

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The following is a listing of the Upper Township Middle School's clubs, sports teams and councils. A late bus is available at 4:00 p.m. following the activities. We strongly encourage all students to take advantage of the many opportunities for involvement outlined here. We want all students to live the middle school life to its fullest.

### Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society is comprised of qualified members from 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. At the end of the third marking period, students in 7<sup>th</sup> grade who have earned a cumulative average of 95+ or 93+ for advanced classes in math, social studies, ILA and science, with no grade lower than an 85 in any other subject, are eligible. To become a member, students must also show leadership, service, character and citizenship in the school and community. **Members must maintain all of the above criteria to remain members throughout their middle school years.** *Advisor: Mrs. Maryellen Norkis*

### Student Council

UTMS Student Council is a program that fosters positive leadership, activity and service in our school and township communities. Student Council runs all year with meetings held once a month from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Officers' meetings are held bi-monthly or as needed. Members participate in the planning of their meetings and serve as liaisons to represent and communicate on behalf of the student body. Attendance at meetings is mandatory.

The UTMS Student Council is a member of the N.J. Association of Student Councils and participates in two statewide conventions held at Rider College and The College of New Jersey each year. Student Council sponsors fundraising activities throughout the year to support the cost of transportation and attendance at these educationally enriching events.

*Advisor: Mrs. Josie Spinelli and Ms. Val Adams*



### **School Newspaper**

The Osprey is the school newspaper, which produces approximately 4-6 issues per year. All students are welcome to join and turn in articles or information of interest to the student population. Students pick assignments of interest to them. The group meets about twice a month. Students who cannot attend the meetings can work on articles at home and submit them to the editor. Next year, we hope to create an E-newspaper as well as a hard copy.

*Advisor: Ms. Gail Homan*

### **Think Team**

The Upper Township Think Team provides 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to gain practice in academic district team competition and cooperation. Think Team provides students with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate leadership skills and stresses the importance of intellectual activity and academic skills. Selection for Think Team will begin in the fall and practices will be approximately once a week culminating in two competitions in late winter. Twelve students will be chosen based on teacher recommendations and their knowledge of various subjects including literature, history, geography, current events, sports and entertainment. *Advisor: Mrs. Karen Hartsough*



### **Tech Time**

Tech Time is open to any middle school student interested in further developing his/her knowledge in the area of technology. Tech Time will offer the opportunity to learn new skills which may include web page design, digital movie editing, advanced PowerPoint, Internet research and even a little fun and games. Students will also have the opportunity to attend Tech Time to complete school assignments requiring the use of technology.

*Advisor: Ms. Cathy Zane*



## Yearbook

The Yearbook Club meets as needed through March. Students choose a theme, take pictures, do layouts and put together a yearbook all can cherish. This club is open to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students only. *Advisor: Ms. Gail Homan*

## Band

The Instrumental Music Program provides weekly small group lessons for students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade during the school year. In addition, a Green, White and Gold Concert Band is offered to students based on playing ability and grade level. The bands perform several concerts each year for the general public and student body. *Instructor: Mr. Stephen Skiscim*

## Jazz Band

The UTMS Music Department offers a specialized Jazz Band open to students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade by audition. The band rehearses weekly after school and performs at school sponsored concerts, festivals and competitions. The students are taught jazz scales, jazz harmonies and styles including solo improvisation techniques. Summer instrumental lessons are available through CEUT. The Elementary Honors Band and All South Jersey Honors Band is offered annually to students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade by audition. *Instructor: Mr. Stephen Skiscim*



## Choir

The UTMS Concert Choir is open to all students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades. The Concert Choir rehearses after school on Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:00 pm. The 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade “Select Choir” auditions in the fall for the following school year. Choir traditionally performs December and May concerts. Attendance is essential at rehearsals and concerts. All choir students are eligible to audition for the Cape May County Honors Choir, New Jersey All State Honors Choir and 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders may audition for the All South Jersey Junior High. *Instructor: Ms. Deb Pruitt*



## Homework Program

The Homework Program is an after-school activity where students get help on how to prioritize tasks, organize work and establish the habit of completing daily/weekly assignments accurately and on time. It is also a place where students can make up quizzes and tests without missing classes. It is held from October through May two days a week (days to be determined at the beginning of the year) from 2:30 pm – 4:00 pm. ONLY a teacher assigns a student to homework program. Concerned parents may call his/her child's teacher if they feel their child is in need of this program as it relates to a particular class. The teacher will then fill out the necessary referral form and send it home to be signed by the parent and returned the next day.

*Advisor: Ms. Lindsay Drake*



## Art Club

Art Club is designed for the student who loves art. The club meets twice a month after school. Activities include holiday crafts, drawing and painting and school beautification projects.

*Instructor: Mrs. Cynthia Dudnick*



## Drama

The Drama Club is open to students in 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades by audition in December. Students will be required to attend rehearsals twice a week after school until 4 p.m. A month from production time, rehearsals will increase. Once a commitment is made, it is important that the student is active throughout the drama season. Production time varies with the type of play that is chosen or written by the students. We strive for team spirit, creativity and increasing self-esteem. The UTMS Drama Club touches upon all aspects of the theater; writing, acting, scenery, props, costumes, student directors, make-up and publicity.

*Advisor: Mrs. Denise Landset*



# SPORTS

## Fall Sports

*All students trying out for a sport must have a physical and have all completed paperwork submitted to their coach or the school nurse prior to the first day of tryouts.*

### Soccer

The soccer program is available for all students, 6<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Our school has both a boy's team and a girl's team. Soccer runs from the second week of September through the end of October. Sign ups for soccer occur during the first week of school and tryouts begin soon after. Teams practice everyday from 2:30-4:00 pm. Games generally run from 3:45-5:00 pm.

*Coaches: Mr. Todd Thornton and Mr. Oliver Muzsly*



### Field Hockey

The Field Hockey program is available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Field Hockey is a fall sport, running from the second week of September through the end of October. Sign-ups for Field Hockey occur during the first week of school and tryouts begin soon after. The team practices everyday from 2:30-4:00 pm. Games generally run from 3:45-5:00.

*Coaches: Ms. Teresa Gaeckle and Mrs. Tina Sedberry*

### Cross Country

Cross Country sign-ups will be at the end of September and the coaches encourage all students to try out. We highly recommend this program. It is a great exercise activity and all who participate make the team. Practices usually consist of runs between 2 and 4 miles. Cross Country competes from October through November. Meets are run with a boy's and a girl's race of 1 ½ miles. There are ten meets a season and an individual meet at the end of the season. *Coach: Ms. Dianna Williams & Mr. Bruce Welch*



## Mid-Winter Sports

*All students trying out for a sport must have a physical and have all completed paperwork submitted to their coach or the school nurse prior to the first day of tryouts.*

### **Girls' Basketball**

The Girls' Basketball program begins with sign ups in November and tryouts around Thanksgiving. This sport is available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls with both a varsity and junior varsity team offered. The team participates in the Dixie Howell Tournament in December and the league games run through the middle of February. Practice alternates with the boy's team at the middle school and elementary school's gyms. A late bus is available at both schools. Games are from 3:45-5:00 p.m. with about one hour travel time for away games.

*Coaches: Mr. T. J. Warren & Mr. Todd Thornton*



### **Boys Basketball**

Basketball sign ups for 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys are held in early November with tryouts around Thanksgiving. There are varsity and junior varsity teams. Practices are held Monday through Friday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. League games begin in December with the Dixie Howell Tournament. League games begin in early January and run through February. Games are from 3:45-5:00 p.m. with about one hour travel time for away games. *Coaches: Mr. Lou Paone and Mr. Robert Merkh*

## **Volleyball**

The Volleyball program is available to both boys and girls in 8<sup>th</sup> grade only. Volleyball is a mid-winter/spring sport, running from mid-February to the end of March. Sign ups occur at the end of January and tryouts begin as soon as physicals can be completed. The team practices everyday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Games generally run from 3:45-5:00 p.m. Twelve games are played with a co-ed team of 3 boys and 3 girls.  
*Coach: Ms. Teresa Gaeckle*



## **Spring Sports**

***All students trying out for a sport must have a physical and have all completed paperwork submitted to their coach or the school nurse prior to the first day of tryouts.***

### **Baseball**

Boys in grades 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> are eligible to try out for the school baseball team. Approximately ten games are played against schools in Cape May and Atlantic counties. Practices are held on days that no games are scheduled. Team focus is on learning the game and sportsmanship. The season lasts 6-8 weeks. *Coach: Mr. Jamie Gillespie*



### **Softball**

Softball sign ups are held in late March. Tryouts begin after physicals, usually just before or after spring break. Practices are held Monday through Friday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Games begin in late April/early May through the end of May. *Coaches: Ms. Janet Treen*

## Golf

Golf is a spring sport that is open to all 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Sign ups and tryouts will be held each March/April. The Golf Team will be limited to 18 members, selected in accordance to ability. Instruction, rules, proper etiquette, as well as competition against other schools will be involved in this program. Daily practice will be held at various local golf courses.

*Coach: Mrs. Mary Beth Grant*



## Track

The Track Program is available to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. Track is a spring sport, running from late March through May. Sign ups for track occur in early March. Tryouts begin around April 1<sup>st</sup>. The team practices everyday from 2:30-4:00 p.m. Meets run from 4:00 to approximately 5:30 p.m. The following events are included in competition:

100 meters	200 meters	400 meters	800 meters	4x100 relay
1600 meters	Shot Put	Long Jump	Discus	4x200 relay

*Coaches: Ms. Teresa Gaeckle and Mr. Jeff Samaniego*

