

ANCHOR BAY MIDDLE SCHOOL SOUTH

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Dear Middle School South Families,

Welcome to another great school year at Middle School South! It is an exciting time to be South Strong! The first day of school is quickly approaching – September 3rd, 2024. The staff and I are thrilled to share another year of learning together with all of our wonderful students.

First, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Phil Latona, and I have been with Anchor Bay School District for 20 years. In my first nine years in the District, I taught 9th Grade American History and coached baseball and football at Anchor Bay High School. In the 2013-14 school year, I served as Assistant Principal at Anchor Bay Middle School South. The following year I had the privilege of being the principal at Dean A. Naldrett Elementary School and had a wonderful experience. I am currently in my 10th year as Principal at Anchor Bay Middle School South and love being at the middle school level.

Our Assistant Principal is Paige Hunter, and she is entering her 7th year in that role. She taught English for 18 years at Lake Orion High School. There she was also the high school ELA department chair and the district secondary ELA curriculum chair. Additionally, she was the dance team coach and taught an adaptive creative movement class.

In terms of academic success at South, the staff has specific goals for this school year and look to exceed our past years' accomplishments in all academic subjects. This can be achieved only with your continued support. We value your input and look forward to a quality school-home working relationship in order to build on our successes. We hope you are able to visit us often and look forward to offering opportunities for you to be involved in our school.

Improving communication with parents will continue to be an area of focus for myself this school year. We will be working hard at keeping you informed of what is happening at South through our homepage, Schoology, and School Messenger. Each month parents will be emailed important reminders and upcoming events via School Messenger. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the main office at 586-949-4510.

In closing, we want our students to have pride and a sense of belonging to their school. Coming to school every day with a positive attitude and a willingness to learn is vital to their success. We want our students to feel safe, appreciated, and welcomed when they come into the building each day.

Sincerely,
Phil Latona
Principal Anchor Bay Middle School South

****Important Dates and Reminders on the next page.****

Important Dates

- **August 21st:** 6th Grade Orientation – See Information Below
- **August 22nd :** 7th & 8th Grade Schedule Exploration & Picture Day
 - Schedule Exploration & School Pictures ANYTIME between 10am-4pm. Schedule exploration and pictures may take approximately 30-45mins to complete.
 - Students will view schedules electronically via PowerSchool on August 22nd during schedule exploration.
 - Lifetouch picture information will be emailed out soon!
- **August 22nd:** "New to Middle School" Parent Meeting @ 5pm in the South Auditorium.
 - This meeting is intended for any parents/guardians with an incoming 6th grade student or anyone who is new to Middle School South. Students are welcome to attend but this meeting is designed to inform parents about middle school life. We will cover the following topics: Keys to a Successful Transition, Differences from Elementary, Middle School Curriculum, Scheduling, Athletics and Title I Supports.
- **September 3rd – First Day of School** (1/2 Day for Students) 8:04am – 11:29am
- **September 4th – Full Day of School** 8:04am – 2:52am

Reminders

- Bus Information will be emailed to parents directly from Anchor Bay Transportation later in August. AB Transportation Contact: 586-725-4220
- South Athletics
 - If your child is planning to play a fall sport, please make sure to have a current physical on file dated **after April 15th, 2024**. They will not be able to participate or tryout without a current physical on file.
 - Specific Athletic Information will be emailed out to parents and posted on the South Homepage.

2024-25 6th Grade Orientation Info

- **Pirate Pride 6th Grade Orientation August 21st from 8:30am-11:30am:** During this event, 6th Grade Students will be introduced to the South Team, participate in team building activities, **be provided their schedule** with tours of the building and **also have their school picture taken during orientation**. Snacks and water will be provided. **If a student is unable to attend orientation, schedules can also be picked up and pictures can be taken on August 22nd anytime from 10am - 4pm.** [Click here if you still need to register for orientation.](#)
- Orientation is a student only event.
- Bus Transportation will be provided for 6th grade orientation from each student's home elementary school. Bus times will be communicated in August. **Parents may also drop-off/pick-up their child.**

2024-25 Suggested Supply List

- (1) 3" Binder
- (6) Spiral Notebooks (1 for each class)
- (6) Folders (1 for each class)
- Pencils/Pens
- Highlighters

Parent Drop-Off/Pick-Up Details

[Click here for Map](#)

- All student drop-off/pick-up's are done in the back of the building, Door 6. (Please see map)
- Please do not use the bus loop in the front of the building during drop-off (7:30am-8:10am) and/or pickup times (2:30pm-3:10pm).
- If you are unable to find a spot on the curb indicated on the map during drop-off/pick-up, please park in the back and allow your child to use the crosswalk. The crosswalk will have staff assisting students safely across.
- If you are coming into the main office at any time during the day, please park in the front of the building and enter through Door 1. (Please see map)