# FAIRFIELD WOODS MIDDLE SCHOOL

## 1115 Fairfield Woods Road

Fairfield, CT 06825

Phone: 203-255-8334 Fax: 203-255-8210

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#### Principal Assistant Principal Assistant Principal

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April 2, 2015

Dear Parents/Guardians of Fifth Graders:

It won’t be long until we will have the pleasure of welcoming your son or daughter to Fairfield Woods Middle School. The middle school years are a very important period in your child's development, and our staff is skilled in delivering a fine educational program and in understanding the unique needs of early adolescents. We are committed to advancing each student's academic growth while fostering a sense of achievement and self-confidence for every child.

A Typical Day:

To assure a smooth transition to sixth grade, we incorporate aspects of their elementary experience while introducing the students to changes they will see in the coming years. The school day is divided into seven periods that include instruction in Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and World Language and two periods in the Unified Arts as described below:

* One period per day rotating quarterly among Health, Art, Computers, and Family and Consumer Science.
* One period of Music (3x/week) and Physical Education (2x/week)–all year.
* During the Unified Arts periods, students will explore multi-sensory, hands-on activities that will enrich their overall educational experience. During this time they are able to interact with students from other teams.

Lunch is thirty minutes long for all 6th graders and there is no recess.

The Team Approach:

Your child will be placed on a team of teachers with students from the 4 feeder schools; Jennings, Osborn Hill, North Stratfield and Holland Hill. They will be assigned a homeroom teacher and all of the teachers on your child’s team share the same group of children, so each student's achievement can be closely monitored. Team teachers have a common planning time when they can discuss student progress, plan interdisciplinary units, meet with other school staff (e.g. counselors, special education staff), or meet with parents. The teams are evenly balanced by many factors, including elementary feeder school, gender, and strengths/needs identified in 5th grade.

Courses in sixth grade are heterogeneously mixed, however there are two levels for Mathematics. Based on a variety of data, students are placed in an appropriate math class; either “Math-6” or “Transition to Pre-algebra”. This information will be posted and available through Infinite Campus in May. If you have questions or concerns about the recommendations for your child, please discuss them with your elementary school team. Additional information about the math placement articulation process is available on the Fairfield Public Schools website at:

<http://cdn.fairfieldschools.org/curriculum/math-2015/Math%20Articulation%205-6%202014-15%20final-updated.pdf>

**Information regarding the selection of music courses through Infinite Campus will be sent to you in early May.**

Orientation for Parents (mark your calendar):

All 5th grade parents are invited to attend an orientationat Fairfield Woods on **Thursday, April 30th. Building tours begin at 7:00 pm in the front lobby and the information session begins at 7:30 pm in the school auditorium.** This is planned for parents/guardians only. Students will have a separate orientation and a tour on the morning of April 30th. Specific information about the 6th grade program and schedule will be shared at this orientation. This is also an opportunity for you to meet the 6th grade teachers, see the school, and meet the administrators and PTSA representatives.

We are prepared to offer your child an excellent middle school experience. We urge you to be an active member of our PTSA and participate in any way that you can. Likewise, we hope your child will become involved in the many activities we provide.

If you have questions or concerns about programs at our middle school after the **April 30th** orientation, you are always welcome to call the school at 203-255-8334. All of us at Fairfield Woods look forward to welcoming you to our school and working with you and your child over the next three years.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Rosato Principal

Mr. Ken Seltzer Assistant Principal

Mrs. Karin Shaughnessy Assistant Principal