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wide receiver Tyler Robbins. "We've worked hard this summer, but we'll have to wait for the season." After graduating 32 seniors in May, the Patriots will be turning to their upcoming seniors for leadership. "It's like that every season but maybe this season more than ever," Robbins says. "It's an exciting thing, but there are no guarantees. Every game is going to be a challenge."

By moving up to 6A, Homewood will regularly play bigger schools with more students, opposing players who focus on one sport rather than multiple sports, and high-quality opponents. "To be the best, you have to beat the best," says Mayor McCulley.

Whatever happens, the Homewood community will continue to support their hometown heroes. "Homewood is a nice community," says Newton. "People care about the kids and what's going on over here at the school."

McCulley says, "There's a great deal of pride in the kids and what they do. It's not just about winning. Whether they win or lose, you leave feeling like they've played the best they could."

### HOMEWOOD PATRIOTS 2006 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENT	LOCATION
Sept. 1	Tallassee	Away
Sept. 8	Minor*	Away
Sept. 15	Oak Mountain*	Home
Sept. 22	Carver*	Home
Sept. 29	Briarwood	Home
Oct. 6	Spain Park*	Away
Oct. 13	Mountain Brook*	Home
Oct. 19	Hoover*	Away
Oct. 27	Vestavia Hills*	Away
Nov. 3	Thompson	Home

\* Denotes a Region 6 game.

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Barry R. McCulley

**City Council:**

President  
Ginger Busby

Ward I/Place 1  
Anthony R. Smith

Ward I/Place 2  
Thomas Hamner, Jr.

Ward II/Place 1  
Allyn Krall

Ward II/Place 2  
Joe Falconer

Ward III/Place 1  
J.J. Bischoff

Ward III/Place 2  
Scott McBrayer

Ward IV/Place 1  
Sam Brasseale

Ward V/Place 1  
Jackie Langlow

Ward V/Place 2  
Allan Trippe

**City Clerk:**

Linda J. Cook

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## Back to a New School Experience:

# Transitioning from Elementary to Middle School

By Sayte Holland McComb

The fifth graders of last year are soon to be "the new kids" at Homewood Middle School when classes begin in early August. These students have the opportunity to attend a nationally recognized state of the art facility and to experience learning designed for an easy transition into middle school life.

For these newcomers, the step up to the middle school is both exciting and challenging. For some, it can even seem daunting. The new students come from Homewoods three separate elementary schools, Hall Kent, Edgewood, and Shades Cahaba, all joining together to form the new sixth grade class. This year they will find both teachers and upper classmen ready to welcome them.

Socially, many students have not met each other prior to attending Homewood Middle School. The team learning experience facilitates learning and developing friendships with new students from all three schools coming together. The choices of extra-curricular activities to incoming sixth graders increase in middle school years. These are opportunities for students to pursue and explore their own individual interests, while interacting with others who share such interests.

This year on August 25<sup>th</sup>, three weeks after school begins, the new students and their teachers will have an opportunity to get to know each other at an after school party.

Other classes play a significant role in welcoming new students. Before attending Homewood High School, outgoing eighth graders assist with orientation by giving incoming students tours of the new school and offering encouragement on a peer level.

Academically, the incoming sixth graders are divided into six "Teams," with each team lead by two core teachers. While one teacher instructs in math and sciences, the second focuses on social studies and language arts. Additional teachers provide instruction in elective courses, such as band, choir, physical education, family consumer science, and the arts. The team concept enhances the educational experience by allowing students to bond with two primary team teachers.

The transition from elementary to middle school is not limited to students. Opportunities for parents to become actively involved in the academic experience are numerous and genuinely encouraged by school administration and staff. Dr. Bill Cleveland, Principal at Homewood Middle School, notes that one way for parents adjusting to the new school experience is to become involved through various programs at the middle school.

Of particular interest to parents with children in any level of the Homewood School System is a program called the Parent Involvement Committee, known as PIC. This program began as a branch of the Parent-Teacher Organization and specifically encourages working parents who may not be available to become actively involved in daytime support activities to attend informative meetings after work.

Meetings are generally held on the first Monday evening of each month at 6:00 p.m. The sessions are always informative and often include a guest speaker with topics ranging from Internet Safety to Drug Awareness. The first meeting will be held on Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Parents with a child in any of the Homewood elementary schools are invited to attend. Additional information and future schedules may be obtained by calling the Homewood Middle School office at 870-0878.