



G. A. STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

1060 Wilmington Pike, West Chester, PA 19382 • Telephone: 484-266-2700
Fax: 484-266-2799 • Website: www.edline.net/pages/Stetson_Middle_School
Superintendent: Dr. James R. Scanlon • Principal: Dr. Charles A. Cognato

WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL ... A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Stetson Middle School! Our dedicated staff and parents are committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment for our students to grow and learn. The Stetson mission statement sums up our belief “to educate and inspire students to achieve their personal best and become life-long learners.”

Incoming sixth grade students participate in a one-day transition camp where they meet staff members, learn their way around the building, and explore situations they may face in middle school. Additionally, our sixth graders enjoy many learning activities such as our archeological dig and Asian interdisciplinary unit.

Seventh grade students explore nature in a trip to the Pocono Environmental Education Center (PEEC) where activities include orienteering and animal and plant exhibits. Eighth grade students focus on the theme of responsibility. They study the founding of our nation with a celebration of Constitution Day, learn about other cultures through participation in International Day, and enhance their knowledge of Black History. Career exploration begins in eighth grade with career exploration and guidance class in which all students are required to participate.

Stetson offers a wide array of both intramural and competitive sports, as well as non-athletic activities and clubs. Student achievement is promoted through addressing academic rigor, making the curriculum relevant, and building strong relationships among all stakeholders. We are proud of our school, our students, our staff and the community we serve.

G. A. STETSON MIDDLE SCHOOL is one of three middle schools in the West Chester Area School District that house students in grades 6 through 8. Located in West Goshen township, Stetson serves approximately 1,000 students with 89 professional staff members. All three middle schools have been awarded the Keystone Achievement Award for their commitment to academic success.

OUR COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM includes the core courses of language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Each curricular area is aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards and is supplemented by standards-based programs in language arts, health, physical education, music, art, family and consumer science, and technology education.

GIFTED EDUCATION, as defined by state mandates, provides accelerated and enrichment programs to those students identified by test scores, teacher input, and curriculum benchmarks. Sixth graders may choose a reading enrichment module or participate in Knowledge Bowl. Seventh and eighth graders may choose from a variety of enrichment programs.

READING AND MATH SUPPORTS reflect the district’s commitment to meeting the needs of all children. Students performing below grade level in these subjects receive support from building specialists and may enroll in a Reading or Math Plus class. Proficient readers may begin world language study in the seventh grade. Accelerated math and English courses are offered to qualifying students.

A WORLD LANGUAGE PROGRAM is available to students starting in seventh grade who meet certain criteria. These students may begin studying French I or Spanish I in seventh grade, and either continue with French II or Spanish II, or change to another language in eighth grade. All students may begin studying French, German, Italian, Latin or Spanish in eighth grade. The high school program provides five or six years' study including Advanced Placement courses.

COMPUTER LITERACY courses integrate computer skills with practical academic and real-life applications. By the end of eighth grade, all students will have been exposed to digital-age literacy, effective communication, inventive thinking, and high productivity. The technology education curriculum includes computer-aided drawing, and construction and power technology. A module technology center is equipped with software and specific equipment to teach various applied topics. Under the district's 1:1 Computer Program, all eighth grade students are assigned a portable computer for use 24/7.

EXCEPTIONAL MUSIC PROGRAMS are available for students interested in participating in band, chorus, and orchestra. Exceptionally motivated students may participate in extracurricular opportunities such as Honors Chorus, Honors Band, Jazz Band, and Select Strings Orchestra. All music programs are supplemented by concerts and dramatic presentations.

STUDENT ASSESSMENTS, as mandated by the state, are administered each year to aid in diagnosing individual strengths and weaknesses. In 2014, all middle school students took the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) exams in mathematics and reading. Eighth graders were also assessed in science and writing. Students enrolled in Algebra 1 took the Keystone Exam for that subject. The percentages of Stetson students who scored proficient or above in 2015 were: 62.7% in mathematics, 86.7% in ELA, 89.1% in science.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE PROFILES (SPP) are issued annually from the Department of Education based on student achievement, academic growth and improvement, promotion and attendance rate. All sixteen district schools have been rated "Schools of Excellence" by the Pennsylvania Department of Education for receiving scores of 90 or higher in their 2014 School Performance Profiles (SPP). For the 2013-14 school year, Stetson received a Building Level Academic Score of 98.0. There were no SPP scores for the 2014-2015 school year.

INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS that include baseball, basketball, cross country, field hockey, football, lacrosse, soccer, softball, track, volleyball and wrestling are offered to seventh and eighth graders. A sixth grade intramural program includes many of the above activities. All athletes must complete a PIAA physical form and meet academic eligibility requirements to participate.

EXTRACURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES provide further opportunities for students to explore interests and become involved in their school.

Stetson is especially proud of the medals its students consistently earn in both the regional and state Science Olympiad. Stetson students have also won awards in the Chester County Spelling Bee and Foreign Language Spelling Bee, the Geography Challenge, and MathCounts. Additional activities such as the school yearbook, Student Council, and a live broadcast of the Stetson morning news provide other avenues to explore their interests.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT is evident through the many service projects students and staff complete together each year. Garden beds, located on the school grounds, are tended by students with the harvest donated to the Chester County Food Bank. Student Council coordinates many community service projects each year including visits with senior citizens and hospitalized children during Read Across America in March.

