



THE COMPUTER SCHOOL



6TH GRADE SURVIVAL GUIDE

DEAR AWESOME SIXTH GRADER:

Welcome to The Computer School! We want to congratulate you by unrolling the red carpet and awarding you with a big high five and the lucky thirteenth edition of our Sixth Grade Survival Guide. Woo-hoo!

Once upon a time, our seventh graders created a variety of survival guides on how to be an ultra-cool, successful student at The Computer School, and we compiled the good stuff to give you. Think of this guide as a preview of the real CS you'll soon get to know.

Well, are you ready? Feeling nervous-excited-giddy all at once? Totally expected. We know you've been waiting a long time to join us. We've been waiting for you, too.

WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE FIRST DAY:

Total chaos. Just kidding (kind of). We still remember when we approached the William O' Shea building that we now call our second home. Starting a new school is a little intimidating, especially since you don't know the terrain and you may only recognize a few familiar faces. Not to worry because as soon as you walk onto the third floor, smiling teachers will point you to your homeroom (homebase for the year).

Throughout the day, you'll get your schedule, figure out what classes you'll be taking, and meet student leaders during the All School Meeting (ASM) and summer reading activities. Some of us will even take you on a tour of the school's hallways and neighborhood. Take a deep breath, smile, and reach out to make new friends.

WHEN AND WHERE TO SHOW UP TO SCHOOL:

School starts at 9:00. Free breakfast is available from 8:30-9:00. The arrival door for 6th graders is on 76th Street. Dismissal is at 3:20 on 77th Street.



Website:

www.thecomputerschool.org



Contact:

917-441-1236



Email:

You will get your very own CS email account in September!



Academic Life at the Computer School

For the year, you'll be assigned to one of these lucky homerooms: 601, 602, 603, 604

Your homeroom is your new home away from home. It's where you organize your belongings for the day, lock your phone and other valuables in your locker, hear important announcements and enjoy quiet time to read your independent reading book. You'll meet in homeroom when you arrive to school, before and after lunch, and at the end of the day.

You'll be assigned a Class Section A, B, C, D, W, X, Y, Z

We know you know your ABCs, but you DO NOT know YET which letter section you'll be in. Instead of having one teacher for one class like you did in elementary school, you'll now travel with a cross section and a 6/7 section and you'll switch classes 7 times a day.

Social and Emotional Life at the Computer School

STARS (Students Talking About Real Stuff)

Every week, you and a small group of 6th grade students meet with a designated teacher known as your STARS advisor who supports your growth both academically and socially. STARS is a place where you get to discuss how to organize your homework load or how to deal with a conflict with a friend. You also engage in fun team-building exercises to get to know your other peers better. Your STARS advisor is the first person to go to when you have a question, problem, or just want to share about your weekend with another adult.

Friend Life at the Computer School

There will be lots of opportunities to meet your classmates at the Computer School--tonight is the first one. After you're home tonight, you're going to go to Fipgrid to make a short video about yourself. Once you're done you'll be able to see other kids' videos.

To make your video::

go to: tinyurl.com/CSorientation23 (password: CSflipgrid (capital CS)) or scan the QR code below.



TERRAPIN TIP: Make new friends by showing interest in getting to know them. Some questions to ask: "What did you do for your summer reading assignment?" or "What's your favorite outdoor activity/sports team/book series/Youtube channel/video game/pizza topping/school mascot? Answer for the latter: Terrapins



WHAT WE ABOUT THE COMPUTER SCHOOL EVERYTHING!

All School Meeting (ASM) and Spirit Day

Every month, the entire school gathers to participate in a town-hall meeting that eighth grade leaders plan and host. We get to hear words of wisdom from Ms. Shalom, learn about social/study skill from entertaining skits, cheer on Ms. Skinner's spirit team, celebrate Students of the Month and Spirit Stick recipients, and end with our "spirit clap" (this complicated hand clap may take you more than a couple of ASMs to master). Spirit day--our favorite--is also on the same day as ASM. Get ready to dress up in comfy PJs, wear the same outfit on twin day or show off as your favorite Disney character!

Performances, Teaching Artists & Extended Studies

We get to engage with professional works of art related to dance, theatre, art, and music throughout the year. Within our classes, we also get to study these works of art in-depth and then create our own projects based on what we've learned. In ELA, a teaching artist works with us throughout the year to develop our performance skills and engage in hands-on activities.

School Dances

So you think you can dance? You don't really need to know how at the school dances. The PA throws us the best dance parties every marking period or so. We get to hang out with our friends, listen to good music, and sometimes even dance.

Events and Field Trips

We love in-school activities, but we love going outside as well. Some trips to look forward to this year include an overnight camping trip in the fall, "Friday Funday" in December, and the Jog-a-Thon and Field Day in the spring. These grade-wide and school-wide trips are an integral part of the entire learning experience at CS.

Enrichment

Twice a week you have the opportunity to choose a topic that interests you--Poet's Cafe, Methods in Art, Architecture, Table Tennis, Podcasting, Games for Change. Stay tuned for next year's options.

Manhattan Youth Afterschool Program

We are excited to announce our wide selection of afterschool programs that are offered free of charge! Choose from many of our fun activities offered during the year. Some great examples include: debate team, music, theatre arts, fitness club, glee club, portfolio art, business builders, yearbook club, yoga, band, perspective drawing, craft club, technical theatre, food club, spirit team, animal conservation, chess, film making, commercial dance, fencing, and more! Please visit our website to explore your options or speak with our after school directors for more information (Shopkins@manhattanyouth.org).

Silent Study Lab

This is actually a popular place to be after school, contrary to what you might think. If you need a quiet place to complete homework, study hall is offered Monday through Thursday and there's always a teacher around to give you additional support.

Over 15 Athletic Teams

Are you the next Mia Hamm or Steph Curry? Look for information regarding team tryouts, and--head's up-- it's competitive! CS athletic teams include: volleyball, baseball (borough champions!), softball, basketball soccer, flag football (City champions!), track and field (lots of medal winning runners), ultimate frisbee, table tennis, cross country and more.



STILL FEELING UNEASY ABOUT 6TH GRADE? READ BELOW FOR ALL THE ANSWERS IN THE UNIVERSE ... OR SOME OF THEM.

What supplies will I need?

In August, your family will pay for supplies so that you won't need to do last minute Staples shopping. On your first day of school, there will be a box of supplies on your desk with all the materials you'll need for the year, including a planner, notebooks, folders pens, and pencils—oh my!

What if I can't open my locker?

You'll get plenty of practice unlocking your lock, and it'll take more than one try. The trick is to clear the lock by turning the black knob to the right three times and memorize, turn Right, Left, Right. Tip: memorize your combo with a rhyme (ie. "47-13-4, that's a combo I adore.")

What if I can't find my class?

Check out our handy map on the last page. It's good to stick with a class buddy the first week, and if you're wandering the halls, we might spot you first and help you on your way. Don't be afraid to ask a teacher or student!

What if I get sick during the day?

If you feel sick, tell the teacher and she or he will write you a pass to the nurse, which is on the first floor next to the security desk. You can go with a buddy if it's your first time.

What if I'm going to be absent from school?

If you are going to be absent, your family should email attendance@thecomputerschool.org to notify the school.

What if I come late to school?

That stubborn alarm (or grouchy morning pre-teen?) does get the best of us. If you happen to be late, you'll go straight to the main office to get a late pass from Ms. Margie and then report to class.

What if I don't have anyone to sit with at lunch?

You sit with your homeroom at lunch so it's impossible not to make 30 new friends. All you gotta do is turn to someone and introduce yourself. Drop a line at how excited you are for lunch out and you may just want to make future lunch out plans.

What if I wake up and this is all a dream?

We get it. The Computer School is so awesome that sometimes it feels dream-like! Go ahead and pinch yourself silly if you don't believe it.

This is where we say goodbye ... for a while. Overwhelmed? Still a little nervous? Just know that you belong at The Computer School (otherwise you wouldn't be reading this!). We can honestly say that you will have the best year of your entire life and, before you know it, we'll be wishing you a happy next summer!

