

Welcome to 8th Grade!

Today may bring you a mix of emotions. Whether you are preparing to bring your first child to school or your last (or somewhere in between!), this day is a big day. You may be feeling anxiety, relief, excitement, or a mix of all three!

We want you to know that we understand what a moment this is. Our school believes that your child will spend the next several months here discovering so much about themselves and the world around them. We also believe that we can impact the future of a child by providing the best possible educational experience, including teaching social-emotional skills and promoting good character through our partnership with Core Essential Values®.

Using this curriculum, we will teach ten values this school year, one per month, all of which focus on our **Big 3**:

Treat others right • Make smart decisions • Maximize your potential

You'll get info each month about what we're teaching, because we hope you'll join us in lifting up these Big Ideas (value words) at home as well.

2022-2023 Big Ideas

August-Honor: Letting someone know you see how valuable they really are

September-Trust: Putting your confidence in someone you can depend on

October-Grit: Refusing to give up when life gets hard

November-Courage: Being brave enough to do what you should do, even when you're afraid

December-Joy: Finding a way to be happy, even when things don't go your way

January-Knowledge: Learning something new so you can be better at whatever you do

February-Respect: Showing others they are important what you say and do

March-Forgiveness: Deciding that someone who has wronged you doesn't have to pay

April-Humility: Putting others first by giving up what you think you deserve

May-Determination: Deciding it's worth it to finish what you started

It's Just a **Phase**... *Don't Miss It!*

In 10 short months you'll be emptying a backpack full of broken pencils, crumpled writing assignments, and science worksheets. After that, your child will be a ninth grader and you'll never know them as an eighth grader again! So we want to encourage you to embrace this phase and don't miss it.

Here's some research compiled by our Phase Project ® about eighth graders:

Eighth Graders...

- ...display an increasingly adult-like personality.
- ...are able to see two sides of an argument.
- ...enjoy forming and sharing their opinions.
- ...are growing in their ability to organize.
- ...are interested in pop culture and slang, current events, and politics. ... value non-parental adult influences.
- ...benefit from talking about what they are feeling and why.
- ...place a significant emphasis on peer opinions.
- ...are more concerned with personal appearances than personal environment (the state of their locker or bedroom).
- ...still need 9-11 hours of sleep per night.
- ...enjoy sarcasm and sophisticated jokes.
- ...are often interested in leadership roles and teaching younger children.