

## WEST WINDSOR - PLAINSBORO REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Thomas R. Grover Middle School

10 Southfield Rd., West Windsor, NJ 08550

(609) 716-5250, (609) 716-5270 Fax



**Lamont Thomas, Principal**

**Kimberly Keyack, Assistant Principal**

**Evangelos Malakates, Assistant Principal**

#### About Grover Middle School

Thomas R. Grover Middle School serves the needs of young adolescents of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District through a unique program designed for students in grades 6, 7 and 8. The building was named for Thomas Roy Grover, a township resident who lost his life in Viet Nam in 1969 and whose family still resides here. The building opened its doors to students in September of 1999.

Grover Middle School has an enrollment of approximately 1240 students, who come from the Village and Millstone River elementary schools. Upon promotion from eighth grade, GMS students attend West Windsor-Plainsboro High School South. Our school colors are black and gold and our mascot is the Jaguar.

#### School Organization

Our school is organized into grade level teams in order for a group of teachers to work together with a shared group of students. Our teachers and school counselors meet regularly for discussion and to make decisions related to the total educational program of the students assigned to their team. Integrated instruction, consistent team rules and enrichment activities provide support and a wide variety of learning opportunities for students.

#### Curriculum and Instruction

The instructional program of the middle school, aligned with the New Jersey Core Curriculum Standards, includes mathematics, integrated reading/language arts, science, social studies, health/physical education and related arts.

The **integrated reading/language arts (IRLA)** curriculum provides students with opportunities to engage in reading, writing, listening and speaking. Students read and respond to a variety of literary works and are required to read each evening at home. The writing program is process oriented. Grammar, spelling and vocabulary instruction are included in this writing process approach.

**Mathematics** instruction at all three grade levels emphasizes the ability to problem solve, make connections and communicate and reason mathematically. The middle school program includes: basic computational skills with whole numbers, fractions, decimals and percents, number patterns and theory, graphing, statistics, probability, integers, expressions and equations. All students are challenged at the appropriate developmental level as outlined below:

Grade 6 - Math 6, Pre-Algebra H & A

Grade 7 - Math 7, Math 7 Honors, Algebra H & A

Grade 8 - Math 8, Algebra 1, Algebra 1 Honors, Algebra 2 H & A

The **science** program is designed to encourage curiosity and exploration by asking questions, making observations, collecting and analyzing data, and drawing conclusions. In all grades, students continue to build their content knowledge and enhance their skills through discovery and problem solving activities. Students investigate topics in the areas of earth science, physical science, and life science.

The **social studies** curriculum enables students to develop skills, content and attitudes necessary for responsible citizenship. The sixth grade program focuses on early human development and ancient civilizations (pre-history to the fall of Rome) and their relationship to today's world. In seventh grade, students focus on geography and history of the United States. The eighth grade course centers on world history, cultures and geography from 500-1500AD.

The **world language** program focuses on the five goal areas of Communication, Connections, Comparisons, Cultures and Communities. Learners engage in conversation and are taught to understand both written and spoken language. Students select French, Spanish, German or Chinese in grade six and continue that same language through grade eight.

In the **related arts** program, students use our state-of-the-art facility and equipment to study art, music, life skills, computers, technology, health, performing arts and media. These hands-on courses encourage exploration of a variety of fields intended to expand students' perspectives and interests.

Our students are provided with the state-mandated health and **physical education** curriculum. In health, sixth graders explore friendships, peer pressure and social skills. Seventh graders study selected topics dealing with family life, while eighth graders engage in discussions related to drug awareness, problem solving and decision-making. In physical education, fitness is stressed through a variety of units emphasizing both individual skill and team cooperation.

### **Performing Music Ensembles**

Students may participate in Choir, Band, or Orchestra. These groups rehearse a wide variety of music in order to prepare for formal concerts. Small group lessons are an integral part of the program.

### **Counseling Services**

Our counseling program is an integral part of the middle school experience. Our school counselors provide an important link as they help students on an individual as well as group basis. Counselors assist students and their parents to adjust to all facets of middle school life and work closely with classroom teachers to provide continuous support for our students.

### **Co-Curricular and Extra-Curricular Activities**

Grover Middle School offers a full range of after-school programs that include student council, clubs, interscholastic sports and special activity groups. Interscholastic sports include soccer, field hockey, cross country, wrestling, basketball, lacrosse, tennis, track, softball and baseball.

### **Enrichment and Special Needs**

PRISM is a multi-disciplined opportunity designed to accelerate and enrich students with identified talents in the arts and humanities. Students are encouraged to study beyond the curriculum and to pursue individual interests. Students have the option to participate in accelerated levels of independent and group research and problem solving.

Students with special needs may receive assistance through resource centers, in-class support and speech language therapy.

### **School Climate**

Our staff and students focus on creating an active, yet kind and safe learning environment. Students are taught conflict resolution, anger management and peer mediation skills. The Student Code of Conduct stresses respect, responsibility and a peaceful resolution of conflicts. Students participate in team bonding days to foster a sense of community. Additionally, our students, parents and staff work together to create an atmosphere in which our "Grover Middle School family" can thrive.

### **Parent-Teacher-Student Association**

Our exemplary PTSA provides financial support for special programs and activities for our students. Assemblies, dances, field trips and parent programs help us to partner together for the benefit of our students. It is our hope that monthly PTSA meetings will provide an effective avenue for open and productive communication among parents, teachers and students.

#### **Important School Information**

Regular School Hours	7:40 am - 2:45 pm
Early Dismissal	7:40 am - 12:12 pm
Delayed Opening	9:10 am - 2:45 pm

**School phone number: 609-716-5250**

Tel-Safe - **Attendance** - **Ext. 5260**  
(or use Attendance reporting in Genesis)

**Nurse's Office - Ext. 5266**

#### **Supervisors:**

Andrea Bean, Math	Ext. 5264
Carl Cooper, Social Studies	Ext. 5155
Richard Stec, Science	Ext. 5117
Cathy Reilly, Language Arts/ESL	Ext. 7307
Jeffrey Santoro, Fine & Performing Arts	Ext. 5262
Ashley Warren, World Languages	Ext. 5120
Karen Abrams, Special Services	Ext. 5550
Russell Wray, Instructional Technology	Ext. 7329
Kate Dobinson, Athletic Director	Ext. 5157

#### **Important extensions:**

Lamont Thomas, Principal	Ext. 5254
Evan Malakates, Asst. Principal	Ext. 5252
Kimberly Keyack, Asst. Principal	Ext. 5252

#### **Counseling Department:**

Grade 6	Dawn Gilchrist	Ext. 5258
Grade 7	Susan Ho	Ext. 5257
Grade 8	Chandni Kapadia	Ext. 5239
Anti-bullying specialist	Wendy Alley	Ext. 5175

All staff can be reached via e-mail by using first.name.last.name@wwprsd.org  
For example, [john.smith@wwprsd.org](mailto:john.smith@wwprsd.org)