

Henley Middle School
Welcome Booklet



A Hornet's Journey Begins...



2018

WELCOME!

We're looking forward to having you as the New Sixth Grade Class at
J. T. Henley Middle School!

At Henley, we want you to **stretch** your thinking, **develop** your study skills, and
grow socially, emotionally, and academically, to be lifelong learners.

DID YOU KNOW?

FUN FACTS ABOUT HENLEY

We currently have 864 students.

We need 35 buses to transport our students to and from school.

We have 62 teachers and 9 teaching assistants.

We have a newly implemented AVID program.

Our students each get a Lenovo Laptop as part of the county's 1:1 initiative.

We offer a wide variety of elective and exploratory classes so that students have different experiences at Henley Middle School.

Sixth grade students have their own social at the beginning of the school year!

We have 4 staff members who attended Henley.

Henley and Jack Jouett Middle schools opened at the same time and were "identical twins".

Henley had 8th and 9th grade students the first year that it opened.

Henley has a "morning meeting" similar to what you experience now. It's called Advisory.

What are you excited about?

We talk to students about their transition from 5th grade to 6th grade. Usually by the time we meet with students in the late winter, early spring, students are eager to become 6th graders and can't wait to get to Henley, even though they will miss their elementary school and teachers. If you are not excited about becoming a Henley Hornet, give us a chance, we will get you excited!

Have you thought about meeting new friends, having new opportunities to take classes you really enjoy? Do you enjoy projects and having lots of time to play and move? Henley offers all of those things!

What are you worried about?

Every year we find that kids worry about the *same things*. What we want to tell you is: ***DON'T WORRY!*** We've already taken care of most of the things you're worried about . . .

1. **Lockers** - Yes, it takes a while to learn to open them quickly, but sixth grade teachers provide extra time during the first week of school to help you get your combination down.



2. **Getting to The Right Classes** – Four blocks and an alternating day schedule is a big switch! You can walk through your schedule during our Open House. On your first day of school, you'll have an extended homeroom, so you can get used to the building, your locker, and your classmates. You'll get a chance to walk through your schedule then, too. In a few days, you'll have no problem getting where you need to go in four minutes.

3. **Dressing Out and Showers in P.E.** -You will need to bring a change of clothes or purchase a gym uniform so you don't get your regular clothes sweaty. Dressing out - changing into your gym clothes - becomes second nature in no time. Showers are available but **not** required. Your P.E. teacher will answer your questions early in the school year.

4. **STING** - STING is a time during the day that is designed to help students get extra help from a teacher, complete make-up work that they may have missed during an absence, get a jump start on their homework, or participate in an enrichment activity. Students are assigned to a STING teacher at the beginning of the year that will serve as their home base. All students will report to their STING teacher at the beginning of each STING period. If you have a pass to go see another teacher for help or to make up work, show it to your STING teacher and they will send you on your way.
5. **D.R.s** - D.R.s or Broken Pillars are Discipline Referrals for breaking rules. Each grade decides how many D.R.s result in lunch detention, and how many result in a referral to the office. We expect you to respect the people and things around you, and to get to class on time with your class materials. If you do this, you do not have to worry about D.R.s. You **WON'T** get a D.R. for being late to class during the first week or two of school - we know you are getting used to middle school. You will receive more information about this during the first month of school.
6. **Big Kids** -Some students worry about traveling in the halls with eighth graders. Generally, the sixth grade classrooms are clustered together, so you only have to travel in the rest of the school for Exploratories. You'll find most Henley kids to be considerate and helpful.
7. **Homework** -Yes, you'll have homework...about 60 minutes per night. If you are in band or strings, you'll also have to practice your instrument each night. If your homework takes much more than that, you can talk to your school counselor or teacher to get extra help. You can do it!

Before You Start...

You'll get a letter during the summer that will tell your parents how to access your schedule through parent portal and will also tell you when to come for Open House. This is when you can meet your teachers and see your classrooms.



Choices - All sixth graders will take Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, and Health and P.E. In addition to these core courses, you may choose to take Beginning BAND, Beginning CHOIR or Beginning STRINGS in sixth grade - or to do the Exploratory Cluster - a rotation through several classes such as Art, Music, Life Skills, Technology, AVID, and Conversational French.

In seventh and eighth grade you will have other choices for Exploratories.

Advisory:

Advisory is a time period for you to meet together with your STING class both to build community, have fun, and to discuss issues impacting our Henley community. You will meet with your advisory group, which is the same as your STING group several days per week.



SSR:

Silent Sustained Reading (SSR) is a time several days a week that you will spend with your STING class developing both your ability and your interest in the books that you are currently reading.

Your School Day...

What will your school day be like at Henley?

Your school day will begin at 9:04. All blocks will be approximately 75 minutes long and will include Math, Science, Social Studies, Reading and Language Arts, Physical Education and an Exploratory Class. Some of your block classes may meet on alternate days.

You'll have about 25 minutes for Advisory, STING and about 30 minutes for lunch. You can bring lunch, buy a full lunch, or buy part of your lunch - drinks, salad, sandwiches, or desserts. You'll find a big selection of good food at Henley.



We allow students to go outside after they finish lunch and we offer a separate recess later in the day to get kids moving! We want you to have opportunities for play and movement.

Activity Period...

On one Friday each month, things are a little bit different at Henley. Classes are shortened by a few minutes to allow for our - **ACTIVITY PERIOD**.

Activity Period is a time reserved for Clubs, Games, Intramural Sports, and Movies. You may want to start thinking about things you'd like to do at that time. Here are some of the offerings during Activity Period - although not all of them are offered all year long, and there may be new activities by the time you are at Henley:



- *Outdoor Club* - Plans service and fun activities in the Great Outdoors.
- *Community Service Opportunities*
- *Movies*
- *Knowledge Master* - This is an interactive computer game/ practice time leading up to regional competitions with other schools.
- *Intramural Soccer/Basketball/Football*
- *Arts & Crafts*
- *Writers Club*
- *Computer Games*
- *Hair & Nails*



Here's what we expect...

We expect you to be here to learn, and to allow others to learn as well. We work really hard to build student engagement for learning.

During the early weeks of the school year, all of the students helped to develop Henley's Social Contract for a Safe Learning Environment. Our three main expectations, as determined by students are:

Henley Students:

- **Embody positivity and perseverance**
- **Embrace each other's differences**
- **Show care for self, others, and our surroundings**



We Are Here To Help...

Making the switch to Middle School is **EXCITING**, but a little **SCARY** at the same time.... IT'S A **BIG SWITCH!**

There are a lot of people to help you if you have questions or concerns:

YOUR TEACHER can answer many of your questions. Your STING teacher can answer questions about how things work at Henley, or who to go to for help. Your teacher can help you if you are having problems in a class.



YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Ms. Lancaster, Ms. Warnick, and Mr. Eberly are here to help you get adjusted to middle school. They can help you with problems or concerns you might have. You can make an appointment to see your school counselor by signing up in the school counseling department.

PARENTS may call the school counseling office if they would like to set up a meeting with their child's teachers. We also have scheduled conference days during the school year that will be on the school calendar you'll get at the start of the year.

YOUR PRINCIPAL AND ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

Mr. Dommer, Mrs. Tyler, and Dr. Costa can talk to you about concerns you have. They also like to hear about good ideas you might have for Henley!



Henley Activities...

You may choose to participate in some of the activities at Henley. In addition to Exploratories and Activity Period clubs, you might think about these....

ACADEMIC GROUPS AND CONTESTS - We have a Knowledge Master group that participates in competitions with other schools. A Young Readers program is run through the Library, to read books from a selection of Virginia Middle School Reading Association recommended books. In December there is a National Geographic Geography Bee. There are several writing and drawing contests through the year. Listen to the morning announcements for how to participate in these activities.



DANCES - Early in the school year there will be a “Sixth Grade Social” after school, just for Sixth Graders. We will have several dances after that - almost one per month- that are open to all Henley students. Most of these are after school.

STUDENT COUNCIL ASSOCIATION - All Henley students are considered part of the Student Council Association. The purpose of this organization is to assist in the orderly operation of the school, to help improve the school, and to develop leadership and responsibility in our students.

The SCA sponsors many activities, such as a talent show, a canned food drive, and dances.

The SCA has officers elected by the students. These are President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Reporter. Sixth graders may run for the office of Sixth Grade Vice President. Homerooms also elect Homeroom representatives who attend all SCA meetings and report back to their homerooms. We urge you to participate in SCA activities.

After-School Program - Henley Middle School in cooperation with Albemarle County Parks and Recreation will again offer an after school program of intramurals in such sports as tennis, basketball, volleyball, and track & field.

Henley Middle School Running Club-This year Henley partnered with Tread Happy to offer a 6-8 running club. Runners meet in the morning and prepare to run in an open race. Runners also learn about training and nutrition.

Any Questions?

You may have lots of questions that are still not answered about Henley. Your family may look over this booklet and have questions... WRITE THEM DOWN!

Your current classroom teacher may be able to answer some of your questions. You will visit Henley in the spring, and you will have a chance to ask one of the Henley school counselors or your school tour guide at that time. You will also be getting mail late in the summer that will answer questions about the start of the school year. If you still need answers, go see your elementary school counselor or have your family call the Henley school counseling office. We want to help!

We look forward to you coming to Henley.

We want you to feel that this is YOUR school. Welcome!

