

## **HELPFUL HINTS FOR Parents of Incoming 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

### **General Information**

Friday August 21<sup>st</sup> is the 6<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation held 9-10:30am. There is a student “Chill out” which is the first social event of the year where the kids can socialize outdoors and have an ICEE POP. This is usually directly following the Orientation.

Also in August, a packet will be mailed out to each student with their Home-Base Assignment (homeroom number and teacher). Home-Base is the first period of the day that is about 20 minutes long. The teacher will use this time to talk with the students about current topics. Each student is assigned “East” or “West” which is the side of the building they will have most of their classes on and where their locker will be.

Sometimes the students feel stressed if they do not get the same side as their friends. There is no need for them to worry because they are close-by and will see each other often. They can mix for lunch and for foreign language classes, P.E. and sometimes Math. There is a head teacher on each side and if there are any serious issues with your child, that is the person that should be contacted. Lockers are in alphabetical order along the wall. Kids have plenty of time to learn their locker combination and practice at the orientation. Also in the packet will be their bus assignment containing the location of their bus stop and time of bus departure. This changes annually based on the student population of neighborhoods.

Stay connected: There is a Friday Packet that goes out weekly from the principal, Piper Boston. It will contain links to events that are currently happening, as well as a link to the South PTA website which will have more info. South has a main webpage where the daily announcements can be seen (performed by students) so that parents can see and hear exactly what the children are hearing during announcements. This is probably the single best way to find out about upcoming school events, tryouts, and all the happenings in general on a daily basis! There is a TWITTER page that Piper Boston and the administrators “tweet” on daily. Also many teachers “tweet” photos and info as well. There are 2 Facebook pages for posting: “South Middle School” and “South PTA”.

Coffee with the Principal: Throughout the year, there will be a number of “Coffee with the Principal” events that are open to all parents. This is a good opportunity to have face time with Piper and she is very welcoming! Times and dates are well publicized.

Front Office: Front office staff members are Susan Gavin and Cathy Humbert (our Fran and Sharon). They are extremely helpful for all your questions, but you will find that most can be answered by looking at the website. If your child needs to leave during the day for any reason, the parent can call the absence line or front office to notify them, **and the child can sign in and out without the parent having to come inside.** The

District 25 absence telephone number is the same as Windsor but the extension is 7300. Just press the # key to skip the intro and leave the message.

Edline: Edline is the online tool that is updated by the teachers to keep you up to date on your child's grades. An activation code will be given to each student/parent and from there you can set up your account. It will allow you to access grades for each class and details about each assignment, along with comments from the teacher. The website is [www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net).

PTA and yearbook: The PTA organization at South is much smaller than it is at Windsor. There are not nearly as many committees but there are still many things to accomplish and they always need volunteers. There is currently a video on the South PTA page that can be viewed that explains the benefits of joining the PTA, so please consider giving some time. PTA meetings are held monthly. Each PTA member receives one yearbook. If you have two or more children at South, additional yearbooks can be purchased at the time of registration and again during the year.

Teacher Conferences: These are held twice a year with a 5 minute meeting per teacher as requested. Scheduling is done online by the parent. Generally, parents only schedule this if there is something particular to discuss.

### **A day in the life of a middle school student:**

Class / Bell Schedule: The schedule for the time periods for each class are posted on the South website. Click the *FOR FAMILIES* tab and then the *BELL SCHEDULE* tab. There is also a copy attached here.

Lunch: Each grade is assigned a lunch period and they are all together in the Multi-Purpose room (known as the MP room) for that period. Lunch table assignments are done in the same way as they are at Windsor so friends can sit together. Every quarter the lunch table seating goes back to open for a few days and the students have the opportunity to move around. The tables are large and seat about 16 kids.

The lunch Menu choices are more extensive than Windsor. Attached is the menu which is available online along with nutritional information. Unlike Windsor, **when your child runs out of money on their lunch card, they cannot order anyway and run a negative balance.** They can however, borrow a friend's lunch card and the typical protocol is for them to reciprocate once their card has been restocked with funds. This is on the 'honor system' so it's something they work out on their own. When your child switches to South, the funds will transfer and the account code is the same. You can still manage the account using the website [www.mymealtime.com](http://www.mymealtime.com).

Creative Arts Classes: During 6<sup>th</sup> grade, all kids do 6 classes, lasting about 6 weeks each. At the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade, they get to select their preferences for 4 (out of 7) quarter-long classes in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. This process is repeated for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Preferences are not

guaranteed. Some class options are Creative Arts Classes, Visual Arts, Drama, Music, Family and Consumer Science, Global Perspectives, and Technology (7th and 8th grade only). The popular classes tend to fill up quickly and these historically have been 'first-come first-served'.

Gym aka P.E. class: Every student has Gym class every day and is expected to change into their Gym uniform for class, which is a t-shirt and shorts. They each have a locker to keep their items in during the year. Kids are encouraged to bring home their uniform on Fridays to have it washed. It's a good idea to have a second uniform handy for those times it doesn't get washed. They can be purchased during registration. Most kids keep deodorant in their locker as well, since they do not shower.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities:**

SPORTS: During 6<sup>th</sup> grade, boys and girls can join Cross Country and Golf – both Fall Sports. Golf has tryouts and limits the number of kids selected (due to green space/fees). Cross Country does not cut any kids, anyone can join and give it a try. It will start about a week before school starts in the fall and incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders are welcome to come out and get started with the group of returning students, but they are not required to do so. If your child is interested in doing that, the front office will have the permission slips and the dates handy. They can also help you contact the coach to get on the email list for info.

For 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders there are more options: Cross Country (coed), Track (coed), Basketball (separate teams by grade for both girls and boys), Volleyball (separate teams by grade for both girls and boys), and POMS and CHEER squads for girls.

Except for Cross Country and Track, all the sports have a Tryout process in place which can last several days, cutting students each day. Any student wanting to try out or join a sport must have a Sports Physical in place with the school for the current school year. **Students will be sent away from Tryouts if it is expired.** If the student has allergies or asthma, there are additional medical forms that are required.

MUSIC: South has Chorus, Concert Band, Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. Students can audition for these and audition music is available. More information is on the website, along with permission slips.

DRAMA: Every year, the school puts on one dramatic play in October and one Musical in the spring. Auditions are required. On the website there will be links for the Audition music and permission slips.

CLUBS: South has a long list of student clubs. Some of the more popular ones are Ski Club, Chess Club, Lego Club, Minecraft Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club, Jewelry Club and Ping Pong Club (8<sup>th</sup> grade only). On the website there is a listing of all clubs and a contact person for each. It is also attached to this document. New clubs can be added

anytime and students are encouraged to bring their ideas for a new club and can get approval from the Administration.

Also popular are the Chemistry Bee, Spelling Bee, Geography Bee and History Bee events. Many of these competitions start out at the school level and roll up to National Competitions. On the website, there is information on when the competitions begin as well as study links to prepare.

**Most Important thing to remember:** Relax! Your child is better prepared than you can imagine!

Please feel free to contact Terese Orlando or Donna Radlicz (PTA middle school liaisons) with any questions.

# **South Middle School**

## **Bell Schedule**

First Bell	7:45 AM		
Warning Bell	7:48 AM		
1st Period Homebase	7:50 AM	-	8:09 AM
2nd Period	8:13 AM	-	8:53 AM
3rd Period	8:57 AM	-	9:37 AM
4th Period	9:41 AM	-	10:21 AM
5th Period	10:25 AM	-	11:05 AM
6th Period	11:09 AM	-	11:49 AM
7th Period	11:53 AM	-	12:33 PM
8th Period	12:37 PM	-	1:17 PM
9th Period	1:21 PM	-	2:01 PM
10th Period	2:05 PM	-	2:45 PM



# MIDDLE SCHOOL MENU

**LUNCH PRICES:** ■ \$2.65 ■ \$3.00 ■ \$3.30 | A la carte milk - \$0.50

			MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY			
WEEK 1				<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Hot Dog Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Cheeseburger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Mashed Potato <b>YOUR WAY</b> Deli <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Quesadilla <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Rib BQ Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Mashed Potato <b>YOUR WAY</b> Deli <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Pancakes Chili w/Pretzel Big Daddy Sicilian <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Meatball Sub Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Mashed Potato <b>YOUR WAY</b> Deli <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Baked Cheesy Mostaccioli Gilardi Pizza Chili Mac <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Corn Dog Veggie Burger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Mashed Potato <b>YOUR WAY</b> Deli <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Popcorn Chicken Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Cheeseburger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Mashed Potato <b>YOUR WAY</b> Deli <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Yogurt Lunch		
	WEEK 2				<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Chicken Nuggets Wings of Fire Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Cheeseburger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Pasta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Smoothie <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Domino's Nacho Grande <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Rib BQ Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Pasta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Smoothie <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Galaxy Round <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Corn Dog Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Pasta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Smoothie <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Cheeseburger Veggie Burger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Pasta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Smoothie <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Bosco Sticks <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Doubles Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Pasta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Smoothie <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	
		WEEK 3				<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Orange Chicken Rice Bowl Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Cheeseburger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Fiesta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Carver <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Garlic French Bread w/Melted Cheese <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Rib BQ Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Fiesta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Carver <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Chicken Tenders Gilardi Pizza <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Chicken Burger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Fiesta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Carver <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> Spaghetti w/Meat Sauce Big Daddy <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Veggie Burger Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Fiesta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Carver <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch	<b>EVERYDAY GOOD</b> French Toast Sticks Quesadilla <b>ON THE SLIDE</b> Doubles Chicken Breast Spicy Chicken Breast <b>TOP IT</b> Fiesta <b>YOUR WAY</b> Carver <b>ZIP LINE</b> Chef Salad Deli Lunch Yogurt Lunch

## JANUARY

M	T	W	T	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30

## FEBRUARY

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27

## MARCH

M	T	W	T	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27
30	31			

## APRIL

M	T	W	T	F
		1	2	3
6	7	8	9	10
13	14	15	16	17
20	21	22	23	24
27	28	29	30	

## MAY

M	T	W	T	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18	19	20	21	22
25	26	27	28	29

## JUNE

M	T	W	T	F
1	2	3	4	★
8	9	10	11	12
15	16	17	18	19
22	23	24	25	26
29	30			

## **South Middle School Club Opportunities**

### **2014-15**

<b><u>Club</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>
Bowling	Jeff Busse
Chemistry Bee	Shaun Marusek
Chess	Greg Schultz
Chirp Newspaper	Julie Deramos & Colleen Pragalz
Golf	Phil O'Grady
History Bee	Liz Rosin
Knowledge Master	Kim Dyer
Lego	Jeff Busse
Ping Pong	Greg Lendy & Jim Zimmerman
Rocket	Jay Bingaman
Scratch	Denise Murphy
Ski/Snowboard	Ashley Perri
Spanish	Rose Middleton & Colleen Pragalz
Mindcraft	Liz Rosin & Jen Smith
Board Game	Jennifer Kopecky
Geography Bee	Liz Ruggles
MAD Cardinals	Ellen Wano & Jen Smith
CARDS on The Run	Ellen Wano & Jen Smith
Ultimate Frisbee	Jeff Busse & Rossana Woldman
Jewelry Club	Kirsten Calderone & Nicole Bielawa
Art	Mike Gnutek
Camp Totsuwa	Carrie Baughum & Jen Smith
South TV Production	Dan Mowery
Spelling Bee	Jennifer Kopecky

Contact information: The sponsors first initial, last name @sd25.org Example: jbusse@sd25.org