activities

These activities are open to 5th graders. There are several more clubs and activities that would be available as students move through our middle school grades. Some clubs may not be currently offered.



## COMMUNITY OF CARING CLUB

The Community of Caring Club is the umbrella program that links all activities to create a caring, respectful school environment that supports students as they develop positive character traits and become good citizens. The 5 core values of the Community of Caring are: Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Trust and Family. Students plan service learning projects for the good of our school and community. The Community of Caring Club is open to all students in grades five through eight. Listen to the announcements for information on school-wide activities.

## 25 BOOK CHALLENGE

Our goal for the 25 book challenge is for every middle school student to read one-million words of text. By competing both individually and by class, each student will have the goal of reading 25 self selected books. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating reading with activities and events. The class who has read the most for each grade level, will be rewarded with various activities at the end of each marking period. At the end of the year every student who has reached the 25 book goal will be entered into a grand drawing for an amazing prize (TBA). Each student will be entered once for every 25 books they have read.

## C.R.E.A.T.E. CLUB

CREATE (Culture, Respect, Empathy, Appreciation, Tolerance, Education) is a student action group at Upper Merion Area Middle School whose mission is to make the school community a more inclusive and tolerant environment, as well as promote student activism and leadership.

## DRAMA CLUB

If you like to sing, act, or dance, then Drama Club might be for you! Students in grades five through eight may participate in Drama Club. Drama Club's goal is to provide quality productions for the Upper Merion community to enjoy. Rehearsals are after school during the week and some Saturdays. The drama club production is usually in early March. Students are cast in lead roles by audition, but all interested students will be a part of the large ensemble. Registration for Drama Club begins in October. The Stage Crew is also an important part of the club. Students work to build sets, scenery and props for the year's production. Listen to the announcements for information on signing up to join Drama Club.

5th grade campers will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of activities.

Environmental activities may include creek crawling, fishing, exploring, hiking, plant & animal study and many more. Sporting activities may include; ropes courses, climbing, basketball, soccer, tennis, Ga Ga and softball. Other activities include arts & crafts, hay rides, dancing, storybook reading, games, and others. During their stay campers will live in cabins and eat in the dining hall.



## INTRAMURALS

After school intramural sessions are held in the fall and spring. Students in grades five and six may participate. Activities vary including, Computers, Water Games, Floor Hockey, Run for Fun, Spanish is Fun, Electronic Music Keyboard, Drama and Introduction to Dance.

## JUNIOR OPTIMIST CLUB

The Junior Optimist Club is a service organization that provides opportunities for all middle school students grades five to eight to give back to their community and school. There is a sign-up every fall, but students may continue to join throughout the year. Activities include the school store, talent show, food and necessities drives, school beautification, community fairs, trout rodeo, and fundraisers. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet for each activity.



CAMP! College Settlement Outdoor School is cool!

## STUDENT COUNCIL - LOWER HOUSE

Representatives from each homeroom meet one to two times a month to plan activities for grades five and six. Representatives are chosen in September by homeroom. Yearly activities include the Gym and Swim, Holiday Goodie Grams, the Thanksgiving Food Drive, the Read for Ronald service project, and the PSSA snack sale.

## SEA PERCH

The Sea Perch Team is an engineering team that designs and constructs underwater remotely operated vehicles. The Greater Philadelphia Sea Perch Challenge is a Naval Engineers sponsored regional competition where middle school teams across the tristate area compete in underwater challenges at Temple University.

## ACHIEVERS CLUB

This is an after school activity for students needing additional organization and tutoring. During Achievers Club students can expect to: Review and organize materials, Receive support with in-class or homework assignments, Have some basic skills re-taught as needed. "Achievers" is based on School Counselor recommendation and limited in total capacity, students usually attend one day out of three (Tues, Wed, Thurs).



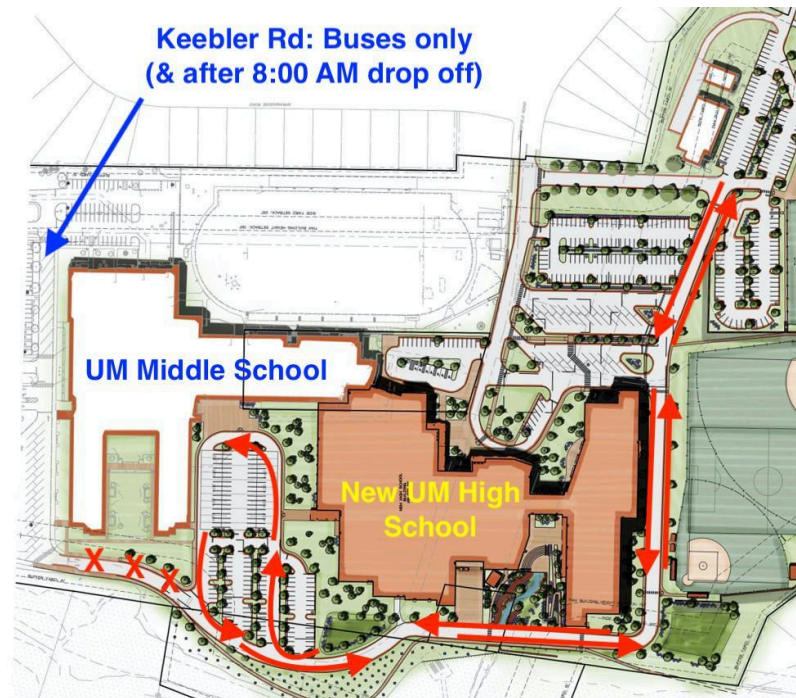


# Drop off and pick up details

The parent drop-off location is behind the middle school via Crossfield Road (see the Red Arrows). The drop-off area is at the circle and along the side of the building. After the student is dropped off vehicles are to proceed around the circle and exit via Crossfield Road.

Students are not to be dropped off at the front of middle school before 8:00 a.m.

Students arriving late are to be dropped off in the front of the middle school using the main entrance and proceed to the main office to sign in.



## Bus Drop-off location

The buses will be using the Keebler Road entrance of the middle school and unloading students at the front of the middle school. The front drop off area is only for buses prior to 8:00 AM.

## AFTERNOON TRAFFIC PATTERNS

### Parent Pick-up location

The new parent pick-up location is behind the middle school via Crossfield Road. Vehicles are to proceed on the new access road around the new high school. The pick-up area is at the circle and along the sides of the buildings. After the student is picked up, vehicles are to proceed around the circle and exit via Crossfield Road.

### Bus loading location

The bus loading area at dismissal is at the front of the middle school. After a few weeks of school, most buses will be assigned a number and loading spot in front of the middle school. The buses will pull into the same location throughout the year.

The safety of our students is a priority during the a.m. drop-off and p.m. pick-up times each day. Thank you for your support and cooperation with our traffic patterns.

# Nurse and Medical Services

## ADMISSION TO THE MEDICAL SUITE (or “*The Nurse*”)

The school's full-time nurse deals with emergencies and has the responsibility of overseeing the medical records of students. The nurse is willing to work with any student, but the difficulty must be legitimate. Minor or feigned problems detract from the nurse's efforts to help students who need assistance.

Students who need to go to the medical suite must obtain a pass signed by the teacher to whom they are assigned. Except in emergencies, students are not to enter the medical suite between periods. If the nurse feels that any student is abusing this support system for all students, the nurse may request a meeting of the student's parents with appropriate school personnel.

## ACCIDENTS

All incidents resulting in injury, whether major or minor, must be reported at once to the adult supervisor in charge of the class or activity. The school nurse will be advised of all accidents, will decide on appropriate treatment and will document each case as required by the Upper Merion Area School District.

Accidents - Students need to provide MD notes if they are not able to participate in gym, swimming or have any other physical restrictions.

Student Accident Insurance - This information is mailed home in the school packet in August. The enrollment form is on the District website, under Parent Resources, along the left hand side near the bottom there's a link for Student Accident Insurance. Parents complete the enrollment form and send along with the payment directly to the address on the enrollment form.

Elevator Use - If a student is injured and has a note from a doctor requiring the use of an elevator, the student should report to the health suite with the appropriate documentation. Students using crutches are required to wear appropriate footwear (no flip flops or sandals).

## FIRST AID

Injuries occurring at school will be treated according to procedures approved by the school's medical staff. Parents, after being notified of a student's injury, assume responsibility. Parents may wish to consider enrolling in the student accident insurance program which is available at modest cost. Parents are advised to refrain from asking school personnel to treat injuries that do not occur at school. The medical staff cannot assume that responsibility.

## CHILD ABUSE

Any suspected case of child abuse or child neglect will be reported to proper authorities as required by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

## EMERGENCY DATA SHEETS

Must be completed yearly and returned the first day of school. Information on the data sheets is confidential. Allergies and medical conditions need to be updated yearly. Changes in a student's health or new medical conditions occurring during the year should be reported to the Health Suite at 610-205-8805 or email Bridget McGuigan: [bmcguigan@umasd.org](mailto:bmcguigan@umasd.org).

Parents need to sign off for Tylenol, Ibuprofen and/or Benadryl (allergic reactions only) to be dispensed during the school day. No medications will be given without the data sheets being signed and dated by parents.

## ILLNESS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Students who become ill during the school day should obtain a pass from the teacher to report to the medical suite. If it is necessary for students to leave school because of illness, parents will be called to provide transportation.

## PRESCRIPTIONS AND OTHER MEDICATIONS

The nurse is not permitted to administer medication unless a written order from a physician is provided. Parents or guardians should call the school nurse to discuss special procedures. Medication administration forms are located on the district web page, under parent resources, student health forms for parents and [medication policy form](#).

## MEDICATIONS

UM district policy prohibits students from taking or carrying any prescription or over the counter medications on their own, except students with a current order on file that reads that students may carry their inhaler or EpiPen.

. All medications must be dispensed through the Health Suite.

When medication is needed at school:

- Parents must provide the nurse with written documentation from a physician or nurse practitioner to dispense any over-the-counter and/or prescription medications (medication policy form).
- All medications must be provided in the original pharmacy container with original label intact.
- A parent, guardian or other responsible adult must deliver the medication to the health suite.
- All medications need to be picked up at the end of the school year. Medication not picked up will be discarded.
- All physician notes expire at the end of the school year. They need to be renewed at the beginning of each school year. New year: New Form. If your child goes for an annual physical please send a copy to our nurse.

## CAMP MEDICATIONS

Procedures for "when medication is needed in school" must be followed. No prescription or over-the-counter medication will be given without the required documentation.

## IMMUNIZATIONS

Under Pennsylvania Health Department guidelines, students must have the Tdap and MCV vaccines before they can start 7th grade. These vaccines are usually given during the child's 11-12 year old (6th grade) well visit. Please make sure that you turn in documentation that these immunizations were given.

If your child has frequent occurrences of incontinence, a change of clothes may be kept in the nurse's office in a zip lock bag. We do have a very limited amount of clothing that children may borrow. Please return the clothing, washed to the nurse's office.

## Transportation Services



Upper Merion Area School District uses First Student as the student transportation services provider.

First Student's Location Manager is Andre Huertas ([andre.huertas@firstgroup.com](mailto:andre.huertas@firstgroup.com)) and Tami Gesner is their Safety Manager. First Student's phone number during normal business hours (6:00 AM to 6:00PM) is: 610-337-1092

After normal business hours, First Student's 24/7 answering service will take calls to the above number and dispatch them to the appropriate personnel.

First Student will be maintaining the most current transportation information through the FirstView App. Parents are encouraged to download the app, choose the Upper Merion Area School District and enter their student's district ID number. Buses can also be tracked using the FirstView App.

Any student who wishes to ride a bus to go to another student's house must have a note from a parent/guardian indicating permission to do so. The parent/guardian who has invited the student to visit must also send a note with his/her child granting permission for the visit. An administrator must sign both notes.

When boarding buses, students are to follow directions from staff members who are on duty. Running to buses or crowding through doors is not permitted. While on the bus, students are expected to cooperate with the driver to ensure a safe, pleasant trip. Bus drivers and Administrators reserve the right to assign seats.

**FIRSTview**  
**ParentView**  
**Introducing a new way**  
**to track your child's bus**

GET IT ON  
Google Play

Download on the  
App Store

**FIRSTview**

Powered by **FIRSTstudent**

Students must remain in seats until the bus comes to a complete stop. Violations of proper conduct at bus stops or while on the bus may result in loss of bus privileges. Video surveillance will occur on school buses and those video recordings may be used for investigative or disciplinary purposes.

## Activity Buses

There are four late run Activity Buses. These buses serve students that stay for Achiever's Club, the drama production and various other after school activities. These buses are provided for Upper Merion Middle and High School students combined. Buses generally run at 5:45 PM daily and at 4:30 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Buses are assigned as follows: BRIDGEPORT, BOBWHITE, BELMONT, WEST CONSHOHOCKEN.



Each of these areas are served by "**abbreviated**" stops. This means that they will not be identical to morning or afternoon school bus stops. A list of the abbreviated bus stops is available through the Transportation Department, and are posted at both schools. Students should check these lists and determine their stop before boarding the bus. Stops are also listed online: <https://www.umasd.org/Page/12840>.

## Food Services

### Welcome to 5th Grade Lunch! Very Tasty!

The Middle School cafeteria has several choices of entrees, vegetables, fruits and snack items to choose from. Students should expect that it will take a few days to get used to the new cafeteria. In essence, when they come in, they should grab a tray and then go to one of the four entrée stations for a hot entree: Pizza, Grille, Specialty or Meal Deal. Hot vegetables of the day are at the Specialty and the Meal Deal stations. Cold vegetable choices, Grab and Go's and Salads that count as entrees. To make a meal the tray must have at least one fruit or vegetable and an entrée. However students may take an entrée, 2 fruit if they choose, 2 veggies if they choose, and a milk.

Not all students will be free automatically next year so households should apply for the program at [schoolcafe.com](http://schoolcafe.com) (computer or app) after July 1st. Tentatively, the plan is for there to be 3 or 4 choices for lunch every day and at least one of them will be vegetarian.

As of now the lunch meal price is \$3.25 for paid and \$.40 for reduced, but that may increase somewhat before the beginning of the school year. Breakfast is \$2.75 for paid and \$.30 for reduced. If a student doesn't have their money they may charge their meal and Food Service will contact the household regarding payment.

There will be some a la carte items available (we haven't had any for the last 2 years), but it will not be as much as before COVID. Food Services is working on how they will implement

snacks. Breakfast is an important start to the day and will be served each school day. **The Middle School Food Service continues to be peanut free.**

All updates and important info will always be posted on the Food Services pages of the UMASD.org website. All menus are posted there as well. The plan is that all students will have an ID card, which will be scanned in the cafeteria. This will prevent having to touch the pinpads we previously used.

We are paperless with the Free & Reduced Lunch & Breakfast Program. To fill out an application for the Free and Reduced Lunch and Breakfast Program please go to [www.paschoolmeals.com](http://www.paschoolmeals.com). You will need to set up an account and then fill out the form there. Each school office has English and Spanish applications for households without internet access.

Your household may be "directly certified" as eligible for free meals, we will send you email notification in August if that is the case. Otherwise you must fill out an application at the beginning of every year to determine eligibility. Your student(s) has a 30 day "grace period" at the beginning of the school year and will keep their same eligibility during that period of time from the year before after which, if we haven't directly certified your students or received a new application, we will charge your student(s) beginning on the 31st operating day of the school year (approximately mid-October).



Managing your student's breakfast and lunch money can be done at [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com) beginning on August 1st. If you already have an account on parentonline.net, your student's funds will automatically be transferred to [www.schoolcafe.com](http://www.schoolcafe.com). You can log onto it with the same user name and password that you have been using for [www.parentonline.net](http://www.parentonline.net).

You will need to set up an account and then use your credit or debit card to add funds. You can set up an account online for free to set any limits and to see what your student is buying. Adding funds to your student's account costs \$1.95 per transaction, however you may still send funds to school with your student to put on an account and there is no fee involved this way.

Please read on for additional important Food Service information...

Following the standards of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, our grain based products such as bread, pizza crusts, and sub rolls are made with whole grains; all milk is low-fat or fat free; all salad dressings are low-fat, and we do not fry any foods. Please strongly encourage your child to take complete balanced meals that include fruits, vegetables and milk.



Check the website for menus. <http://www.umasd.org/domain/36>

Copies of the District's 4-week cycle menu are available in the school office. This menu tells you what the daily special is each day for the entire year. Menus are also posted on each school's web page and on Sapphire (for Middle and High Schools).

Penny Bartlett is the Food Service Director and you can reach her at [pbartlett@umasd.org](mailto:pbartlett@umasd.org) or 610-205-8804 if you have any questions, comments, problems or suggestions.

***Have a great 5th grade school year! Penny Bartlett, Food Service Supervisor***

## Lost and Found Items

All lost and found items are to be brought to the Main Office Reception Area where they are held for a reasonable time before being sent to charity organizations in the community. Students are encouraged to mark all belongings with their full names and are warned not to bring to school any valuables or money in excess of their daily needs.

## Fun Highlights of 5th Grade (Our School Store rocks!)



We have SO much cool stuff happening at Upper Merion Area Middle School. Here is a short list of some of the things for 5th Graders...

Exciting team building activities with your very own 5th grade team.

Outdoor School Camping in May - So much fun! Watch out for Trolls!

Holiday Celebrations at various times throughout the year.

Viking Relief Day - exciting activities and games that support causes.

Awards Ceremony - to recognize all of our students' hard work.

Lower House Field Days - get out and enjoy some physical activity with your teammates.

5th grade VIKING VALUES DAY with activities for everyone.

Concerts just for Lower House students.

Follow all of these fun things through the middle school Twitter account: @UMAMS\_Vikings



### **Agenda Books/Communications**

We have Viking Agenda books for communication between home and school. We'll start to use the iPads and Schoology later in the year. We will also be sending home Interim reports, report cards, and we will have fall and spring parent/teacher conferences.

### **School Store - <http://tinyurl.com/UMAMSVikings>**

The School Store is the place to get all of your Vikings apparel and general fun stuff! Everything from locker buddies to iPad stylus', the school store is a great place to shop for your pens, pencils, and other cool school spirit stuff!

## **Curriculum: Math Acceleration and Big Ideas**

### **Mathematics Acceleration Process for 4th to 5th grade (updated 4/18/2022)**

The accelerated 5th grade math class represents a 2-year advancement in mathematics for students who qualify. Students will not only skip 5th grade math, but they will also enter a sequence of math classes where they will take Calculus during their Junior year of High School. Traditionally, the accelerated class of students has been 10% – 15% of our students, which are approximately 30 – 40 students in a grade. If a student meets the criteria listed below in either option, they will have the opportunity to accelerate.

#### **Option #1: School Based Test Scores - 3 years of test scores**

Combination of scores from the Everyday Math Unit Tests.

All available test scores from 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Grade EM4 Unit Test Scores.

Your child's scores and a cut score to qualify will be shared in late June.

#### **Option #2: State-Based Test Scores**

The Pennsylvania System School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment, which is given to all students in grades 3 – 8. The scores from these tests provide students, parents, and educators with an understanding of student performance related to the mastery of the PA Core academic standards for each grade level.

4th Grade Math PSSA Test Score. Your child's scores and a cut score to qualify will be shared in late June.

## **Mathematics Acceleration Identification Process for 5th to 6th grade**

The accelerated Pre-Algebra 6th grade math class represents a 2-year acceleration in mathematics for students who qualify. Students will skip 6th grade math and will enter a sequence of math classes where they will take Calculus during their Junior year of High School. Traditionally, the accelerated class of students has been 10% – 15% of our students, which are approximately 30 – 40 students in a grade.

If a student meets the criteria listed below in either option, they will have the opportunity to accelerate.

### **Option #1: School Based Test Scores - 3 years of test scores**

All available test scores are from 3rd and 4th Grade EM4 Unit Test Scores.

5th Grade Math report card grades. (Quarter 1, 2, 3, and 4)

Your child's scores and a cut score to qualify will be shared in late June.

### **Option #2: State-Based Test Scores**

The Pennsylvania System School Assessment (PSSA) is a standards-based, criterion-referenced assessment, which is given to all students in grades 3 – 8. The scores from these tests provide students, parents, and educators with an understanding of student performance related to the mastery of the PA Core academic standards for each grade level.

5th Grade Math PSSA Test Score. Your child's scores and a cut score to qualify will be shared in late June.

In the Upper Merion Area School District we are proud to offer acceleration in mathematics in 5th, 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Each year we use a process specific for each grade level to identify students to accelerate in mathematics. This gives students four chances at acceleration starting in 4th grade. 4th-5th math acceleration

link: <https://www.umasd.org/Page/11944>

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Dr. Sean Gardiner directly at [sgardiner@umasd.org](mailto:sgardiner@umasd.org). All math acceleration decisions are handled through the Curriculum & Instruction office and not by individual teachers or building principals.

## Additional information regarding curriculum

### Language Arts - Wonders Program

- Reading Strategies
- Reading Skills
- Writing in Response to Reading
- Vocabulary Development
- Grammar
- Spelling
- Writer's notebook
- Writer's workshop



### Math - Everyday Math

- Area and Volume
- Place Value and Operations
- Fraction Concepts
- Decimal Concepts
- Operations with Fractions
- Measurement
- Geometry and Graphs
- Applications of Measurement, Computation, and Graphing
- Online Reference Book:  
[www.everydaymathonline.com](http://www.everydaymathonline.com)

### Integrated Science & Social Studies

- Inquiry skills
- Scientific method
- Earth's features/processes
- All about water
- Cells
- Energy
- Ecosystems
- Geography/Map Skills
- Ancient/Native Americans
- Exploration/World Trade
- Colonial Life/Early America
- Slavery

### First in Math

Millions of students have achieved greater understanding of critical concepts with our exciting approach that brings the thrill of sports and digital gaming to mathematics! First In Math leverages practice to teach the mechanics of math—allowing millions of students across the nation to experience life-changing success and developing a never-ending passion for learning.



# Study Habits Checklist

Some people believe that really good students are just born that way. True, some students are able to breeze through school with little or no effort. However, the most successful students develop and use strong study habits. The following are important study habits used by highly successful students. If you want to become a good student, don't get discouraged, don't give up, work to develop your study habits and you'll see improvement. See your school counselor if you need help!

## At Home...

Do I have...

- a set time to study each day?
- notebooks, folders, or a binder for my classes?
- my agenda book with my assignments to show my parents?
- any assignments posted in Schoology?
- assignments that need to be turned in through Schoology?
- my Google Drive organized with folders
- Any emails that need to be sent to my teachers?
- my iPad charging?
- my homework finished?
- my bag packed the night before?

## At School...

Do I...

- Come to school everyday?
- Know my schedule?
- Have an organized locker?
- Know beyond the basics of my iPad?
- Listen to directions and stay attentive?
- Take good notes in class?
- Treat my classmates and teachers with respect?
- Keep my iPad apps and documents organized?
- Ask for help?

Things I need to get organized: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

This page was left blank intentionally. Please use the excuse blanks on the other side when returning from an absence.

For the "refrigerator" page, use the next page and fill in the blanks with important details for the 2024 - 2025 school year.





## A Note For School

- ☐ Teacher  
☐ Office  
☐ Other:

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ABSENCE / TARDINESS:

- ☐ was absent  
☐ will be at ☐ will be late to school  
☐ was late to school

On date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PICK-UP / LEAVE EARLY

- ☐ will be picked up by: \_\_\_\_\_  
At: ☐ Dismissal ☐ : \_\_\_\_ AM / PM

Contact Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ \* required

☐ going home on bus # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ will leave early on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

@ \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_ AM / PM

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_



## A Note For School

- ☐ Teacher  
☐ Office  
☐ Other:

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ABSENCE / TARDINESS:

- ☐ was absent  
☐ will be at ☐ will be late to school  
☐ was late to school

On date(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ PICK-UP / LEAVE EARLY

- ☐ will be picked up by: \_\_\_\_\_  
At: ☐ Dismissal ☐ : \_\_\_\_ AM / PM

Contact Number: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_ \* required

☐ going home on bus # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ will leave early on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

@ \_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_ AM / PM

Due to: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Refrigerator Page: Upper Merion Area Middle School Info

### UMAMS 5th Grade Contacts:

My Student's team is the \_\_\_\_\_

Math teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

ELA teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

Sci/S.S. teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

IEP/GIEP/Speech/OT teacher: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

### Important 5th Grade Dates

First/Last Student day: \_\_\_\_\_

MS Tour dates: \_\_\_\_\_

5th Parent nights: \_\_\_\_\_

Conferences/1/2 days - Fall: late Nov.

Conf./1/2 days - Spring: mid-March

Outdoor School (Camp) dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Science Fair: \_\_\_\_\_

Quarter dates/Report cards: \_\_\_\_\_

PSSA testing: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter break: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent nights: \_\_\_\_\_

Dental Screenings: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture Day Fall: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture Day Makeups: \_\_\_\_\_

Picture Day Spring: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School Open House: \_\_\_\_\_

Spring Break: April. \_\_\_\_\_

### Important Individual Student Info

Music Lessons: \_\_\_\_\_

Swimming Quarter: \_\_\_\_\_

Bus Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Locker Number: \_\_\_\_\_

### Other UMAMS Contacts:

- Lower House Principal: Mrs. Harvey, eharvey@umasd.org, 610-205-8808
- 5th School Counselor: Mrs. Donahue, adonahue@umasd.org, 610-205-8836
- Attendance Clerk: Ms. Johnson mojohnson@umasd.org, 610-205-8811
- Nurse: Mrs. McGuigan, bmcguigan@umasd.org, 610-205-8805
- Transportation: Andre Huertas, andre.huertas@firstgroup.com, 610-337-1092



FIRST/LAST STUDENT DAY  
 TEACHER INSERVICE DAY  
 ACADEMIC YEAR HOLIDAY  
 MAKE-UP DAY IF NECESSARY

UPPER MERION AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT  
 2024-2025 Student/Teacher Calendar  
 --- Revised 02272024 ---

Attachment #12.A  
 03042024

July 2024							T-7 August 2024							S-4		T-20 September 2024							S-20								
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	T	M	T	W	T	F	S										
	1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7										
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14										
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		15	16	17	18	19	20	21										
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		22	23	24	25	26	27	28										
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30															
T-22 October 2024							S-22							T-18 November 2024							S-17		T-16 December 2024							S-15	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	T	M	T	W	T	F	S										
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		8	9	10	11	12	13	14										
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16		15	16	17	18	19	20	21										
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23		22	23	24	25	26	27	28										
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31														
T-21 January 2025							S-21							T-19 February 2025							S-17		T-20 March 2025							S-20	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	T	M	T	W	T	F	S										
			1	2	3	4							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8											
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	14	15										
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		16	17	18	19	20	21	22										
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		23	24	25	26	27	28	29										
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		30	31																
T-17 April 2025							S-16							T-21 May 2025							S-20		T-9 June 2025							S-9	
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	T	M	T	W	T	F	S										
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		8	9	10	11	12	13	14										
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27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30															

August 19, 20, 21 Teacher Inservice Days  
 August 26 First Student Day  
 August 30 No School  
 September 2 Holiday (Labor Day)  
 October 3 Holiday (Rosh Hashanah)  
 November 1 Holiday (Diwali)  
 November 5 Teacher Inservice Day  
 November 28, 29 Holidays (Thanksgiving)  
 December 23 Inservice/Flex Opportunity  
 December 24-31 Winter Break  
 January 1 Holiday (New Year's Day)  
 January 20 Holiday (MLK, Jr. Day, Observed)  
 February 13 Teacher Inservice Day  
 February 14 Inservice/Flex Opportunity  
 February 17 Holiday (President's Day)  
 March 31 Holiday (Eid al-Fitr)  
 April 14-18 Spring Break  
 April 21 Inservice/Flex Opportunity  
 May 20 Teacher Inservice Day  
 May 26 Holiday (Memorial Day)  
 June 12 Last Student Day

First Student Day  
 Last Student Day  
 Total Student Days

August 26  
 June 12  
 181

First Teacher Day  
 Last Teacher Day  
 Total Teacher Days

August 19  
 June 12  
 190

Emergency Closure Make-Up Days: Beginning on the first day  
 classes are cancelled: Friday, June 13; Monday, April 14; Tuesday,  
 April 15; Wednesday, April 16; Thursday, April 17

Teacher Required In-Service: August 19-21, November 5, February 13, May 20  
 Teacher Flex Opportunities: December 23, February 14, April 21