



Middle School Program of Studies

GRADES 7 & 8

WELCOME TO MIDDLE SCHOOL AT PCS!

Mission

By establishing a broad, challenging program and variety of opportunities, Poland Central School will develop prepared, productive, and proud citizens.

Beliefs

1. All children can learn.
2. It takes the whole community to educate a child.
3. Poland Central School must be responsive to the changing needs of the individual, the group, and society.
4. Poland Central School will provide opportunities for students to gain the knowledge and values necessary to be productive members of society.
5. A variety of methods measure learning.
6. All of us can make a difference in this School.

Poland Middle School is designed with these Essential Elements of Successful Middle Schools in mind:

- A philosophy and mission that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents.
- An educational program that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, relevant, and standards-based.
- An organization and structure that supports both academic excellence and personal development.
- Classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers.
- Strong educational leadership and a building administration that encourages, facilitates, and sustains involvement, participation, and partnerships.
- A network of academic and personal support available for all students.
- Professional learning and staff development for all staff that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaboratively developed.

Middle School Team of teachers and support staff

The following team of professionals will be working with your child during their time in middle school in Poland:

<u>Mrs. Daniels</u> - English teacher/PACE	<u>Ms. Diamond</u> - Social Studies teacher/PACE	<u>Ms. Kinsella</u> - Science teacher
<u>Mrs. Weakley</u> - American Sign Language teacher	<u>Ms. Slawson</u> - Math teacher/PACE	<u>Mrs. Kraszewski</u> - Spanish teacher
<u>Mr. Potempa</u> - Physical Education teacher	<u>Mrs. Dusart</u> - Secondary Art teacher	<u>Ms. Przelski</u> -Health/PACE
<u>Ms. Kraeger</u> - Vocal Music teacher	<u>Mr. Brown</u> - Instrumental Music teacher	<u>Ms. Cavallaro</u> - Special Education teacher
<u>Ms. Cavallaro</u> - Special Education teacher	<u>Mrs. Dutcher</u> - School Nurse	<u>Mrs. Clive</u> - School Social Worker
<u>Mrs. Watrous</u> - Middle and High School Counselor	<u>Ms. Johnston</u> -Assistant Principal	<u>Dr. Shelmidine</u> -Secondary Principal

Communicating With the School

[Mrs. Rommel](#), MS/HS Main Office Administrative Assistant

To reach the Middle School main office please call 315-826-7900 ext. 3

It is important that the home and school make every effort to communicate openly and frequently.

In addition, the Middle School staff is committed to addressing an open communication platform through our reporting procedures and formal parent-teacher communication. It is of equal importance that parents keep teachers informed of any developments which might influence the student's performance at school. Issues can generally be addressed quickly by contacting your child's teacher. If, as parents, you are uncertain of anything, please do not hesitate to contact us by telephone, email, or make an appointment to see us.

Middle School Bell Schedule

7:35 AM	Doors open and students may report to breakfast (2 hr delay - doors open at 9:32)
7:45 AM	1st bell rings
7:50 AM	All student should be in their 1st period class
7:50-8:33	Period 1
8:33-9:13	Period 2
9:16-9:56	Period 3
9:59-10:39	Period 4
10:42-11:22	Period 5
11:23-11:53	Period 6 (lunch)
11:55-12:35	Period 7
12:38-1:18	Period 8
1:21-2:01	Period 9
2:04-2:44	Period 10 (Advisement)
2:44	Dismissal (Bus students report to buses, Walkers exit)
2:45 - 4:45	After School detention, sports practices, club

Typical Course load for grades 7 & 8

Grade 7 Requirements

English	World Language: Spanish or ASL
Math	Physical Education
Science	PACE
Social Studies	Fine Arts: Music, Band and/or Chorus

Grade 8 Requirements

English	World Language: Spanish or ASL
Math	Physical Education
Science	PACE
Social Studies	Fine Arts: Art, Band and/or Chorus

Report Cards & Progress Reports

Student report cards are ***given to students every 10 weeks*** with grades for the marking period and progress reports are issued every 5 weeks. Final grades are an average of the 4 marking period grades and the final exam. The passing average is 65.

A student needs a minimum final average of 65 to pass a class. Students who fail two or more courses, the recommendation is made for the student to attend summer school. If the parent determines summer school is not an option for the student, the student may repeat the entire grade the next school year.

Middle School Supply List

Headphones/Earbuds that plug-in- cannot be wireless

Pens & Pencils

English 7 & 8: Pens and pencils

Math 7 & 8: Pencils, Highlighters, Pencil Holder/Pouch

Social Studies 7 & 8: A 1-subject notebook, folder, and writing utensils

Science 7 & 8: Composition Notebook

Spanish 7 & 8: A 1-subject notebook, folder, and writing utensils

ASL 7 & 8: a pocket folder

PACE 7 & 8: No additional supplies needed

ART 8: No additional supplies needed.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION for Grades 7 & 8:

Physical education classes are a required part of the curriculum. New York State requires participation in Physical Education for all Middle School students. To receive credit for gym, students must wear appropriate clothing in their Middle School Physical education class which includes sneakers.

Cafeteria

Breakfast Program

A free breakfast is served from 7:35 until 7:50 a.m. each morning for all students. Student walkers may come directly into the cafeteria. Bus students will be dismissed from the buses as they arrive at school. Only those students who are eating breakfast will be allowed off the buses or in the building before the 7:50 a.m. bell. No food **can leave the cafeteria.**

Middle School Lunch Time

All middle school students must report to the cafeteria for lunch, even if they choose not to eat. Every student is entitled to a free lunch. Additional items are available for purchase. They must stay in the cafeteria or the designated gym for recess. Middle School students should go to their lockers at the end of their 5th period class and then report directly to the cafeteria or recess for lunch time.

Lockers

All students are assigned a locker. Lockers are not to be shared with other students. Students should not place items of value in their lockers. The school is not responsible for missing items. Under New York State law, school lockers are property of the school and can be searched without the consent of the student or parent.

Locker use: *Students will not have time to go to their lockers at the end of every class.*

- ★ Students should get all their books and materials for all their morning classes (periods 1-5) from their locker before the beginning of period 1.
- ★ Students will be able to put their morning materials away in their lockers at the end of period 5 before lunch.
- ★ At the end of lunch, they should get all their books and materials for all their afternoon classes (periods 7-10).
- ★ Students will not be able to continually go to their locker throughout the day or miss class instruction to go to their locker as this impacts the learning environment for all students.

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

- ★ Students are required to attend school in appropriate dress which is neither distracting in appearance nor disruptive to the conduct of school and the learning environment. Staff can ask that students change their attire or turn inappropriate attire inside out.
- ★ Students are prohibited from wearing attire bearing an expression or insignia which is obscene or promotes alcohol, drug or tobacco products.
- ★ Hats or other headgear are not to be worn anywhere in the school building during school hours. If a hat or other headgear is worn to school, then it is to be kept in the student's locker until they leave the building.
- ★ Students who are not cooperative with these guidelines will be subject to disciplinary action from the student handbook.

Homework

One of the biggest changes from Elementary grades to Middle School is the amount of homework that is required. Generally, Middle School students will need to do some work outside of the classroom for at least one, if not more than one, of their subjects. Some of the homework will be more project based with extended due dates.

Homework in Middle School is not limited to written work or projects. Middle School students should understand when a teacher tells them that they will have a test the **students are expected to study and review for the test** before the day the test arrives. Often, studying may be in addition to another assignment.

Homework assignments, even if not given a numerical grade, are an important part of a student's report card grade. **Students are expected to follow directions and complete all homework assignments.**

Student Agenda Planner

All students are given a Student Agenda Planner at the beginning of the school year.

The Student Agenda Planner is meant to help Middle School students organize and keep track of their responsibilities. It can also provide parents with a method of monitoring their student's progress.

Parents should insist that students bring the agenda planner home every night and check to see that they have completed all their work. If your child doesn't bring this agenda planner home or if you think your child may not be writing down all assignments, access the Poland Central School website and check the student/parent portal and/or contact your child's teacher.

Tests in Middle School

One big change that middle school students will see is the quantity, length, type, frequency and importance of tests that they will have to take. Classroom tests and quizzes may not be all that different from Elementary School but they will be more frequent and will weigh more heavily in determining a student's report card grade.

Final Exams will be new and very different. Middle School students will have a final exam in most of their subjects that is one-fifth of a student's final grade.

NYS Assessments: ELA State Assessment: 4/6/2027-4/7/2027
Math State Assessment: 5/4/2027-5/5/2027
Grade 8 Science Assessment: 5/11/2027

Advisement and AIS

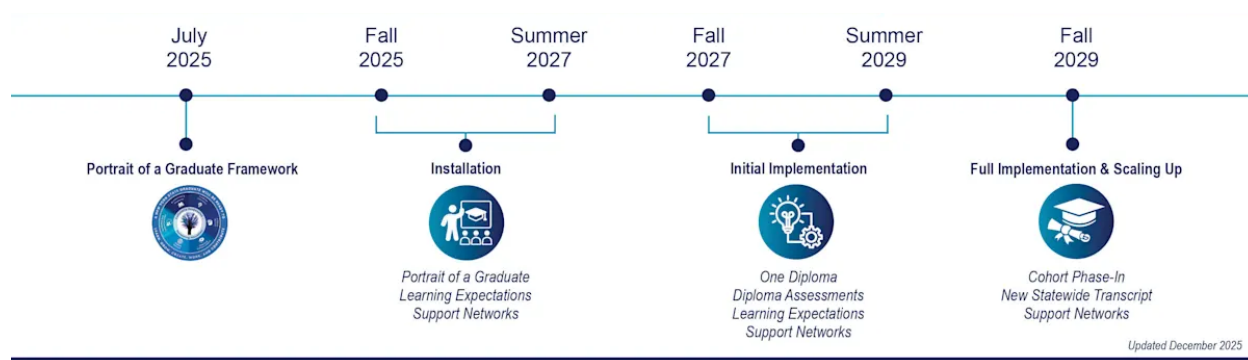
Advisement - Students are assigned to an Advisement class at the end of the day that is supervised by an academic teacher. This time is built into the schedule so that students can ask questions and get academic assistance as well as time to make up quizzes and tests.

AIS - Students may be assigned to an AIS class with one of their academic teachers based on a teacher recommendation, STAR testing, previous state testing and/or other data points. AIS (Academic Intervention Services) are meant to provide a more individualized approach to a student's learning and provide needed support to assist students in their learning.

School books, Materials, and Equipment

Students are financially responsible for all textbooks, equipment and materials which are issued to them or used by them during the school year. All students will have access to a school Chromebook and charger, but they will be kept in the classroom and used as assigned by the classroom teachers. Students will be charged for lost or damaged material or equipment, including chromebooks, etc.

Portrait of a Graduate Timeline



 Portrait of a Graduate Framework Learn More About the Portrait of a Graduate Framework	 Phase 1: Installation Learn more about the "Installation" phase of the Portrait of a Graduate.	 Phase 2: Initial Implementation Learn more about the "Initial Implementation" phase of the Portrait of a Graduate.	 Phase 3: Full Implementation and Scaling Up Learn more about "Full Implementation and Scaling Up" phase of the Portrait of a Graduate.	 Diploma Requirements by Cohort Learn more about the diploma requirements for each cohort of the Portrait of a Graduate.
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Association of Poland Teachers High Honor Awards

The Association of Poland Teachers awards a monetary prize at the end of the year MS Academic Award Ceremony to all Middle School Students who qualify for the **“High Honor” award** using marking periods 1, 2 and 3. The money for these awards is provided by Poland teachers from APT fundraisers.

Attendance

When a student is absent he/she is responsible for gathering missed work. Parents may make arrangements with the Main Office for homework assignments and arrange for pick-up. ***A student who is absent has the same amount of time in which they were absent to make up the work that has been missed.***

NYS law requires that every parent/guardian furnish a written explanation for each absence. The attendance policy, as well as forms for school absences are linked [here](#). All absences are illegal until an excuse is furnished which must be provided upon the student's return to school. At that time the absence will be changed to a legal absence. Excuses which do not give a reason will not be accepted as a legal excuse.

Transportation

Transportation Changes

Advance notice must be made through a [written request](#) for all students. Alternate drop-off and pickup locations must be received by 1:30 pm. If the district has a planned early dismissal, transportation requests must be made prior to 11:00 am.

Notes not received by these timelines need principal or superintendent authorization. Under no circumstances should parents/guardians call the school with changes in bus plans except when unusual or emergency or unforeseen circumstances arise. Callers will be required to provide information that substantiates the identity of the caller to ensure that student safety is a priority. Students will go home in the usual manner unless a written parental request indicates an alternate plan. A parent or guardian who has an emergency or unforeseen circumstance must contact the principal or superintendent for transportation changes by calling 315-826-7900.

Late Bus Transportation

Late buses are available for students involved in extracurricular activities including sports, practices, club activities, after school study hall, and special arrangements with staff. Students must sign-up for a late bus at the sign-in desk before 1:00 p.m. Late bus transportation is only available for those students who are in a supervised extracurricular activity.

Student Expectations of Behavior

Middle school behavior expectations center on developing **respect, responsibility, and readiness to learn**.

These guidelines bridge the gap between elementary structure and high school independence. They help students manage their emerging social lives while maintaining a safe, focused environment for everyone. The [Code of Conduct](#) is reviewed annually and represents a more thorough guideline of expectations for the school and the district.

1. Classroom & Learning Expectations

- **Be Prepared & Punctual:** Arrive on time with all necessary materials (e.g., Chromebook, notebooks, writing utensils) and stay awake and engaged during lessons.
- **Active Participation:** Ask questions, contribute to discussions, and participate actively in group activities.

- **Raise to Speak:** Raise a hand and wait to be called on instead of speaking out or interrupting others.
- **Stay in Work Areas:** Remain in assigned seats unless moving is necessary, minimizing out-of-seat distractions.
- **Classroom Food/Drink allowances:** Students may have a drink in the classroom as long as they are in a nonspillable water bottle (***no cans, bottles, etc.***). Food is only allowed in classrooms if provided by or approved by the teacher. This helps us maintain safe and clean classroom environments.
- **Bathroom Procedures:** Students will have access to the bathroom as needed. However, students that miss a great deal of instruction due to frequent bathroom breaks will be addressed to develop a plan to limit the loss of instructional time.

2. Social & Interpersonal Behavior

- **Respectful Communication:** Treat all peers, teachers, and staff with kindness. This means no name-calling, put-downs, or interrupting.
- **Inclusive Environment:** Welcome diverse perspectives and treat others with respect regardless of background.
- **Appropriate Boundaries:** Keep hands, feet, and objects to oneself. Horseplay and play-fighting are generally prohibited as they often escalate.
- **Appropriate Language:** Avoid profanity, and ensure language is positive and constructive.

3. School Facilities & Hallways

- **Safe Transit:** Walk in an orderly manner without running, screaming, pushing, or shoving.
- **Locker Rooms & Hallways:** Keep these areas neat, and move directly to classes during passing periods.
- **Cafeteria Etiquette:** Clean up personal eating areas, use polite manners with cafeteria staff, and stay in designated seating.

4. Technology & Electronics

- **Devices Away:** Keep cell phones and electronic devices powered off and stored in lockers unless otherwise directed. The District follows the NYS Policy regarding [Cell Phone](#) usage..
- **Responsible Use:** Adhere to the school's technology policies, avoiding inappropriate websites, cyberbullying, or unauthorized photography

Extracurricular Club and Activities Available for MS Students

Participation on a Poland athletic team or extracurricular club is considered a privilege; thus providing an opportunity to build community, demonstrate school pride, and foster a sense of belonging. It also comes with important responsibilities, including maintaining high standards of behavior and academic effort. Every club/team member plays a vital role in representing their teammates, coaches, school, family, and the Poland community in a positive and respectful manner. The Athletic and Extracurricular Eligibility Policy is linked [here](#).

Extracurricular Activities Available for MS Students

All-County
Drama Club
NYSSMA
Peer Leaders
SADD (Students against Destructive Decisions)
Ski Club
Spanish Club
Spring Musical

Athletic Teams Available for MS Students

Cross Country (Fall)	Soccer (Fall)
Basketball (Winter)	Indoor Track (Winter)
Baseball (Spring)	Softball (Spring)
Golf (Spring)	Tennis (Spring)
Track & Field (Spring)	

Students have participated in the following sports with other districts if approved and parent willing to transport:

Bowling	Hockey	Wrestling
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Counseling and Support Services

Counseling is provided in individual, small, and large group settings. Topics include career/life planning, decision making, social skills, development, transitional adjustments as students move from grade to grade, study skills, crisis intervention, peer relations, anger management, and academic planning. Poland students have access to our school social worker, [Mrs. Clive](#) and our MS/HS School Counselor, [Mrs. Watrous](#). Please feel free to contact either person if you have any concerns or questions.

HOW TO SUCCEED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL: Ten things students can do to be successful.

1. Be in the classroom and seated on time.
2. Bring books, paper, notebooks, the Student Agenda Planner, pens and all other necessary materials with you.
3. Remain in your assigned seat unless given permission to do otherwise.
4. Raise your hand and wait to be recognized before talking.
5. Write down all your assignments during class in your Student Agenda Planner.
6. Always make sure you know what to do and how to do it before leaving the class.
7. Plan your work in advance so you know what is due each day and make a list of things to get done.
8. Always hand in all your homework assignments on time and make sure that they are completely done.
9. The work in Middle School will be new and more difficult. Always try your best.
10. Always be polite and listen to and follow all directions

How can parents help support their child's success and find out more information?

1. Look over the course syllabi given at the start of each year. Check your child's backpack, folder, and Student Agenda Planner.
2. Talk to your child on a regular basis about what he or she is doing in each class. Ask for a gradebook report to be printed and sent home.
3. Check Student/Parent Portal regularly as well as Google Classroom/Homework Boards.
4. Call or email your student's teacher.
5. Call or email the Middle School counselor.
6. Request a parent/teacher conference.

We look forward to working with you and your child throughout their middle school experience here in Poland! Please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns.

PCS Middle School Team