

# McMurray Middle School

Vashon Island School District, Grades 6-8

## New Student and Parent Information



### McMurray Middle School: Our Mission Statement

We cherish and nurture the unique gifts within every student. We are compassionate. We believe in acts of kindness and we believe in service. We care for ourselves, each other, and the spaces around us. We honor our environment. We demonstrate responsibility continuously. We value ourselves, each other, and our learning. We believe in our ability to grow and learn. We believe we are change-agents for a brighter future.

As a learning community, McMurray Middle School prepares its students during the transition from elementary school to high school. We are committed to helping students achieve their fullest potential through instruction and activities during the significant 6th, 7th and 8th grades.

We appreciate the unique learning styles and abilities of middle school students and are responsive to their developmental and social characteristics.

**We welcome you to McMurray and encourage you to become involved in our community!**

**At McMurray we promote a strong, skill-based core academic program that is augmented by rich exploratory and elective classes.**

**Science:** All science courses focus on helping students develop specific skills through themes of systems, inquiry, and applications.



6th: Integrated Science (physical/earth/life)

7th: Life Science, Anatomy and Physiology

8th grade: Earth Science, Planetology

**Humanities:** Our humanities curriculum integrates language arts and social studies for two periods each day. We emphasize the development and mastery of comprehension, analysis, research, writing, and communication in the historical and cultural context listed below for each grade:

6th grade—Ancient Civilizations

7th grade—World History and Cultures

8th grade—American History

*(Academic information continues on page 2)*

### **McMurray: The Essentials**

6 classes per day plus homeroom

Morning break

30 minute lunch

4 minute passing time between classes

400 students

35 staff members

2 semesters

### **Homeroom / Advisory**

Homeroom is a time for students to gain and share information, build community, read independently, participate in social/emotional learning and other topics including bullying prevention. Identified students receive support in reading, math, and other life skills. Daily homeroom classes consist of students from each grade—an opportunity for the older students to support the younger ones, and for the younger ones to learn from the older ones. Student-led conferences are conducted through homeroom.

[www.vashonsd.org/mcm](http://www.vashonsd.org/mcm)

**Office:** 206-463-9168

**Registrar:** 206-463-8702

9329 SW Cemetery Road

Vashon, WA 98070

# McMurray Middle School

## Academics, continued

**Math:** McMurray uses *Connected Math 3* and *Illustrative Math* for all grades. *Big Ideas Algebra* is used for 8th grade Algebra. Additional online resources are used in all grades to help students sharpen reasoning, computation, geometric, pre-algebraic and algebraic skills in a conceptual and integrated program. All math classes are year long at McMurray.

**Healthy Living:** These combination PE/Health classes focus on helping students learn tools to lead healthy lives. The PE portion is centered on aerobic and skill-related fitness (movement, coordination, balance). The Health portion covers the Life Skills prevention program, fitness awareness, and nutrition. Each grade level takes one semester of Healthy Living.

**Technology:** Our students take a one semester computer course in both 6th and 7th grades. Students gain an understanding of PC and web-based applications and focus on developing keyboarding, research and application skills.

## McMurray Sports

**Fall Sports:** football, boys soccer, volleyball, and cross-country

**Early Winter Sports:** boys basketball and girls soccer.

**Late Winter Sports:** girls basketball and wrestling

**Spring Sports:** track

All sports require a physical signed by a physician, signed parent permission form, purchase of ASB card and payment of sport fee prior to beginning practice.

Students of all genders may participate in football, wrestling, and track. 6th graders may practice with teams, but may compete only in track, wrestling, and cross-country.



## The McMurray Office

Mr. Allison, Principal  
Mr. Morgan, Registrar  
Ms. Vickers, Office Manager  
Ms. Butler and Ms. Pearce,  
Counselors  
Ms. Jaffe, Librarian  
Ms. Day and Ms. Parrish,  
Health Room  
Ms. Albright, Day Custodian



## Electives

**Art Classes:** Basic Art, Ceramics, Fiber Arts, Photography, Video Production

**Band:** Instrumental music; 2+ concerts per year

**Creative Writing**

**Drama:** Physical drama, comedy, performance

**Food 101:** Hands-on intro to the basics of cooking

**Food 102:** International flair!

**French Exploration:** Introduction to language and culture

**French** (class held at VHS)

**Leadership:** Organize school activities

**Mountain Biking:** Physical aspects of riding as well as bike maintenance and repair

**Outdoor Living**

**Spanish Exploration:**

Introduction to language and culture

**STEM Classes:** Imagine-Design-Build, Intro to Woodworking

**Study Skills:** Homework help and organization skills

**Teacher and Office Assistants**

**Tournament PE**

**Women's Studies**

## Activities and Clubs

8th Grade Exploratory Week

Art Lab

Assemblies

Choir

Community Day

Dances and Socials

Executive Council

Games Club

La Chispa!

Makers Club

Math is Cool

Math Olympiad

McMurray Mentors

Popcorn Fridays

Robotics Club

Sources of Strength

Spirit Days

Student-led Conferences

Ultimate Frisbee

Yearbook