

# Percy Julian Middle School

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Dr. Victoria E. Sharts, Principal

August 2009

Dear Julian Family:

## Welcome to Julian Sixth Grade

Enclosed is your child's schedule for next year. Listed below is information regarding schedules and answers to some frequently asked questions.

**Team and Course Assignments.** A great deal of time and effort has been devoted to team and course assignments. Students are assigned to teams in such a way that every team mirrors the other. Changes in team assignments generally are not made unless very unusual circumstances exist. Sixth graders all have the same lunch period and the same elective periods. Students can identify their team by looking at the Section ID. For example, if a student is assigned to team 6-1, advisory would be listed as Advs6\_1. \*In August, we switched to Power School. The schedules out of Power School have the team number on them.

**Exploratory:** Exploratory for sixth grade includes four different classes: Art, music, technology, and Spanish. Students will experience each of these classes, rotating every nine weeks.

**GTD Enrichment:** Students who participated in the gifted program at their elementary school or who are academically talented and highly motivated may participate in this elective. The class is year-long and will focus on a variety of projects. The class will also incorporate problem-based learning that is an extension of academic and elective subjects. If you did not previously indicate an interest in this class but would like to sign-up, please e-mail your assistant principal to request a schedule change to GTD. Unlike other schedule changes, requesting these changes will help us to adjust the number of classes being offered for each of the electives. Requests for elective changes can also be made after the first day of school. Ms. Kessler, the GTD teacher, will also be working periodically with all sixth grade teams on a variety of projects throughout the school year.

**Academic Support:** An additional class will be taught by core teachers to selected students. Academic Support is taught during an elective time. This class is for students who may have gaps in their learning or who need additional support in order to be successful during their middle school experience. Placement in this class for the fall is based on the previous year's report cards, ISATs, and teacher recommendations. The academic support class will provide intensive support and instruction in math and/or reading, focusing on building a solid foundation of skills that enhances future learning. Teacher-student ratio for this class is targeted for a maximum of one teacher to five students.

**Changes to Schedules.** Schedules can be adjusted prior to the beginning of school if an obvious error has been made, such as the omission of a special education class or an incorrect band level.

Many of the scheduling questions are best addressed when teachers and assistant principals are available and the rush of opening school during the first few days has subsided. When possible, please make requests for schedule changes toward the end of the first week of school.

**Assistant Principal:** The Assistant Principal for sixth grade this coming year will be Mr. Teno Geritano and will remain the Assistant Principal for this group of students for all three years. Mr. Geritano and I are looking forward to meeting you on information night in August and will be available to answer any of your questions. Please be sure to introduce yourself to us if you have an extra moment.

**First Day.** The first day of school, Tuesday, August 25, is a half day beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at noon. Students should bring their schedules. If schedules have been lost, staff can direct students to their advisory teacher who will have extra copies of each child's schedule. Staff will also have a master list of students and their advisory teachers. Losing schedules seems to happen relatively often. Time constraints do not allow for reprinting individual schedules, but we will make sure students find their way on that important first day of school.

**More First Day.** Sixth grade students will enter school and meet in the main hallway. The main doors on the east side of the building serve as the entrance for sixth graders. Students should look for their advisory teacher who will be carrying a sign displaying the teacher's name. Other adults will be outside to assist students in finding their advisory teachers.

Please remember the information nights, August 18 and 19 from 4-7 p.m., at which time you can visit various information tables, pick up IDs, pay for gym uniforms, and walk through the building with your child. Students who are accompanied by their parents and who have their schedules will be able to walk through the building and locate their classrooms.

We are all very excited about welcoming our new sixth grade students and families to Julian in just a few short weeks. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to help make this the very best of experiences for you and your child.

Welcome to Julian!

Sincerely,

*Victoria E. Sharts*

Victoria E. Sharts, Ph.D.  
Principal