

Rising 6th Graders Concerns/Questions
2016-17

How many classes will I have per day?

Answer: Six- Four cores and two electives + Enrichment/Remediation (K-9)
Sixth grade schedule: Core, K-9, Core, Lunch, Elective, Elective, Core, Core

How long is each class?

Roughly 50 minutes a day.

What is K-9 Enrichment/Remediation?

Answer: This class is a valuable tool in tailoring instruction based on the needs of the students. It may include:

- A class offered for those students that need additional support to be academically successful and/or improve their organization skills.
- If your child has not met Board requirements for EOG scores, this period will be used for Reading and/or Math remediation.
- Enrichment opportunities.
- Supervised study hall.

Opportunities could vary from track to track depending on available personnel. Groupings will be flexible. As students mature, different options will be provided for differentiation.

What time does school start and end?

Answer: You must be in your homeroom seat, ready to go by 8:15 AM.
School lets out at 3:00 PM.

What if you get to school early?

Answer: Students congregate in designated areas according to grade levels for morning conversation. Students can be dropped off in the carpool area beginning 7:40 AM and enter the building at 7:45 AM. Some students eat breakfast. Others have morning passes to complete work/receive tutoring.

How do you know what bus to take?

Answer: Go to wcpss.net- Parents-Transportation-Bus Routes.

A copy of the bus routes will also be posted on our website as soon as we know. You can use this as a guide to determine the correct route. Times for specific stops are not listed, so you will need to be early the first few days. Learn the route number.

How long will the buses wait?

Answer: You must be at the bus stop on time in the morning! About five-ten minutes in the afternoon. All students exit the building as soon as the dismissal bell rings. Fortunately, sixth graders are very close to the bus area and have ample time to get to the buses if they choose to.

On the first day, how will I know where to go and what to do?

Answer: Don't stress! Come to the pick-up-your schedule day and you will have all your questions answered early!

How much time is there between classes?

Answer: Three/four minutes

Will our names be on our lockers? How will I know my locker combination? What if I forget?

Answer: Each team has their own way of giving out lockers but students will get the locker and combination written on a slip of paper. Be sure to write it down in several places so you'll have it. This will be important as we will probably track in and out of lockers this year.

When can I go to the bathroom?

Answer: During the four minute breaks. Again, each team has their own policies. It really isn't a problem unless students misbehave in the restroom and/or abuse the privilege.

How long is lunch? What is the food like?

Answer: Lunch is 25-ish minutes. It really helps if students memorize their lunch numbers! The line moves quickly then! The food really is good. Seriously!

Are there vending machines?

Answer: Yes, but the items are also on the line for you to purchase with your lunch account. **Learn your lunch account number.**

Do we have assigned seating in the cafeteria?

Answer: No, sixth graders must sit with their teams. This, on occasion, can change if the behavior isn't up to standard.

Can you carry your backpack around between classes?

Answer: **No.** They must stay in the locker throughout the day. Gym clothes can be carried in a smaller bag. (They sell them through the booster club.)

Can we decorate the inside and outside of our lockers?

Answer: Yes, the inside. Just remember your locker is for books, jackets, etc. It must be able to close! Everything must be magnetic.

In P.E., do you have to change and take showers?

Answer: Students are required to dress out for PE in black/red shorts and a gray shirt. Showers are not provided. **We strongly recommend roll-on deodorant****-no sprays of any kind.**

Are cell phones allowed? What about Ipods?

Answer: We will be a bring your own device school next year. We have not formalized policies and procedures, but it will be address thoroughly by your grade level administrator and core teachers.

What is offered after school?

Answer: Sixth graders may participate in clubs, dances, and school plays. Some sixth graders are team managers, also. Watch for announcements on HGMS website and Mr. Proulx's weekly telephone messages.

Are there a lot of bullying situations? Will teachers help with this?

Answer: We take bullying very seriously. Administrators will present a power-point to discuss expectations of acceptable behavior. There are extensive classroom guidance lessons on bullying.

Is it hard to make friends? What if I don't fit in?

Answer: This will be a new experience for everyone in sixth grade. Chances are if you are feeling nervous, so is someone else. Sixth grade teams have activities planned to "break the ice" so students can get to know each other. If you are feeling awkward and want to talk about it, the teachers, grade level administrators, and counselor are always available to listen. We don't mind at all. We've all been a sixth grader at one time or another!

Is middle school stressful?

Answer: At times, yes. It's new. That can be stressful. However, our sixth grade teachers understand and will walk students through what is expected. The stress comes when students choose not to listen and/or heed their advice! So, tune in to the teacher and tune out distractions!

One big adjustment is to the grading scale:

A 90-100

B 80-89

C 70-79

D 60-69

F Less than 70

FF Failure for violation of attendance policy

Promotion standards: Must pass Language Arts, Math; either Science or Social Studies; AND one of the two electives. Must also pass grade level EOG/EOC.

How do electives work?

Answer: Students are assigned classes by Power Schools. Students will be given the opportunity to register at their elementary schools with their elementary counselor.

How do I get to see the middle school counselor?

Answer: The counselor is available to see you whenever it's convenient to both schedules. We are very flexible and try to work around academics so you will not be missing too much of any class. You can self-refer by signing up on the clipboard in the Guidance office, or tell your teacher you need to see a counselor. Also, counselors are out and about in the pods in the morning, on duty, in the cafeteria at lunch, K-9...so use that time to get to know your counselor. (She would like that very much!!) Counselors provide services through individual, group, and classroom guidance.