



# Rising Starr Middle School

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**Kathy Smith**  
*Principal*

**Debbie Rasnake**  
*Assistant Principal*

**Ron Rineer**  
*Assistant Principal*

Dear Panther Families,

Welcome to Rising Starr Middle School, A Georgia School of Excellence and a Georgia Lighthouse School to Watch. We are excited about this new school year as we welcome new teachers, new students and families to our school community. Our teachers have been working over the summer to ensure meaningful, worthwhile, and fun learning experiences for your children. Our custodial staff has also been working long hours to make the building clean, comfortable and “shiny” for all of us. We have the best staff in the county!

Several updates to support school safety were installed over the summer. When you visit you will see that new doors have been added to the rotunda which will prevent people from having access to the school without checking into the office first. We will have a new visitor check in/out system that that will work with Infinite Campus. This is just another safety step to ensure that only parents or guardians as noted in Infinite Campus will be able to check students out. Please update the emergency card that is sent home on the first day of school so that we will have the most updated information.

As you plan the upcoming year, please note that the school hours for middle school this year are 8:10 AM – 3:10 PM. The earliest any child can be dropped off at the school is 7:45. It is very important that your child arrives to school on time every day. Attendance is key to taking advantage of all the resources and tools our teachers have to offer, and to help your child be successful. The Fayette County Board of Education’s Attendance Policy can be found in the Student Code of Conduct your child will receive on the first day of school. There are several holidays built into the school calendar, so please try to plan your vacations in conjunction with the school’s holidays so that your child does not miss any important instruction.

Your child is important to us. Our amazing faculty and staff are here to support your children. There will be times when the teachers and teams may need some support and/or resources from our parents and community. We thank you, in advance, for your help with everything. We also have an amazing PTO. They are welcoming all parent volunteers as well as ideas and input. Please plan on joining this incredible organization!

I look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance.

Kathy Smith