



Phoenix



5th into 6th Special Edition

Garden City, New York

Summer of 2017

INSIDE:

***Summer Reading List**

***Middle School Years**

***Information about your transition from 5th grade into 6th!!**

***Advice from Students at the Middle School**



Welcome to Garden City Middle School!



Dr. Osroff, Principal, of Garden City Middle School

Nothing is so contagious as enthusiasm; it moves stones, it charms brutes. Enthusiasm is the genius of sincerity, and truth accomplishes no victories without it. –Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Dear Students,

I love the start of school, the new beginning, the hope of accomplishments and victories still yet to be. This is the wonder, the vision, and the enthusiasm of our middle school; a place where students always have new beginnings. A school where EVERY student feels valued and respected—a nurturing school community where children explore new interests, support each other, recognize that we all have different “gifts” and that our differences are to be cherished.

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Middle School. We understand that while you likely have feelings of anticipation and excitement, you may be a little nervous about starting a new school. But, please know that you have no reason to be nervous—our school is truly a caring community where everyone works together to ensure that all of our students meet with success in a supportive learning environment.

You will have opportunities to learn in exciting classrooms, play sports, and participate in clubs and activities. You will have a wonderful three years here at the middle school. You will have warm and dedicated teachers who will make sure that you are successful!!

Please remember that my door is always open to speak should you ever have a concern or just to stop and say hello. I look forward to personally greeting you on the first day of school. So, remember to greet the start of school with the same enthusiasm that we feel in welcoming you!!

Best wishes,
Dr. Osroff



Assistant Principal: Mr. Marr

Dear Students,

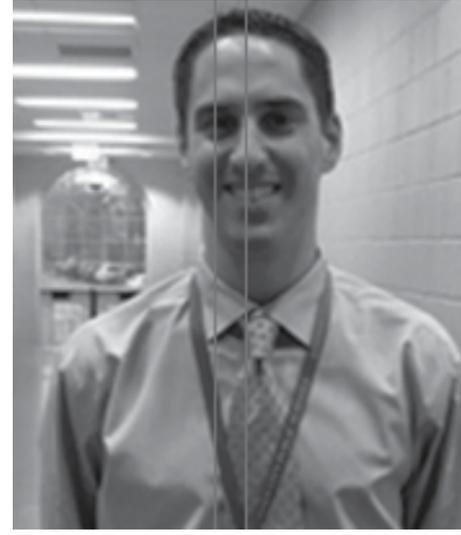
Welcome to the middle school! I hope you are excited to begin your journey into young adulthood.

I know you will thoroughly enjoy your time here. Middle school is more than academics, it is time to experience new things and make new friends.

If you ever need help with anything, always remember, each and every adult in the building is here to help you; do not hesitate to ask!

Sincerely,

Mr. Marr



Assistant Principal: Dr. Fasano

Dear 6th Graders,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer and looking forward to starting your Middle School experience. Here at the Middle School you will have the opportunity to get involved in various clubs, intramurals, and activities that will help you to become a well-rounded individual. We strive to assist you in becoming a person with strong positive character, that does the right thing regardless of who is watching.

We look forward to meeting you in September, and seeing how you positively contribute to our school community.

Sincerely,

Dr. Fasano



Mrs. Weiner
6th Grade Guidance Counselor

Dear Students,

I welcome you to our Garden City Middle School family! Middle School is an exciting time and I look forward to taking that journey with you as your Guidance Counselor. We will be together during your entire middle school experience and we will get to know each other very well. The Guidance Office is the heart of the school and a very friendly place! Have a great summer and see you in September!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Weiner

ABC Expo

Every spring, the Anti Bullying Club puts on an exposition that lasts for two days. The whole school is involved in some way. Students get to go to the expo and participate in games, letter writing, and having fun. They also learn something about anti-bullying!



Attention, future 6th Graders...
May I suggest joining
 Phoenix Newspaper
We meet every Thursday morning.
Thurs. 7:45-8:15

Morning activities and Afternoon activities

By: Carrie McElroy

There are many morning and afternoon activities (please note that the names, dates, and times of these clubs and activities are subject to change):

Mondays- Student store, Intramurals- Fitness/ Wellness, Intramurals-pm dance- all grades, Anti- bullying Club [ABC]/ and Anti-Bias Club [alternating weeks], Intramurals-Weight Training-All Grades, Herodotus Society, Electronic Music Club

Tuesdays- Stock Market Club, Science Research Club, Technology Robotic Club, Morning Jazz Band, Intramurals- Floor Hockey, Intramurals- Fitness/ Wellness, Math Olympiads [schedule TBA], Art Club [every other Tues.], Environmental Science Club, Mathletes, Recreation Connections Club, Intramurals- Weight Training- All Grades

Wednesday- Spearhead Yearbook [2nd & 4th Wed], Student Store, Science Research Club, Math Research Club, Festival Chorus, Intramurals- Team Handball, Intramurals- PM Dance, Intramurals- Weight Training, Technology Club

Thursday- Best Buddies [2 Thurs. per month], Phoenix Newspaper, Student Store, Science Research Club, Nat. Jr. Honor Soc [begins 2nd Quarter], Intramurals- Floor Hockey, Intramurals-Team Handball, Intramurals- Weight Training, Late Night Jazz Ensemble, Dead Poets Society Literary Magazine

Friday – Math Research Club, Student Store, Science Research Club, German Club [2nd & 4th Fri.], Student Council: [6th Grade Council[every other Fri.], [7th Grade Council[every other Fri.], [8th Grade Council[every other Fri.],

Tips To Succeed In GCMS

Kennedy Wilgosz

Transferring to a new school, especially a middle school, isn't easy! Follow these quick tips along with some pointers to help gain success in the middle school. ENJOY!

1. Make new friends

Most kids like to stick with friends they had from Stewart or Stratford, but keep in mind it's a great thing to meet people you don't know. Of course you can still keep your old friends, but try sitting at a new lunch table, or try talking with other kids in the hallway. Who knows, they may become one of the truest friends you'll ever have. (P.S if you feel uncomfortable doing anything, just excuse yourself.)

2. Know your way around.

By now, you must have heard at least a million times that the middle school is huge, you'll get lost, your classes are everywhere, and you will have to travel through the mountainous regions of the wilderness to get somewhere. This is not true at all, but to prepare yourself, memorize your schedule. Another thing to do is pare your schedule up with friends who have classes the same period as you that way you can walk together. Keep in mind ALL of your core classes such as; ELA,SS,MATH,etc. will all be close to each other and your teachers know very well you are adjusting to a new surrounding, so don't stress yourself out.

3. Know what IS and ISN'T allowed

Here are some basic no-no's for most teachers;

Spinners
Fidget Toys
Candy
Gum
Toys
Lollipops (a fundraiser product in March 2018)

Being caught with these items or even something more serious could get you into trouble. While some teachers will allow some candies or toys, It's best to err on the side of caution and ask your teacher before to bring-in any toys.

A Letter to Future 6th Graders

By: Carly Codignotto

Dear Future 6th Graders,

Some might say middle school is scary, but it's not. Middle school is actually really fun. In fact, I think it is better than elementary school. In the middle school, you have locks on your lockers, and if you went to Stewart School, you get a locker for the first time. Also, you get to have a gym locker and change clothes, which is really cool. The best thing about middle school is you get to change classes for nine periods a day. Additionally, when you are in 7th grade, you get to join the many sports teams that are available at the Garden City Middle School. Furthermore, many sixth graders think the middle school will be challenging and overwhelming, but don't worry, it's not. All the teachers at GCMS are really nice and will help you if you ever have an issue or problem. All you have to do is ask the teachers for help. Additionally, if you aren't getting the material you are working on in class you can go to extra help. Extra help is scheduled either before school or after school to give a period of time for kids to come and ask any questions they might have. I hope all the future 6th graders have a really great time at the Garden City Middle School!

Welcome to the Garden City Middle School

By: Matthew Fiore

Dear Future Sixth Graders,

You are probably nervous about going to the Middle School, but it isn't that bad. During the first few days of school, teachers give you time to get to your classes and don't mark you late. Also, on the first day of school, your first period teacher gives you a locker that is near your core classes (Social Studies, Science, Math, and ELA) and your second period teacher gives you a tour of the school.

"OHHHHH NOOOOO!" "I am lost in the middle of the school, and I'm late for class!" You shouldn't think that will happen because it won't. If you come in to the school the week before it opens to tour it, you will most likely be fine because you'll know where all of your classes are.

When you get to about the third week in school, don't be late for your classes. Your teachers will mark you late which affects your grade. When you have an elective (Gym, Health, Art, Music, Home and Careers, Technology, World Language, and Study Skills) across the school, you should (not to scare you) walk quickly to your classes so you are on time. Some teachers care if you're late, and others don't, but you should always get there on time.

Don't worry about the middle school because I know you will like it. It might seem scary now, but it won't when you get there.



Photos:Mr. Tullo



CrossFit Intramural

By: Joeseeph Beresweill and Paul Ostapow

Do you want to get more physically fit? Do you want an extra challenge? Do you want a better mental and physical state of mind? If so, come to Mr. Tullo's morning club, CrossFit. It is an intramural program open to all students in grades 6-8. It takes place on Friday mornings at the moment, but will expand to include another day after the New Year. Each week, twenty-five to thirty kids attend the club. It isn't competitive, although they sometimes do group workouts. It is a personal challenge, and no one is rated upon their skill level. Each week, the class and Mr. Tullo start off with a warm-up, and then work on a new skill. It is fun and challenging for anybody (boy or girl) who takes part in it. The main goal of this program is to help students understand the overall importance of lifelong fitness. Look for the added morning class starting in January; it's a good way to start off the New Year! A new addition for next year is a physical education class, Advanced Physical Education, that 8th graders will have the option to choose in place of the regular physical education class for the 2015-16 school year. During Advanced Physical Education, students will participate in different activities such as movements in weightlifting, plyometrics, and body weight exercises. Students will climb, lift, and jump their way into fitness! The class will utilize the gym or fitness center, and work on a different skill than the regular physical education class. You can choose this class when filling out the forms for next year's schedule

Garden City Middle School: Summer Reading List 2017 for Incoming Sixth Grade

Directions: Choose one of the following novels to read over the summer vacation. Complete the attached graphic organizer as you read. Be prepared to take an essay test on the novel in your 6th grade English Language Arts class in September (you will have a chance to ask questions when you return to school in the fall). You must also bring the completed organizer to class in September.

***Absolutely Normal Chaos* by Sharon Creech**

Mary Lou Finney is less than excited about her assignment to keep a journal over the summer. Boring! Then cousin Carl Ray comes to stay with her family, and what starts out as the dull dog days of summer quickly turns into the wildest roller-coaster ride of all time. How was Mary Lou supposed to know what would happen with Carl Ray and the ring? Or with her boy-crazy best friend Beth Ann? Or with (sigh) the permanently pink Alex Cheevey? Suddenly a boring school project becomes a record of the most exciting, incredible, unbelievable summer of Mary Lou's life.

***Bloomability* by Sharon Creech**

Thirteen-year-old Domenica Santolina Doone, better known as Dinnie, is accustomed to change. Her family is constantly moving from town to town as her father searches for "opportunity." But when her aunt and uncle whisk her away to an international school in Switzerland, she's not sure she's ready to face this "opportunity" alone.

***Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah**

A Chinese proverb says, "Falling leaves return to their roots." In Chinese Cinderella, Adeline Yen Mah returns to her roots to tell the story of her painful childhood and her ultimate triumph and courage in the face of despair. Adeline's affluent, powerful family considers her bad luck after her mother dies giving birth to her. Life does not get any easier when her father remarries. She and her siblings are subjected to the disdain of her stepmother, while her stepbrother and stepsister are spoiled. Although Adeline wins prizes at school, they are not enough to compensate for what she really yearns for -- the love and understanding of her family.

***Call of the Wild* by Jack London**

The Call of the Wild is a novel by Jack London published in 1903. The story is set in the Yukon during the 1890s Klondike Gold Rush—a period when strong sled dogs were in high demand. The novel's central character is a dog named Buck, a domesticated dog living at a ranch in the Santa Clara Valley of California as the story opens. Stolen from his home and sold into the brutal existence of an Alaskan sled dog, he reverts to atavistic traits. Buck is forced to adjust to, and survive, cruel treatments and fight to dominate other dogs in a harsh climate.

***Dragonwings* by Laurence Yep**

In this Newbery Honor Book, Moon Shadow is eight years old when he sails from China to join his father, Windrider, in America. Windrider lives in San Francisco and makes his living doing laundry. Father and son have never met. But Moon Shadow grows to love and respect his father and to believe in his wonderful dream. Windrider, with Moon Shadow's help, is willing to endure the mockery of the other Chinese, the poverty, the separation from his wife and country, even the great earthquake, to make his dream come true. Inspired by the account of a Chinese immigrant who made a flying machine in 1909, Laurence Yep's historical novel beautifully portrays the rich traditions of the Chinese community as it made its way in a hostile new world.

***Heat* by Mike Lupica**

Michael Arroyo grows up in the shadows of hallowed Yankee Stadium, a boy forever on the outside looking in. He realizes that he will have his only chance to see his field of dreams, pitch his Bronx all-star team to the district finals, and take a shot at the Little League World Series. But there is a problem. Michael is good-too good. Rival coaches and players can't believe a boy could be this good and be only 12 years old, and Michael has no way to prove it—no mother, no father, and a birth certificate that is stuck at home in his native Cuba.



Jake Cullen is a freshman quarterback playing high school football in Texas, the high-pressure land of Friday Night Lights. He is also the brother of Wyatt Cullen, who quarterbacked his team to the Texas State Championship last season—not to mention the son of former NFL quarterback and local legend, Troy Cullen. To be a Cullen in Texas is to be football royalty . . . which leaves 14-year-old Jake in a Texas-sized shadow. Being a good teammate comes naturally to Jake; being a winner and a celebrity does not. Jake may be a Cullen, and he may play quarterback, but he is not his brother or his father. Inspired by the real-life Manning family of quarterbacks and set amid the football-crazy culture of Texas, QB 1 is a coming-of-age story perfect for the fan of Million Dollar Throw and Heat.

***House of Robots* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein**

Sammy Hayes-Rodriguez and his "bro-bot" E are making new friends every day as E works as his bedridden sister Maddie's school proxy. But disaster strikes when E malfunctions just in time to be upstaged by the super-cool new robot on the block—and loses his ability to help Maddie. Now it's up to Sammy to figure out what's wrong with E and save his family!

***I Funny: A Middle School Story* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein**

Jamie Grimm is a middle schooler on a mission: he wants to become the world's greatest stand-up comedian—even if he doesn't have a lot to laugh about these days. He's new in town and stuck living with his aunt, uncle, and their evil son Stevie, a bully who doesn't let Jamie's wheelchair stop him from messing with Jamie as much as possible. But Jamie doesn't let his situation get him down. When his Uncle Frankie mentions a contest called "The Planet's Funniest Kid Comic," Jamie knows he has to enter.

***The War That Saved My Life* by Kimberly Brubaker Bradley**

Parents need to know that The War That Saved My Life, which was named a 2016 Newbery Honor book, is a standout coming-of-age story set in the English countryside during World War II. Wartime brings new, scary things into the characters' lives, from bomb shelters and destroyed homes to the plane crashes that kill the pilots at the nearby air base. Far more troubling, especially to sensitive readers, is the character of Ada and Jamie's abusive mother, who regularly smacks the kids around and has kept Ada, born with a clubfoot, locked up in one room her whole life -- and who hangs ominously in the background when the kids land in the country, where they experience care and kindness for the first time in their lives. Kids and adults will cheer for Ada as she discovers she has value and learns to stand up for herself -- but will her mother take the kids back and destroy it all? There's lots of historical detail about World War II in England, from the evacuation of kids to the countryside to details about British military planes.

***Treasure Hunters: Secret of the Forbidden City* by James Patterson and Chris Grabenstein**

The Kidd siblings have grown up diving down to shipwrecks and traveling the world, helping their famous parents recover everything from swords to gold doubloons from the bottom of the ocean. But after their parents mysteriously disappear, the kids are suddenly thrust into the biggest treasure hunt of their lives. They'll have to work together to defeat dangerous pirates and dodge the hot pursuit by an evil treasure hunting rival, all while following cryptic clues to unravel the mystery of what really happened to their parents—and find out if they're still alive.

***Percy Jackson's Heroes of Olympus* by Rick Riordan**

This set of books brings together the first three volumes in the wildly popular Heroes of Olympus series: The Lost Hero, The Son of Neptune, and The Mark of Athena. Longtime fans will want this collection and so will new readers just diving into the series. Students may select any one title within the set; or, they may read them all if they like.

Phoenix Staff

Editor-in-Chief-Matthew Fiore

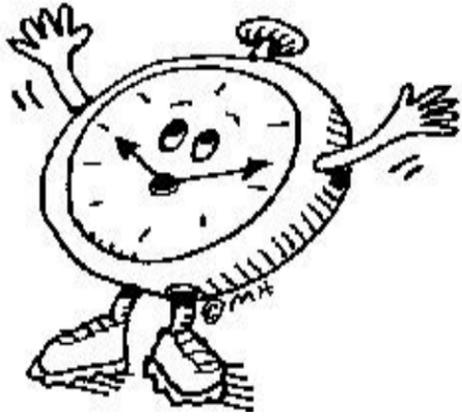
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Opinions expressed are the writers' and do not represent the opinions of the school board, the advisor, or the administration.



Practice Schedule

A typical sixth grade schedule may look like this:

Before School Time: (Earlier as well) 7:35-8:17

Per. 1: Core Class Time: 8:29-9:12

Per. 2: Core Class Time: 9:15-9:56

Per. 3: Elective Time: 9:59-10:40

Per. 4: Lunch/Home-Base Time: 10:43-11:28

Per. 5: Core Class Time: 11:31-12:16

Per. 6: Elective: Time: 12:19-1:04

Per. 7: Elective: Time: 1:07-1:48

Per. 8-9: ELA: 1:51-3:17 (Then — After School)

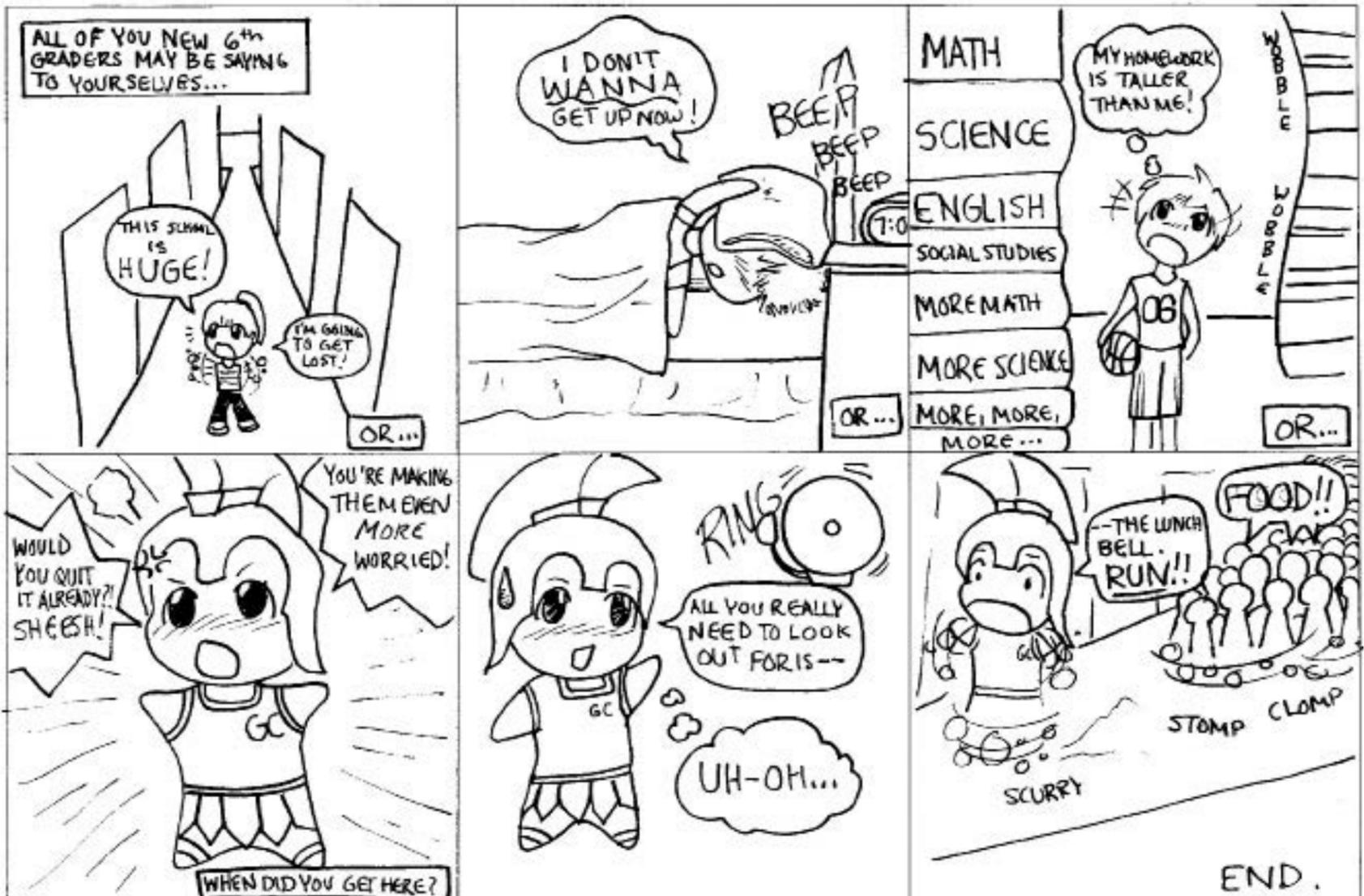
Elective - Art, Gym, Home and Careers, Tech, Study skills, Language, Music etc.

Core Class - English (ELA), Science, Math, and Social Studies

Discovery is out there!!!



WELCOME TO ~~LIFE~~ AT G.C.M.S.! by KBot



The Middle School



Bus Circle



The Courtyard



Cafeteria



Hallway



Library Front Desk



Library Computer Lab

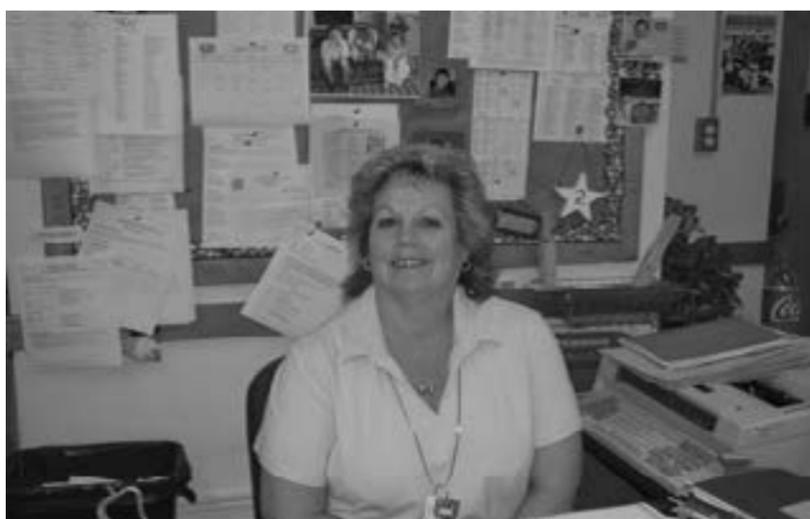


Library



Hallway

People to Know and Places to See



Mrs. Marigliano in the Guidance Office



Art Room



Office Staff: Left- Mrs. Brown- Right-Mrs. Marchese; Back (L to R) Mrs. Kraus, Mrs. Ferraiolo



Tech Room



Home and Careers



Technology

Welcome to Garden City Middle School. We look forward to meeting you in September! Have a safe and fun summer!



Map of the Middle School

