Welcome to Henley!

A Hornet’s Guide to Everything You’ll Need to Know About Being Part of the Hive!
Welcome!

We are looking forward to having you as our new 20-2021 Sixth Grade Class here at J.T. Henley Middle School!

Throughout the year we want you to Stretch your thinking, Develop your interests, and Grow socially, emotionally, and academically to be lifelong learners.
Did you know?

Henley was built in 1966

In 1967 Henley had students from grade 7-9

Henley and Jack Jouett’s building opened at the same time and were “identical twins”

We have 4 staff members who attended Henley

Every Henley student will receive a Dell laptop

We have a 30 acre site

We have a “morning meeting” similar to what you have now; it’s called Advisory

Each student can participate in a variety of electives, and you will get to choose from four during your sixth grade year.

Sixth Graders have their own social at the beginning of the year!
Don’t Worry About it!

Here are a few of our best tips on most of the things new sixth graders worry about! Everyone is at least a little bit nervous at the start of the year, but we want to remind you, Don’t Worry About It!

1. **Lockers**
   Yes, you do have to remember your combination, and it takes a while to learn to open them quickly, but teachers usually offer a few extra minutes to practice for the first month of school.

2. **Schedules**
   With four blocks and many classes, we understand it’s hard to know exactly where to go. On the first day of school, you’ll get extra time to find your classes, as well as time to explore on Open House which happens just before the start of the school year. After a few days, you’ll have no problem getting to your classes in four minutes.

3. **Changing out for P.E.**
   At first, changing may seem uncomfortable, but for most of our students it’s second nature as well as optional. You will have an extra four minutes after the late bell rings to change, and 8 minutes at the end of class before you are dismissed. Showers are available, but not required, and most of our students choose to not use them.

4. **Social Contract**
   Here at Henley we have our students help choose our expectations. We have something called our Social Contract. Currently our social contract is: 1. Be respectful of yourself, each other, and your surroundings. 2. Be a flexible, positive, and responsible learner. 3. Include others in all aspects. This social contract was created by representatives from each grade level. Here at Henley it is very important to us that our students are part of our environment and that each and every student is happy and comfortable.
5. **TAB and TAB Out**
   TAB stands for “take a break,” and is our way to give students a breather during class. All teachers have a TAB section in their room, which includes a chair set apart from the class. Students can “take a break” anytime they need to before returning to their seat. TAB Out is when you go to a TAB area in another teacher’s room to take a break outside of your classroom. If you have to TAB or TAB Out, it doesn’t mean you are in trouble, it just means that you or your teacher thinks you need a break.

6. **Big Kids**
   Many of our new sixth graders entering Henley Middle School often worry about encountering older students such as seventh or eighth graders. But our students are very nice and friendly!

7. **Homework**
   Yes, you will have some homework, about 60 minutes per night. Many of our students worry about the amount of homework they will have leading into the year, but it depends on your productivity during the day. Most teachers give you short assignments to practice the lesson that you are currently learning and maybe some work you didn’t finish in class, but unless you are absent, you usually will not have too much homework!

8. **Navigation**
   We have a lot of students each year worried about navigating from class to class without getting lost! But what we want to tell you is not to worry! Of course it may take you a bit of time to exactly master where each of your classes are, but most of the sixth grade classes are bunched close to each other in what we call the “sixth grade wing”.
Your School Day...
Advisory begins at 9:04 and you will have a 30 minute advisory/SSR. You will rotate through your classes with about seventy minutes per class. You will have Math, English, Science, History, PE, and an Exploratory Class. Some of your classes will only be on either an orange or a blue day.

Electives
Each student will take an English, Math, Science, History, and P.E class. You will have options for electives such as Strings, Band, Choir, and the Exploratory Cluster. The Exploratory Cluster rotation includes classes such as Art, Exploratory, World Languages, Design & Construction, and Leadership Exploration 1.

Advisory
Advisory is a program designed to help students become closer and feel more welcome in the Henley environment. Your Advisory and Sting teacher will be the same teacher and will be one of your teachers from one of your classes, but the students in your Advisory and STING may not all be from your class. We do this so that our students can meet even more people and build a stronger sense of community in Henley. Your typical day in Advisory starts with watching the morning announcements. Then your teacher will read the morning message to you and everyone will participate in a pre-planned activity. The activities usually consist of a fun greeting, a share which is then followed by an activity. Henley likes to have a theme for advisory each week so that students can learn about important school issues. Some examples include: Internet Safety, Bullying, Friendship and plenty of other topics.
Sustained Silent Reading (SSR)

SSR is kind of like a break from advisory that happens every Tuesday and Thursday. The expectations for SSR is that every student will have a book to read and will silently read it!

Activity Period

One Friday each month, things are a little bit different here at Henley. All classes are shortened a bit for our Activity Period!

We like to let our students have some extra fun each month by having a school wide Activity Period! Every student will sign up for an activity of their choice online, and a few days later they will get to participate in the activity they chose for the last hour of the day!

Henley has many activities to offer, such as Kahoot with Prizes, Kickball, Walk to Grit, Hair and Nails, Movie Watching, Tie Dye, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Two-Hand-Touch Football, Shrinky Dinks, Free Sketch, Study Hall, Four-Square, Frisbee, Basketball, and many more options!

Before You Start

We understand that some students are going to be nervous before he/she starts here at Henley. But your parents/guardians will receive a letter instructing them how to access your schedule through Parent Portal and information on when to come for Henley’s Open House! Open House is a time a few days before school starts for students to come and walk through their schedule, and meet their teachers before the first day of school!
Making the switch to middle school is *Exciting*, but can be a little bit *Scary* at the same time! It’s a **big switch**!

There are lots of adults you can talk to if you are having problems!

Your teachers can help with school questions, misunderstandings, and other academic issues. They can also help guide you to the correct adult for anxiety, social, and academic problems. This adult is your school counselor.

**Your School Counselors**

Ms. Warnick, Ms. Lancaster, and Mr. Eberly are here to help you adjust to middle school. They can help you with concerns regarding social, family, or academic issues, as well as setting school and career goals. You can set up an appointment to meet with your school counselor; it’s easy! Families may call the counseling office to set up a time to talk with your counselor or to meet with your teachers for any concerns. We also have scheduled conference days on our school calendar you will receive at the beginning of the year!

**Your Principal and Assistant Principals**

Dr. Costa, Ms. Fisher, and Mr. Combs are here to help you also! They can talk to you about school issues such as goal setting, peer relationships, and schoolwork; they also love to hear about ideas you have to help improve Henley!
Henley Activities...

You may choose to participate in some of the activities here at Henley. In addition to Exploratory and Activity Period clubs, you may want to participate in some of these.

Clubs and Sports -- We have many clubs and activities to participate in. Some school clubs include: Model U.N, Junior Scholastic Bowl, Rocketry Club, Chess Club, and even a Green Team which deals with recycling here at Henley! We also have quite a few Henley sports teams which don’t require tryouts! Some of these sports include: Basketball, Volleyball, Soccer, Flag Football, and Track!

Dances

Henley has many dances, almost one every month! But there is a special dance just for sixth graders in the beginning of the year! This is called the Sixth Grade Social! All you have to do in order to attend these dances is get a permission slip signed by one of your guardians! There will be an occasional admission fee, but usually no more than 5 dollars. Henley also supplies concessions for these dances available for purchase! Some of these fun dances include: The Winter Formal, The Halloween Dance, The Valentines Dance, and many more!
The Student Council Association

Here at Henley we have an SCA where you can apply to be part of the Student Council Association. The SCA helps Henley grow as a community and teaches our students leadership and responsibility.

The SCA hosts many events such as the Pep Rally, Winter Formal, Spirit Week, Halloween Costume Contest, Canned Food Drive, and many more!

The SCA application process is fairly simple. All you need to do is write a short article on why you should be in the SCA, get a teacher recommendation letter, and then go through the interview process. At the end of all of the tryouts, the SCA will decide on 3 students per grade level to become a part of the SCA. And even if you don’t make it in sixth grade, you will have another opportunity each year!

Any Questions?

If you still have any questions about our school….WRITE THEM DOWN! Your current classroom teacher may be able to answer questions, but you will visit Henley in the spring and you will have a chance to ask one of the Henley counselors or your tour guide. If you still need answers, go see your elementary school counselor or have your family call the Henley Middle School Counseling Office. We want to help you have a smooth transition to middle school!

We look forward to you coming to Henley! We want you to feel that this is YOUR school. Welcome!