



**HIGHTOWER TRAIL  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**

# Welcome Parents



## Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- PTSA Introductions
- Foundation Introductions
- Dr. Polk, Mr. Gray & Ms. Salzman
- Questions & Answers



# Hightower Trail Middle School

**P**

Parent



**T**

Teacher



**S**

Student



**A**

Association



# Hightower Trail Middle School PTSA

**J**

**O**

**I**

**N**

## 2023-24 OFFICERS

CO-PRESIDENT: Kendall Willard  
CO-PRESIDENT: Sara Meyers  
CO-VP: Courtney Driscoll  
CO-VP: Kristin Kletzel  
TREASURER: Kathy Dalen  
SECRETARY: Corinne Mitchell

Become a member at [htmsptsa.org](https://htmsptsa.org)!

- Family / Individual options
- School excuse pads
- Online directory
- Donations welcome!

Be a Volunteer!

Complete the Volunteer Interest Form at [htmsptsa.org](https://htmsptsa.org)



## Additional HTMS PTSA Items

**Buy Spirit  
Wear**

Get your rising 6th grader ready for school with HTMS spirit wear.

Purchase in front lobby, or order online and porch pickup.

**Join School  
Loyalty  
Programs**

Shopping through Kroger, and Publix can help HTMS PTSA.

For details on how to sign up, visit [htmsptsa.org/Loyalty](https://htmsptsa.org/Loyalty)

**Join Our  
FB Groups**

Hightower Trail Middle School PTSA

HTMS Rising 6th Graders (Pope High School Class of 2031)

**Reserve  
Digital  
Birthday  
Messages**

Celebrate your child's birthday on our digital sign at the front of HTMS.

Available any day between Aug 15 through last day of school.

Order at [htmsptsa.org](https://htmsptsa.org)





A promotional graphic for Hightower Trail Middle School. The background is dark blue with a radial pattern of lighter blue lines. At the top, the text "HOME OF A FUTURE" is written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline. Two white megaphones are positioned on either side of the text. Below this, "HIGHTOWER TRAIL" is written in large, bold, white letters with a blue outline, and "MIDDLE SCHOOL" is written in smaller, white, spaced-out letters below it. At the bottom, "2024" and "HUSKY!" are written in large, bold, blue letters with a white outline.







# Husky Foundation

- 501c3 nonprofit volunteer organization
- Provide “extras” that enhance the HTMS experience

Request \$125/child donation



President, Melissa Amerault

Secretary, Sarah Chaloupek

Treasurer, Maggie Thompson

Webmaster, Alison Sung

VP-Fundraising, Wendy Cocks

VP-Communications, Kathy Ruiz

PTA Liaison, Laura Rhodes

Events Coordinator

PIT Coordinator

Social Media, Julie Ketner

# Foundation Impact: 2022-2023

## Investments

- **Software** (\$26,000)
- **Theater Curtain** (\$20,000)
- **PLTW Computers** (\$8000)
- **Academic Enrichment** (\$8000)
- **Vex Robotics and Classroom Calculators** (\$9000)

**\$71,595**

## Funding

**\$57,003**

- **Donations** (\$51,000)
  - 33% of families
  - 100% of teachers
- **Clubs\*** (\$5,500)
  - Drama Club
  - Robotics Club
  - Chess Club
  - Coder School
- **Plant Sale** (\$200)



# Foundation Impact: 2023-2024

## Investments

- Software (\$20,000)
- Academic Habits (\$7,000)
- Reality U (\$2000)

**Donation Goal:**

- 50% of families
- 100% of teachers

## Fundraising

- Donations (\$40,000)
- Clubs (\$16,000)
- Partners in Tech (\$3,700)
- Matching Gifts (\$2,000)
- Plant Sale (March)



# Nuts and Bolts



**School Hours  
9:10 - 4:15**

**Travel to  
Different  
Classes**

**Attend 7  
Classes**

**No Recess**

# Middle School Classes

## Academic Classes (5)

Math

Science

Social Studies

Language Arts

Reading

Total of 7  
Classes Daily

All Classes  
Meet Daily



## Connection Classes (2)

Band, Orchestra, or Chorus

Health & Physical Education

Academic Connections

Engineering & Technology

Art

*Band, Orchestra & Chorus year long courses*

# SAMPLE SCHEDULE

<b>Homeroom</b>	<b>8:45 - 9:15</b>
<b>Math</b>	<b>9:15 - 10:05</b>
<b>Language Arts</b>	<b>10:10 - 11:00</b>
<b>Science</b>	<b>11:05 - 12:30</b>
<b>Social Studies</b>	<b>12:35 - 1:25</b>
<b>Reading</b>	<b>1:30 - 2:20</b>
<b>Connection 1</b>	<b>2:25 - 3:15</b>
<b>Connection 2</b>	<b>3:20 - 4:10</b>
<b>Dismissal</b>	<b>4:10 - 4:15</b>

7  
Classes

# Friday Extended Homeroom (Academic Opportunity)

- Every Friday
- Extended homeroom called AO
- Provides students with remediation or enrichment opportunities
- Based on individual needs
- Teachers invite students to attend various sessions during AO

# Core Course Placement

- All students are placed in CORE classes using our AC matrix.
- The AC matrix is posted on the HTMS website: (Menu<curricular<advanced content).
- Students with an Individualized Education Plan are placed according to their plan.



# Core Verification Sheets

Early May \* Rising 6th Grade Students \* Receive in Mail



The image shows a form titled "Hightower Trail Middle School Student Course Request Profile". It includes a logo with a red 'C' and a white 'G' on the left. The form is divided into sections: "General Information" and "Course Requests".

**General Information**

Student Name:	CCSD ID:	Gen: <b>M</b>
Periods to Schedule: to		

**Course Requests**

Course
Lang Arts 6 Q1 (23.8110008)
Math 6 Q1 (27.9210008)
Reading 6 Q1 (23.8140008)
Science 6 Q1 (40.9610008)
Social Studies 6 Q1 (45.9070008)

- List of your child's 5 CORE courses
- Based on the AC Matrix
- Parents can drop down out of an AC Course (Ex: student was recommended for AC Reading, but parents decide on-level Reading is the best option for their family)

# Core Verification Sheets

Early May \* Rising 6th Grade Students \* Receive in Mail



The form is titled "Hightower Trail Middle School Student Course Request Profile". It features a logo on the top left and a "General Information" section with fields for "Student Name", "CCSD ID", and "Gen:" (with "M" selected). Below this is a "Periods to Schedule" section with a "to" field. The "Course Requests" section contains a table with the following entries:

Course
Lang Arts 6 Q1 (23.8110008)
Math 6 Q1 (27.9210008)
Reading 6 Q1 (23.8140008)
Science 6 Q1 (40.9610008)
Social Studies 6 Q1 (45.9070008)

- Parents cannot request to bump UP to an AC course
- Our goal is to expose as many students as possible to AC courses before moving to High School
- By delivering the forms in May it allows our administrators spring/summer to answer questions before the 1st day of school

# Connections Course Placement

1st two weeks of school \* 6th Grade Students \* Rotate through all connections!

---

- Our 6th grade students begin the year ONLY enrolled in 5 CORE courses (1st - 5th periods)
- Throughout the 1st two weeks of school, they rotate through all our connections classes
- Primary purpose of deciding which (if any) music programs they wish to join (band, chorus, and/or orchestra)
- Although it is not a requirement, students are highly encouraged to join a music class in 6th grade (over 90% of our students do!)
- Students can join two music classes, but only one instrumental class (example: chorus/band or chorus/orchestra, NOT band/orchestra)
- Joining a music class will NOT interfere with being able to take our non-music connection classes (PE, Health, Project Lead the Way, and Art)

# Why ELA and Reading ?

Local School decision based on specific student need

## ELA

Grammar  
Writing

## READING

Reading  
Research  
Writing  
Stories, Novels,  
Poetry, etc.  
Vocabulary

# Benefits of Separate Reading Class:

---

- Vast majority of our 6th grade students already read on 8th grade (or higher!) reading level
- No need to push through 5+ novels during a school year just for the sake of doing it
- Instead? Focus on short stories, approximately 3 novels per year, and then provide students with the skills necessary to become better RESEARCHERS! (#1 skill lacking in 9th grade students when entering HS according to Pope, magnet schools, etc.)
- 2-3 research skills are taught each quarter:
  - Digital citizenship
  - In-text citations
  - How to find useful, helpful sources
  - Marking the text
  - Works cited

# Benefits of Separate Reading Class:

---

Focus on Informational Literacy... rather than just being a good reader.

Offering a separate reading class also allows us to help our struggling readers increase their actual reading and phonics skills necessary to be successful in all academic classes

Note: in 8th grade (due to World Language classes), ELA and reading ARE combined into 1 class (countywide)

# Speaking of Reading?

- No required summer reading in East Cobb cluster for middle school students
- Beanstack challenge (with prizes!) will be offered for interested students/families
- Additionally, no required “summer math packet”
- CCSD will send out “summer math opportunities” via CTLS later this spring

# No Lockers



- Increased instructional time due to shorter class changes
- Increased lunch time (break time, social time) due to shorter class changes
- Dramatically lower discipline numbers coming from hallway incidents
- Increased classroom grades since students always have their belongings



# Additional Tips

---

## Homework

- \*An hour a night
- \*Homework is included in academic average
- \*Students receive a planner to record assignments

## Report Cards

- \*Four 9-week grading periods
- \*ParentVue to view report cards
- \*Academic Alert Letter
- \*Conference week in October with one teacher

## CTLs

Single Sign-in for classwork, assignments and announcements

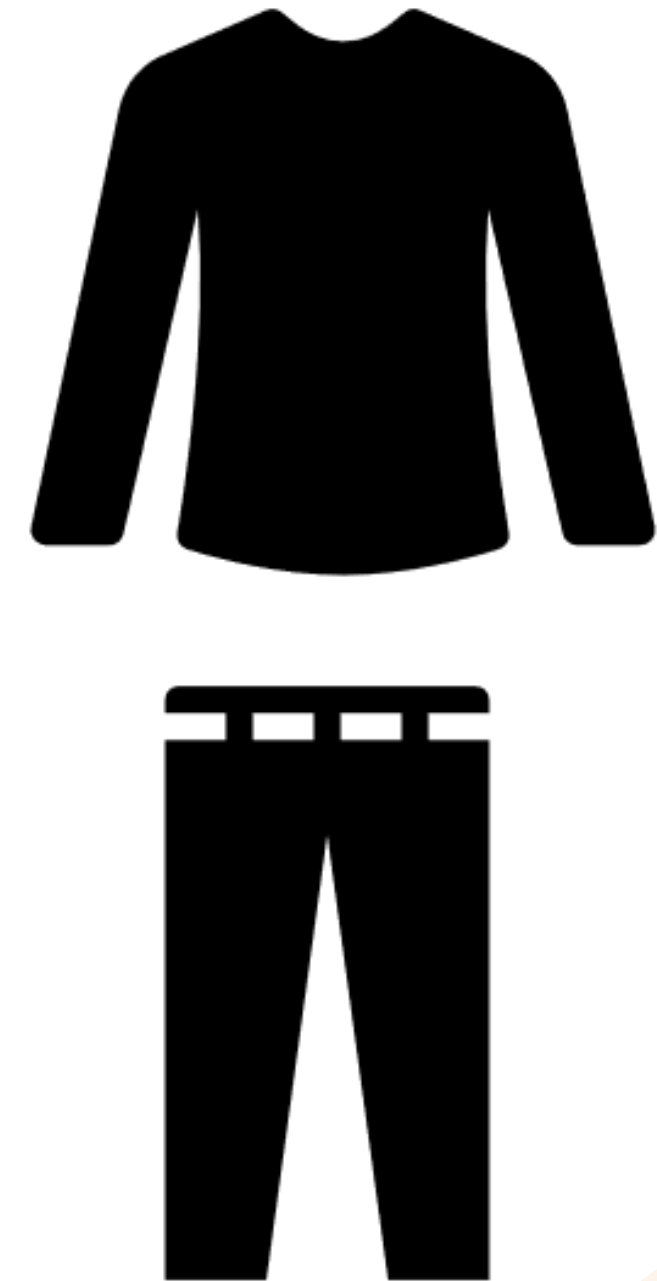
Communication is KEY!



# Dress Code

- Suggested length for shorts, skirts, and dresses is mid-thigh
- No spaghetti straps, midriff shirts, crop tops, or pajamas
- No holes in pants, shorts, or skirts above mid-thigh
- No bandanas, hats, or sunglasses

*All students are expected to dress in a manner which demonstrates respect for the learning environment*



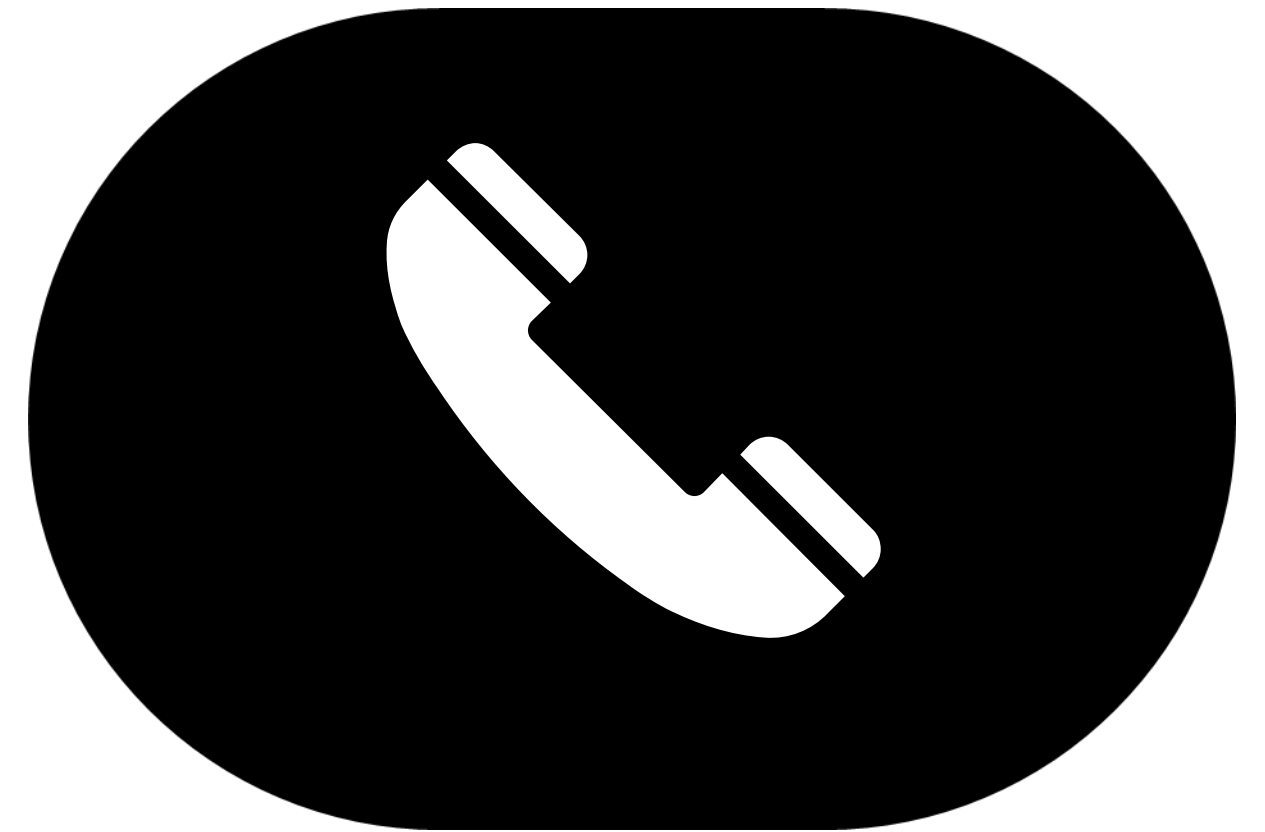
# Cafeteria

- **Breakfast is available**
- **Additional items are available, but not monitored**
- **Students are supervised by a teacher during lunch**
- **Extended lunch 35 minutes; sits with class**
- **Eating with your student & outside food**



# Cell Phones

- **Students cannot use cellular phones during the school day**
- **Phones are available in the front office**
- **Student cannot use laptops without teacher permission**
- **If in violation, phones and/or laptops will be taken to front office for parents to pick up. (Note: texting home about not feeling well)**



# Clinic

- **At the start of the year all students will complete a clinic form with contacts**
- **No beds in clinic**
- **Students can carry over the counter medication with proper form**
- **Be aware of growth changes**



# Take a Picture

- **Front Office Number**

**770-578-7225**

- **Clinic Number**

**770-578-7235**

- **Counseling Number**

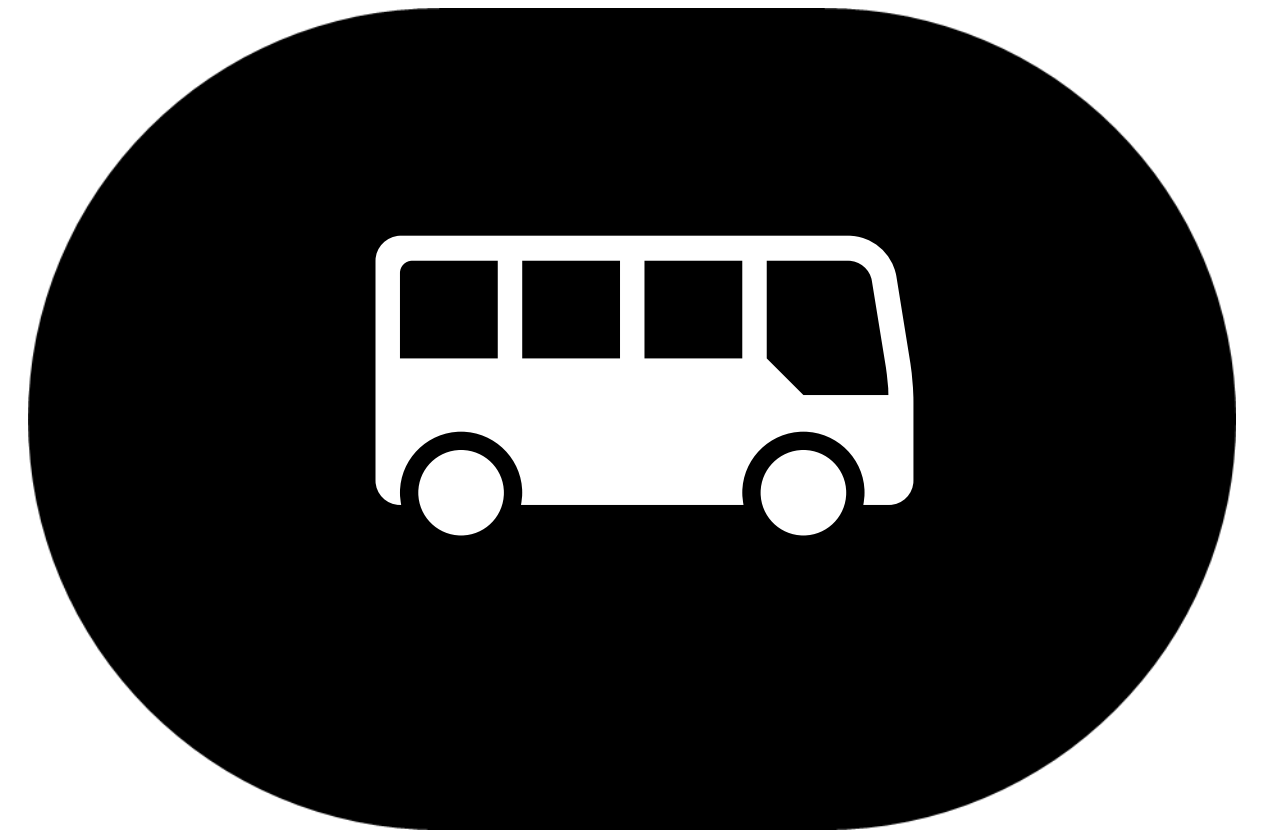
**770-578-7228**

Please Put Numbers in your Phone



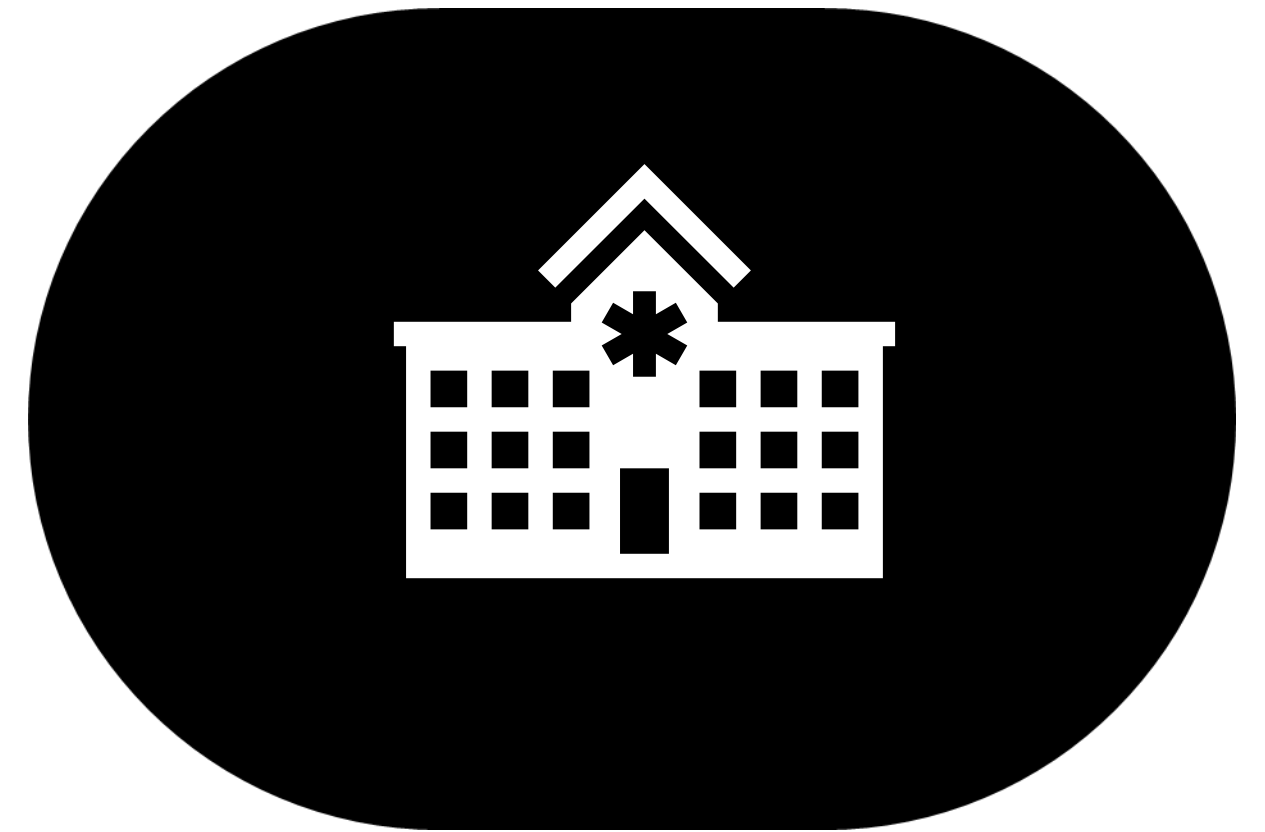
# Bus Routes

- **Bus routes posted before school begins**
- **Check the county website**
- **Have your child ride the bus the FIRST DAY of school so that they know their bus number and bus procedures.**



# Absences

- **Notes must be turned in within 3 days of returning to school.**
- **If your child is leaving early, have them bring the note to the front office before school.**
- **Students do not need to bring in a note for after-school transportation. Please communicate directly with your child (example – staying for a club, driving home with a friend, etc.).**





# Questions?

