

When you first arrive in middle school, you don't know where to go. That's why you follow your schedule that you receive in mid August. It's hard to get around the school the first few weeks but you should be able to memorize your schedule eventually. The best way to memorize it is to look it over again and again. Before school begins in September, you get to go to the school and learn where you need to go. You get to do this a week before school starts from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The teachers make a big deal if you are late 10 or more seconds to class, but they'll let you be a little late the first few days. Something you might get confused with is you might think that you have two classes in one period. These are odd and even classes. You'll probably have about three odd/even classes each day. So in total you have six odd/even classes. On your schedule, you'll find a column that says days. Under it, it will either say an odd number like 501, an even number like 502 or "every day." Also, you will have one class in the fall, which might be technology or Home & Careers and one class in the spring, which might be technology or Home & Careers. These are just some helpful tips on how to use your schedule and not get lost.

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A common problem is being late to class. Simply get a pass from your last class. If you come in late with a pass, the teacher can't mark you late. Also, if you cannot get a pass, do not make up excuses. Be honest. If you start making up a story and the teacher finds out you're lying, you will get in a great deal of trouble. Remember, being late a couple of times is not the end of the world. Now being late will not be a problem for you anymore.

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You've probably heard about all these classes you'll take. But how can you take all those classes with only nine periods in a day? The answer is odd and even days, where each day gets a number and on certain days you have certain classes. Your main classes (math, English, LOTE, science, and social studies) also called core classes, are every day. But other classes (music, Writing Enrichment, art, Home and Careers, technology, health and gym) also called encore classes, are every other day. This odd and even schedule lets you take all these extra classes. Now, don't get confused; when you get your schedule it will say 1, 3, 5, which is odd days, and 2, 4, 6, which is even days. The reason they split it into six days is for eighth grade Earth science lab lunch, which you don't have to worry about unless you'll be in honors science in eighth grade. Don't let odd and even days scare you—soon it will become second nature.

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Your schedule can look like a scary thing, but if you know how to read it you will find that it's not so scary at all. In one day there are nine periods. Each period is 41 minutes long except for the first period which is 10 minutes longer because of announcements. Also on your schedule you will see 135 and 246 next to some classes. These are not just random numbers. The classes with the odd numbers are the classes you have on days 1, 3, and 5. The classes with the numbers 2, 4, and 6 are the classes you have on even days. It won't take long until you're navigating from class to class like a pro.

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The biggest thing you need to remember about your classes is that every 41 minutes you switch rooms and teachers! In elementary school, you only have one teacher and one class. Now you have about eleven. Every student walks from class to class in the congested halls. The switching may seem scary, but it really is an amazing opportunity! Your teachers are experts in the subject they teach. So you are getting the best education possible!

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Some of you have inquired within your sources about the idea of a nine period day. A nine period day is not as enduring as you believe it is. A class consists of 41 minutes and each class is based on a different subject or topic. Topics that we didn't necessarily acquire through elementary school are health, technology, Home and Careers, Writing Enrichment, gym, and art. After the conclusion of class when the bell rings, you are given four minutes to get to your next class (it is a much longer amount of time than you think it is). Students during this time talk with their classmates or proceed in going to their locker. Not only does a nine period day go much faster, but also it is much more intriguing with a variation of classes and teachers.

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The day system can decide what class you go to on a certain day, and entering the wrong class can end up in you being late to the correct one on the certain day. The day system is easy to overcome. First, the days are split into even or odd, meaning that 1 is an odd day, and 2 is an even day, and so forth, so memorizing your schedule is a very helpful way to overcome the day system. The knowledge of your schedule will make sure you don't end up in the wrong class on a certain day, and memorizing the schedule is a very simple task; the knowledge of which classes are on which days is very helpful. Next, as long as you know what day it is, you will know what class to go to, and other things. There are many ways to find out the day, one way being writing down the days in a planner, which should be in your possession and is easily accessible. Another way to find out what the day is is asking an adult or another classmate. There is a good chance they should know what day it is. Day organization is a great thing to be good at. Some classes on certain days may be close to your locker, giving you time to visit it between class.

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In your core classes (science, math social studies, English, gym, etc.), you can prepare little things that can help you a lot. *Keep two binders for before and after lunch.* If you are slow to switch binders like most people, you should base AM and PM binders on your lunch period. There are three lunch periods: 5, 6, and 7. If you put all your classes before lunch in your AM, and all your classes after lunch in your PM, you can take as long as you want.

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While you are strolling in the hallway you might come across some classes you have that occur on odd and even days. Merrick Avenue Middle School runs on a six-day schedule. This, in simpler terms, means that you will have some of your extracurricular classes three times a week and some of them two times a week. For example, your schedule may consist of having Physical Education on odd days (days 1 and 5) and, let's just say, art on an even day (days 2, 4, and 6) in the same period; they just rotate. You will be able to catch on really quickly. It is not as confusing as it sounds. Also, some classes you take, like Home and Careers and Technology, will be two semesters long, every other day according to whether it is odd or even. Other classes like Writing Enrichment, Physical Education, Art, and Chorus/Band run throughout the whole entire school year on even and odd days.

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Before starting middle school, practice walking fast. Being late to class is not a good habit to get into. Don't worry; you have four minutes to get to each class. You do not have to go to your locker each period. You can switch your morning and afternoon books before your lunch period. Some classes are far away from your locker. This way you carry only one binder in the morning and another in the afternoon. The first week of school the teachers are okay if you're late because they know you are new. If you arrive late to school in the morning just stop in the main office and you will get a pass.

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You don't have to be good at math, but one thing you do have to be good at is even and odd days. In MAMS we have even and odd days. On even and odd days you switch on and off with a class. For example, one day you might have Writing Enrichment and the other day you might have gym, depending on your schedule. Each day goes from day one to day six and on those days you will switch on and off between a class. It is confusing in the beginning but it gets easier and you will get the hang of it.

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If you are not interested in science or math, there are other classes that you will be taking that are electives, such as art, chorus/band, technology, home & careers, and gym. This is good because you don't have to sit in a room for too long since we change classes every forty minutes. It's good to change because you don't want to be falling asleep in class.

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The school's schedule and rooms are structured based on odd and even. What that means is if it is odd it is one way and if it's not, it is another. The way your classes will run is on what they call a six-day schedule. For example the first day of school is day 1. That would mean the next day would be day 2. It goes like that

until day 6, after which it goes back to 1. By now you most likely know which of those numbers are odd and even. If the day is odd, you have certain classes, but if the day is even you have different classes. The hallways work in an odd/even way as well. In one hallway are the odd classrooms, and in the other hallway there are the even classrooms. For example if you have English in 228 and after that science in 227, they are not next to each other. They are actually in two very different parts of the school. If you don't understand this entirely then you will be late, and if you are late you will receive some sort of punishment based on how late you are.