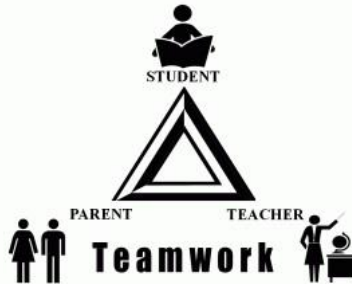


MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

HOW CAN WE WORK TOGETHER?



It is our responsibility to be understanding and work with the students to help them become responsible, organized, and upstanding individuals. To help with the transition of your middle school child and answer any questions you may have while in the Middle School at Valwood, we will send you parent guidelines each week. These guidelines will help the Valwood faculty, parents, and most importantly the students.

Day to Day:

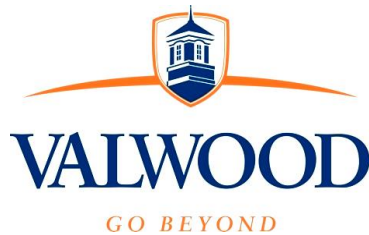
1. Drop your child off with the passenger door opening to the Middle School for safety. You may drop him or her off as early as a teacher is in the Middle School building. Most teachers will arrive at 7:30 am, but some will be at the school at 7:15 am.
2. You and your child should read and become familiar with the Valwood Handbook. It can be found on the Valwood website under School Life and click Handbook.
3. Emails - For any type of discussion with a teacher or administrator that will need to be longer than a single email, please make an appointment to come in and meet.

Academic:

1. Organization - Help your child make lists, check his or her notebooks, and back pack at least once a month for neatness and organization.
2. For Homework - We appreciate the extra time you are spending with your children, but we need to make sure they are doing their own work and making their own mistakes, so we can help in the classroom. Please keep help with homework to just a few minutes per night.
3. Grades - Become visibly excited when your child receives a good grade. If your child receives a failing grade or a grade of zero, first, ask your child why he or she received that grade. If you still have questions, email the teacher. If you are still concerned, call the Middle School office and set up an appointment with the teacher and deans.

Character:

1. Everyday ask how your child's day went and let him/her tell you one good thing that happened and one bad thing that happened that day.
2. Make sure when you enter the Middle School, a classroom, or other buildings on campus you look the faculty and/or staff in eye and greet them.
****Every student caught doing this will earn points for his or her team.***
3. Accept that you are going to make mistakes. Learn from them and move on.



Sail the 7 C's: Our first "C" the Middle School is discussing this month is Critical Thinking. Below are the seven definitions of critical thinking we are discussing with the students. We will add more definitions as the weeks move along. New "C" word next week.

1. Use various types of reasoning (inductive, deductive, etc.) as appropriate to the situation.
2. Analyze how parts of a whole interact with each other to produce overall outcomes in complex systems.
3. Effectively analyze and evaluate evidence, arguments, claims, and beliefs.
4. Analyze and evaluate major alternative points of view.
5. Synthesize and make connections between information and arguments.
6. Interpret information and draw conclusions based on the best analysis.
7. Reflect critically on learning experiences and processes; solve different kinds of unfamiliar problems in both conventional and innovative ways; identify and ask significant questions that clarify various points of view and lead to better solutions.

Important Announcements:

- **Blue Vs Orange Teams:**

- **Blue: 116**

- **Orange: 128**

Points are continuously added and removed due to students' behavior, study skills, and character. Students who are creative with their Homecoming costumes can earn points to his/her team.

- **PSAT** is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th for 8th grade students only in the Middle School.
- We started Veterans Day practice this past Wednesday and we will continue to practice on Wednesdays or Thursdays during Study Hall through October.
- Students signed up for Academic Competitions this week. Practice for each competition will begin shortly.

Thank you for all your support and help.

GO VALIANTS!

Chad Gallahan

Middle School Dean