

Wayne Carle Middle School 6th Grade Transition FAQ Document

All information is subject to change and based on the best information we have as of Nov 26.

IMPORTANT STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION:

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SCHEDULING AND CLASSES INFORMATION

- How will the school make room for the Grade 6 students? ***We will have to adjust some classroom usage, but we should have plenty of classroom space. We have 560 lockers, and our building capacity is approximately 600. We do not expect to have that many students next year or for years to come.***
- What will typical class sizes be and how does that compare to current classroom size? ***Most classes range from 25-32 students. PE classes often get as big as 35, and performing arts classes that have both 7th and 8th graders are often much larger (40-60).***
- How will Band/Orchestra programs work? ***We're planning to have Band 6 and Orchestra 6 as full year electives, and we'll likely have Choir 6 as a spring semester elective.***
- How is the decision to move 6th grade to middle school beneficial to both students and staff? ***The best Jeffco answer to this question can be found at this Jeffco web site:***
<https://jeffco.ss12.sharpschool.com/cms/One.aspx?portalId=627965&pageId=2400403>
- How will you staff/hire? ***We're planning to hire a core team of 6th grade teachers that will include Language Arts, Math, Science and Social Studies. We're also planning to hire a Reading/Literacy teacher as part of that team. We anticipate needing additional elective sections, and decisions about those positions will be made after we have a better sense of our likely enrollment.***
- Will teachers need to have Secondary qualifications? ***Not necessarily. Teachers without secondary licensure can teach 6th graders in a middle school, and we're planning to consider such teachers when we hire for 6th grade positions.***
- What electives will 6th graders have? ***Our elective "wheel" has traditionally included Art, Family & Consumer Science, Physical Education and Technical Education, with almost all students taking PE at least one semester. Many students have also taken Band or Orchestra as full year electives, and many students have also taken Choir as a one semester elective. We expect to have all of those options for 6th graders along with other electives such as Theater Arts and World Languages & Cultures.***

- When will we know my child's schedule? ***That process will start in early February when our counselors present information to students at each of our feeder elementary schools. That will include collection of a course information card for each student. The schedule is created using that information, and we work on the schedule through the summer. Schedules are then provided at registration in early August.***
- Can 6th graders take Spanish or other foreign languages? ***To be determined. Until now we have allowed only 8th graders to take Spanish 1. We are considering options that could create a pathway for 8th graders to take Spanish 2; that pathway could start with Spanish 1 as an elective that students could take over the course of 6th and 7th grades, or we could offer Spanish 1 but only for 7th graders.***
- What will happen to the 6th Grade teaching team at the elementary schools? ***This will vary from teacher to teacher, but there are multiple opportunities for these teachers, including opportunities to get hired as 6th grade teachers in middle schools.***
- Will there be other staffing changes at the elementary schools as a result of moving the 6th graders? ***Your elementary principal is the best resource for this question.***
- Will you be using a Middle School model or a Jr. High model? How will you differ this from prior years? ***We're planning to have a middle school model for 6th grade in 2018-19. Several years ago we changed our schedule to provide common planning time for teachers in core departments, and that change coincided with a move away from teaming students. We believe our plan to team 6th graders in 2018-19 will reacquaint us with that model and allow us to consider it for subsequent years.***
- What are the options for ALP and GT kids to enroll in 6th grade honors classes. ***Math is the only department that offers leveled or "advanced" courses. There are three main reasons that we do not offer advanced courses in other departments:***
 1. ***Our state assessment data consistently shows high growth among our highest performing students, and we believe that reflects high quality, differentiated learning for those students.***
 2. ***Creating one or two sections of advanced sections in all departments would limit our ability to schedule all students in the wide range of elective classes that we offer. We already face this issue in 8th grade for students who would like to take Advanced Math, Spanish, Band/Orchestra, and any other limited electives such as Musical Theater.***
 3. ***With a school as small as ours, having only one or two periods in which to enroll students for multiple classes usually leads to unusual class sizes throughout the schedule, including some classes with more than 32 students.***

Even as our overall enrollment increases with the addition of 6th graders, we will probably be relatively small on a per-grade basis, and these factors would still occur.

For students with ALPs (Advanced Learning Plans), we will continue our practice of having counselors lead that work with students, teachers and families.

TYPICAL DAY INFORMATION

- 7th graders are expected to be fairly independent and responsible, getting around the school, taking notes on assignments, etc. Will 6th graders be expected to do the same? I am worried for my child. Will there be more of a transition time for 6th graders? ***We will have a number of structures and programs in place to support the transition to middle school and the social-emotional needs of students. One new program we are considering is "Where Everybody Belongs." WEB is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes new students and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience. It's also likely that our first day of school for 6th***

graders will include just 6th graders. That has always been our practice for 7th graders, and it has been very successful in the past. We're also planning a "WC Summer Academy" that will most likely include two days in early August designed to help students adjust to middle school before classes officially begin.

- **What will a day look like for 6th grade students? We won't have a final decision made until next spring, but more than likely we will continue with a daily schedule that includes seven classes for all students with each period lasting 45-50 minutes. For the past several years, 1st period has started at 8:25 with students entering the building at 8:17, and 3:21 has been our dismissal time. More than likely this will be our schedule next year, but that determination is impacted by busing details that have not been finalized.**
- **Will 6th graders follow a similar day as the other Middle Schoolers? For the most part, yes, but teams like we're planning to have also have flexibility to adjust how time is used with their team's schedule. We are planning to have separate lunches for each grade, 6th grade lockers will be grouped together, and 6th grade classes will not include 7th or 8th graders**
- **I'd like information on the dress code for girls vs. boys. We provide an opportunity to revise our student handbook every spring, but for the most part our dress code and the rest of our student handbook has remained largely the same for many years. This year's handbook (for 2017-18) can be found on the Wayne Carle web site, and the web site includes lots of other helpful information for students and families. Here is the link for our web site:**
<http://waynecarle.jeffcopublicschools.org/>
- **Should we have a crossing guard at the light at 100th and Countryside? We have not previously had a crossing guard at 100th and Countryside which also serves as the entry to the front of the building. There are crosswalks in all directions, and the pedestrian signal is set to give pedestrians time to walk across the street while vehicles have a red light.**

OUTDOOR LAB INFORMATION

- **Will 6th Graders go to outdoor lab? Yes, all Jeffco 6th graders will attend Outdoor Lab as they have for many years.**
- **Will the King Soopers fund raising cards remain in use for Outdoor Lab fund raising? Yes, and interested parents should contact the WCMS main office if they'd like more information.**
- **Do we know when WCMS 6th graders will go to Outdoor Lab? Not yet, but we have been told that the schedule should be provided before spring break.**

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES INFORMATION (INCLUDES SUMMER TRAVEL INFORMATION)

- **Is there a school-wide play? 8th graders can take "Musical Theater" as an elective in the spring semester, and that class includes night time performances in May. We offer "Theater Arts" as a semester elective for 7th and 8th graders, but those classes have not included a full performance. Final decisions about 6th grade electives have not been made, but a 6th grade version of "Theater Arts" is a possibility.**
- **Do you have after school sports/activities? Jeffco does not have middle school interscholastic sports, but we partner with Westminster Parks and Rec to offer a variety of activities. These are usually coached by either WCMS staff or Westminster Parks and Rec staff. Offerings usually include basketball, volleyball, track/running club, and**

weightlifting. We have offered non-sports activities in previous years and would consider doing so again if there is interest. We also have several teacher sponsored clubs, including Robotics, Thespian Club and FCCLA Club (Family and Consumer Science).

- Do you have summer travel programs, and if so, how do they work? **Yes, we have had summer travel opportunities almost every year, and information will be available at our November Interest Nights.**

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- Will the elementary schools be underutilized with the move of the 6th Graders, especially with the opening of Three Creeks and some of the other boundary changes? **This will vary from school to school, and the principal at each school is the best source of information.**
- When making the decision this year between Three Creeks and Meiklejohn, we were told that busing would be provided for two years for Three Creeks households whose children chose to stay at Meiklejohn then attend WCMS. Now that our child will attend Wayne Carle in 2018-19, will busing still be provided for the second year as previously stated? **Yes, that plan is still in place, but all other busing details have not been determined at this time.**
- My child has an IEP (Individualized Education Plan). How will that transition work from our elementary school to WCMS? **Our Special Education staff will meet with Special Education staff members at each elementary school during the spring semester to insure that each child's needs are met. Before that, families can provide information in early February during the registration process, and our Special Education staff and counselors are always glad to help as needed.**
- It is my understanding that the current bus stop my child will use it about 1/4 mile from our house. Previously, there were no children by me going to Wayne Carle. Next year there will be at least 5. How does one ask to have a bus stop set up. **All busing questions should be directed to the North Transportation office (303-982-1998), but at this time, busing details have not been determined.**
- Will choice enrollment be an option for kids who do not live in the Wayne Carle area? **We will probably accept students via choice enrollment, but those decisions won't be made until after the end of Round 1 Choice Enrollment window on January 31. It's important to know that choice enrollment at a WCMS feeder elementary school (Lukas, Meiklejohn, Witt) does not guarantee enrollment at WCMS, and students must apply for choice enrollment in order to be eligible for choice enrollment acceptance. The best resource for choice enrollment questions is the link below to the Jeffco choice enrollment page:**
http://www.jeffcopublicschools.org/schools/enrollment/choice_enrollment
- How can I stay informed after Interest Nights in late November? **Our 6th Grade Transition Committee meets the first Wednesday of each month, and information from those meetings will be provided soon after each meeting. That committee has also scheduled the following events at part of "Six Months to Middle School":**

Nov: Interest Nights on 28th and 30th

Dec: Caroling with elementary students in the Lukas and Witt neighborhoods on Monday, Dec 18.
Winter Fandango Concert with elementary band and orchestra students on Tuesday, Dec 19.

Jan: Outdoor Lab presentation by 6th grade teachers from feeder elementary schools (date TBD)

Feb: Counselors go to elementary classrooms for registration presentation (date TBD)

March: Evening panel presentations (date TBD)

April: WC visits during the school day (dates TBD)

May: Morning Coffees with Counselors at feeder elementary schools (dates TBD)

And final decisions regarding WC Summer Academy and the first days of school will be made soon.