

Welcome to Seventh Grade... the Transition between Lower and Upper School

Seventh grade is a transition year in so many ways! The changes are academic, social, and physical. We at ECS are here to partner with you and your student to make that transition as smooth as possible.

ACADEMICS

There are two **math** tracks in 7th grade: honors and non-honors, or Algebra ½ and Math 87. The 6th grade math teacher will make a recommendation based on your child's grades and aptitude. Please keep mind that our math is accelerated as it is. If a student takes Algebra ½ during 7th grade, it is as if he is skipping an entire grade. The natural progression would be to take Math 87; Algebra ½ is for the student who has mastered math early and wants to reach and stretch academically.

Students continue in **physical education** daily at ECS. For three quarters of the year, students dress out and participate in team sports and personal fitness. For one quarter, the students take health.

We offer a variety of **electives** to our students. They include: Computer Keyboarding, Conversational Spanish I and II, Advanced Reading I and II, Drama, Choir, and Study Hall. (Choir is a full year elective, and Study Hall can be if chosen.)

ATHLETICS

ECS fields over 40 sports' teams. There is something for everyone!

Fall:

football, volleyball, varsity cross country, varsity swimming, varsity golf, and soccer

Winter:

basketball, girls varsity soccer, boys varsity soccer, and wrestling

Spring:

varsity baseball, varsity softball, varsity track, varsity tennis, and jr. high girls soccer

OTHER NOTES

Each student is required to complete 5 hours of **community service** per quarter. Community service is a test grade given in Bible. When a student graduates from ECS, he will have accumulated 200 hours of community service.

We celebrate **chapel** once a week. Youth pastors from the community are invited to share with our students. The music is student-led, and chapel takes place in the gymnasium. Parents are always welcome to attend chapel.

Uniforms change in 7th grade. The girls wear a navy blue skirt or slacks with a blue or yellow shirt. Dark brown or black shoes are worn with white or navy blue socks. The boys wear navy blue slacks with a blue or yellow shirt. Dark brown or black shoes are worn with white or navy blue socks. Our students purchase uniforms from Sunshine Uniforms.

The **school day** begins at 8:20 am and ends at 3:35 pm. Students are permitted to be in the cafeteria at 7:45 am until the 8:10 am bell rings. At that time, they may come into the hall and visit their lockers, the restroom, etc. Students must be in their homerooms at 8:20 am when the bell rings. Students must be off campus after the 3:45 pm bell. If a parent cannot pick the student up by then, ECS provides after school care for a fee. All students on campus who are not in a help class or a sport must be in after school care after 3:45 pm.

THE OTHER "STUFF"

"My 12-year-old daughter has gone from straight A's to one who is failing several subjects. Her father and I have met with her teachers, and we keep tabs on her progress. Her consistent problem is not turning in homework. We have grounded her, offered her incentives, given her chores, and told her she'll never get into college. Her father and I have done everything we can, and she doesn't seem to care...what do we do?"

We hear this often from the frustrated parents of students who are in transition. Just know that you are in good company! Please keep in mind that this time in your student's life is temporary and can be the best time of all when kept in perspective.

CHANGE ON ALL FRONTS

Your student is undergoing change everywhere!

- * location
- * class changes
- * academics
- * independence
- * physical
- * social

LOCATION CHANGES

Instead of being in one hallway, 7th grade students are spread throughout the upper school building. This can be a little scary to some students. They must get used to traveling from class to class with about 450 other students.

CLASS CHANGES

Each class in the upper school is 52 minutes long. Students then have 5 minutes to get to their lockers, use the restroom, and get to their next class.

ACADEMIC CHANGES

Students in the upper school are not required to have an assignment notebook signed by a parent, although we highly recommend they keep one. It is the student's responsibility to write down his homework.

Also, when students don't complete an assignment, they are given a zero for the work. There is no policy in place for turning in work a day or two days late. Zeros are given for work not completed when due.

If a student is absent, it is his responsibility to find out the work that was missed and by when it needs to be made up. Missed quizzes and tests are in the Student Services Office. A student can take these before or after school.

INDEPENDENCE CHANGES

This is a time of transition! Students are becoming independent of their parents and learning to do more for themselves. While parents were once the most influential people in a student's life, peers now become the most important influence. You can help your student by encouraging him to learn to cope with these changes, make the transition into adolescence, work on interpersonal skills, adjust to peer group changes and peer pressure, develop personal interests and abilities, and gain a greater sense of responsibility for one's behavior.

PHYSICAL CHANGES

You remember what it's like to be 12 or 13...need I say more? It's not easy!

SOCIAL CHANGES

What was "cool" in 5th and 6th grade is no longer "cool" in 7th grade. No one can explain it, but all of the sudden, it is not considered "cool" to be smart. We know that is not true, but smart and talented students start to pretend they are not so smart and talented. Also, students who have been friends forever suddenly drift apart. This can happen because they develop different interests, like sports, or some decide to try a different social group. This change can be difficult for students. Another change is when the student begins developing a sense of self. The student will begin to discover who he is outside of his parents. The soccer player may decide he no longer likes soccer, or the dancer may decide she wants to try something new. The good news is this time in life doesn't last forever. You made it, I made it, and your student will make it. All he needs is love and support, and sometimes some gentle discipline.

Please know that it is our pleasure at ECS to partner with you to help your student through this transition. We love our students, and we are committed to seeing them grow and develop to be all that they are meant to be.

