

## Are programs available for students with special needs?

Programs are available for special populations. These include Vocational Rehabilitation (VR), Intervention Services, Gifted Programs, and more.

## What standardized tests are required?

Standardized tests are given in grades six, seven, and eight. The Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCTs) are state-mandated tests in reading, language arts, math, science and social studies. Some schools offer End of Course Tests (EOCT) for accelerated middle school students completing certain courses required for high school graduation.

## Do students have to take a Foreign Language?

Students do not have to take a foreign language while in middle school. However, students planning on attending a University System of Georgia college/university must take 2 units of the same foreign language before graduating from high school.

## Do all middle school classes count towards high school graduation?

Middle school classes provide the foundation for high school and graduation. Some middle school classes may count directly towards high school graduation. These include foreign language classes, accelerated math, and science classes.



## Do students have to participate in a school-wide fundraiser?

No, students do not have to participate in school-wide fundraisers. In addition, some schools provide the option of making a monetary contribution to the school instead of fundraising.

## Do parents have to join the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)?

PTO membership and participation is voluntary. It is a parent's decision, but joining, paying dues, and helping does benefit the school.

## How much does lunch cost?

Lunch costs vary by school district. Prices range from \$1.50-\$2.00. Some items are priced separately. Free and reduced priced lunches are available for eligible students.

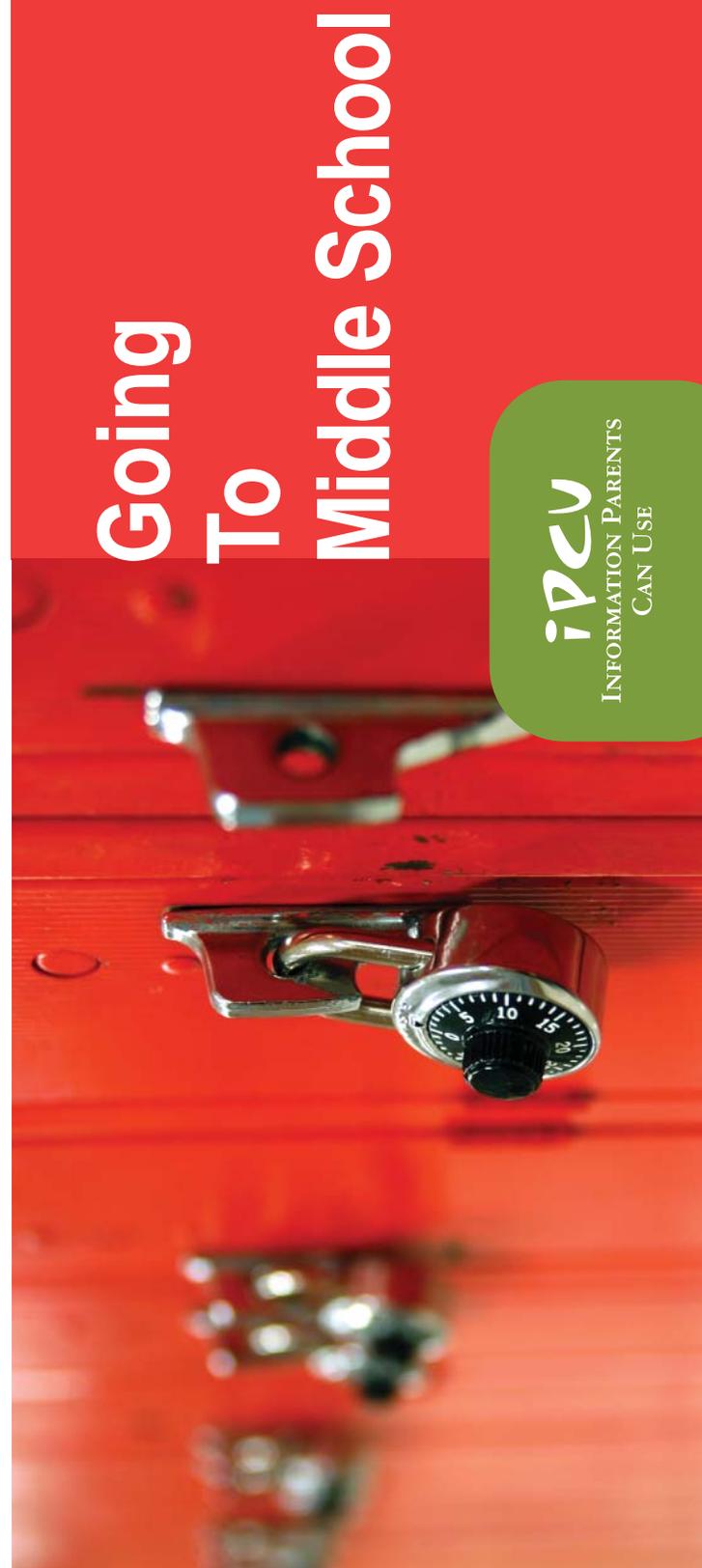
*Contact a counselor at your school to receive more information and to discuss your options. The material contained in this pamphlet is current as of January 2013. For the most current information visit our web site: [www.gcic.peachnet.edu](http://www.gcic.peachnet.edu)*

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# Going To Middle School

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INFORMATION PARENTS  
CAN USE



## Information Parents Provide to Middle Schools

As the parent of a middle school student, you should be prepared to provide the school with certain documents. These documents are required by the state. In many cases, your student's elementary school will have these materials and will process them for you.

- Birth certificate
- Certification of ear, eye & dental examinations
- Certification of immunization
- Proof of residency
- Registration forms
- Social security card
- Transcript & testing information

## Information Middle Schools Provide to Parents

Middle schools provide information in a variety of ways. Materials will be sent home with your student or emailed. These will include local school and district policies, as well as calendars and sporting events schedules. Information about current events will be posted on school signs and store bulletin boards. Many middle schools maintain web sites and homework hotlines.

- Absentee Policies
- Behavior Policies
- Dress Code
- Fundraising Information
- Grading Scale Information
- Graduation Requirements
- Holiday and Vacation Policy Information
- Information about Competitions
- School Calendar

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Do middle schools have a dress code?

All schools have a dress code. Generally, these policies are to ensure that the focus of the day is on learning. Shoes and age-appropriate clothing are required.

### Will my student have a locker?

Most middle schools have lockers. Lockers are assigned by school personnel. Sometimes lockers are assigned by homeroom. In other schools, lockers are designated by class year or alphabetically.

### May I sign up my student for classes with friends?

School administrators, teachers, and counselors decide which students are in each class.

### Are there field trips in middle school?

Many middle schools provide field trips for students. Trips are related to academic, technology/ career, or elective classes. Sporting events, competitions, performances, and club outings may also provide trip opportunities.

### Are school clubs and sports available?

Clubs and sports are available for middle school students. However, some middle schools do not allow students to participate in sports until 7th grade.

### Will parents still attend parent teacher conferences?

Yes, parents will be given the option to have parent teacher conferences in the fall and spring at most schools.

### If my child is bullied, what should I do?

If your student is bullied, contact your school guidance counselor or school administrator for help.

### Are students allowed to have cell phones at school?

Many middle schools do allow cell phones on the school grounds. However, most policies state that phones must be turned off and stored away in a book bag during school hours.

### What is a typical schedule?

Middle schools have several kinds of schedules. Some have block schedules with 4 70-minute classes each day plus lunch, homeroom, and Connections classes. Other schools have 6 50-minute classes each day plus lunch, homeroom and Connections classes.

### Do students have to take final exams?

A final exam is part of the workload for the term. Some final exams are cumulative and some are not.

