



# St. Ambrose School

## Middle School Guide

<b>Middle School Staff</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Academic Lab</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>The House System</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Houses at St. Ambrose</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>House Shirts</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>House Sheets and Points</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>House-wide Competitions and Olympics</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Personal Responsibility Assignments</b>	<b>4</b>
Lockers	4
Personal Space and Cleanliness	4
Respectful of Common Space	4
<b>Self-Advocacy</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>How to Self-Advocate</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Communication</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Homework/Where to find Assignments and Upcoming Tests</b>	<b>5</b>
Absences	6
<b>Uniform Policy</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Confirmation</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Student Council and Safety Patrol</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Funerals</b>	<b>6</b>

## Middle School Staff

Emails can be found in FACTS

- Mrs. Debbie Hilderbrand - religion & technology
- Mrs. Cathi DiBello - language arts
- Mrs. Tracey Lammert - math and science
- Mrs. Shaun Noonan - social studies and academic lab
- Ms. Beth Wagner - music
- Mrs. Kara Herrell - PE
- Ms. Ann Miklovic - art
- Mrs. Valentina Sieli - Italian
- Mrs. Lisa Horner - Assistant Principal and middle school learning consultant

## Academic Lab

Each middle school class has been assigned academic lab periods. During this lab period, students will work on topics such as organization, study skills, time management, and life skills.

## The House System

The House System is designed to be competitive, yet first camaraderie. It is used to create a supportive environment for our middle school students. Houses increase a sense of identity and belonging. It also provides leadership opportunities. Our middle school students gain positive attitudes about these three years at St. Ambrose and learn to cheer each other on.

## Houses at St. Ambrose

- Pio House - Padre Pio
  - Mrs. Debbie Hilderbrand
  - Color - Gold
  - Mascot/Symbol - Guardians
- Goretti House - St. Maria Goretti
  - Mrs. Tracey Lammert
  - Color- Red
  - Mascot/Symbol - Wolf
- Alphonsa House - St. Alphonsa of the Immaculate Conception
  - Mrs. Shaun Noonan
  - Color - Green
  - Mascot/Symbol - Tiger
- Kolbe House - St. Maximilian Kolbe
  - Mrs. Cathi DiBello
  - Color - Blue
  - Mascot/Symbol - Bear

## House Shirts

Shirts are ordered through Mrs. Hilderbrand from Maestro. She will let you know when shirts are ready for purchase at Maestro. Students wear their shirts to school on Wednesdays and for House competition days.

## House Sheets and Points

Each month students will perform various deeds in order to earn house points. These range from serving at Mass, cleaning lunch tables, participating in extracurricular activities, and various service opportunities in the school and parish. A student must earn at least 40 points in the month to participate in the house activity for the month.

## House-wide Competitions and Olympics

The students will participate in house-wide competitions once a month. The Houses take turns planning these events and last about two hours.

House Olympics is held in May before the eighth grade leaves. This takes the place of Field Day for middle school students.

## Personal Responsibility Assignments

Assignments will be posted on FACTS LMS and Google Classroom. Students are responsible for making sure assignments are completed and turned in on time. Students should check grade regularly.

## Lockers

In classrooms where they are available, lockers are assigned to students. It is their responsibility to keep it organized and locked.

## Personal Space and Cleanliness

Students are expected to dress and present an appearance consistent with standards of good taste and appropriate for school and school events. Students should use age-appropriate hygiene and grooming.

Hair must be neatly styled. No designer cuts, radical styles, tails, or artificial coloring of hair is acceptable. Boy's hair should be above the shirt collar, out of the eyes, and above the ears.

For out of uniform days, the following are not allowed:

- Spaghetti straps and strapless shirts and dresses are not allowed
- Bare midriffs are not allowed. No low cut tops
- Shorts may only be khaki uniform shorts.
- Pajama bottoms are not allowed
- Sagging pants and shorts are not allowed
- Shoes with heels higher than 1" are not allowed

## Respectful of Common Space

Students are expected to be respectful of all classrooms, bathrooms, cafeteria, gym, etc. Trash goes in the trash can. No more than three students are to be in the bathroom at a time.

Teachers will use a tag system to monitor this.

## Self-Advocacy

A big part of middle school is teaching students to self-advocate for themselves. Self-Advocacy is learning how to speak up for yourself, make your own decisions about your life, learn how to get information so that you understand and pursue things that are of interest to you. It is also learning who will support you in your journey, knowing your rights and responsibilities, problem-solving, listening and learning, and reaching out to others for help and support. Parents are the first teachers of their children. St. Ambrose School wants to work with parents to help students succeed, mature, and grow.

### How to Self-Advocate

- Identify a “go-to” adult in our building with whom you feel comfortable
- Evaluate what you need help with
- Find a helpful resource at school
- Talk with your teachers
- Check back in with your teachers frequently.

Always remember...

- If you feel you are being mistreated by anyone, go to someone you trust Immediately.
- There are other kids going through the same things, do not be afraid to express yourself.
- Be proud of who you are, ALWAYS.

## Communication

A middle school newsletter will come out to parents twice a month to keep them informed.

Assignments will be posted daily.

### Homework/Where to find Assignments and Upcoming Tests

Homework and assignments will be posted daily. Students have their own FACTS and Google log-ins and will be taught how to check each teacher’s LMS board and Google Classroom.

Homework should be turned in or shared on time, and must be legible. If assignments cannot be read or are in a state of disarray, middle school teachers will not accept them and the students will earn a late grade. See the family handbook regarding late work, missing work, and neatness. Students who have questions about assignments are expected to speak with the teacher directly.

If an assignment is not turned in by the second day, the teacher may enter a grade of 50%.

## Exams

Mid-term exams in core curricular subjects will be given in December and final exams in May. Students should hold on to graded tests and quizzes for each semester as they will be helpful for exam preparation.

## Absences

Please refer to the Family handbook for guidance on school absences. Teachers will post assignments on LMS and Google Classroom.

Students who miss school due to illness have as many days they are absent to complete and turn in work.

Time away for vacations or extra-curricular competition within the academic calendar is strongly discouraged. Teachers reserve the right to provide work before or after. Work will be posted.

Middle school students should check with each teacher before leaving town and create a plan for when work is due. Late points will be given for work not turned in by the arranged date. The responsibility is on the student to speak with the teachers.

## Uniform Policy

Reference the family handbook for our uniform policy.

## Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is received by our eighth grade class each year. Mrs. Hilderbrand prepares the students for the sacrament and sends out a packet at the beginning of the year with all the needed information.

## Student Council and Safety Patrol

Students who participate in Student Council and/or Safety Patrol have additional responsibilities. They are responsible for keeping up with their school work in addition to these responsibilities. Positions on these extra-curricular activities may be taken away if grades drop or if a student fails to show up for assigned duties on time.

## Funerals

Mrs. Gambaro always requires the students to get permission from their teachers before agreeing to serve at a funeral during class time. It is the student's responsibility to make sure any missed classroom is made up and turned in within 24 hours.