



KCSD96

# 2024 5th to 6th Grade Transition: Parent Meeting

# 6th Grade Parent Orientation

Jessica Barnes– Twin Groves Principal

Kasie Dolan– Twin Groves Assistant Principal

Greg Grana– Woodlawn Principal

Brigitte Cameron – Woodlawn Assistant Principal

# Tonight's Agenda

Welcome to Middle School

Parents' Top Ten List

Words of Wisdom from our 6th Graders!

# What is Middle School All About?

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District 96's Vision:

Ensure that every child achieves his or her maximum potential.

**The same is true at Twin Groves and Woodlawn!**

# — What is Your Child Experiencing?

- Movement Towards Independence
- Building Self-Advocacy
- Future Interests and Cognitive Changes
- Physical and Emotional Changes
- Morals, Values, and Self-Direction

# — Middle School At-A-Glance

- Teams of students and teachers
- Schedule to meet needs of the students
- Curriculum and teaching techniques geared towards the middle school mind
- Extracurricular opportunities
- Supportive school staff who understand the unique needs of middle school students!

# Parents' Top Ten List



10. Can kids really make it to class in a 3 minute passing period?

**YEP!**

# Parents' Top Ten List



9. What does a 6th grade schedule look like?



# DAILY SCHEDULE

Periods 2, 3, 7, 8 are the core academics-  
Math, SS, Science,  
Language ARTs

Period	6th
1	7:45 AM-8:26 AM <i>PE/EXPLORATORY</i>
2	8:29 AM- 9:29 AM
3	9:32 AM-10:32 AM
4	10:35 AM-11:16 AM <i>FLEX</i>
5	11:18 AM-11:59 AM <i>PE/EXPLORATORY</i>
6	12:00 PM-12:25 PM <i>LUNCH</i>
7	12:27 PM- 1:27 PM
8	1:30 PM- 2:30 PM

# Arrival and Dismissal

- Information about arrival and dismissal will be communicated in the Principal's Messages at the beginning of the year.
- There are buses that transport students home at 2:30 and then again after clubs and activities.
- If a student participates in sports, parents do provide transportation home from practices and games. There is NO transportation home after games and practices.

# A and B Days

- Students rotate their Exploratory and Spanish class.
- They will be assigned either an A or B day for Spanish. The Exploratory rotation will be the other day.
- A and B days alternate for all school days.
- A and B days are announced daily and posted around the school.

# — Exploratory Classes

- Students who are not enrolled in Band or Orchestra experience the following Exploratory classes during the year.
- **Art, Music, TASOL (The Art and Science of Living)**
- The classes change each Trimester.
- Students in Band or Orchestra do not participate in the classes above.

# PE/Health

- Students have PE every day.
- Students are assigned to a health rotation.
- During the year, students go to health for a total of 3 rotations that last about 3 weeks long. During this time students do not report to PE.

# Flex– 40 minute period

- Students are assigned to a teacher for Flex. This is referred to as their base camp.
- During Flex students received Tier 1 support (extension or intervention) from any of their core teachers (Math, SS, Science, LA)
- Students also receive Tier 2 or 3 math or reading interventions.
- Students in special education receive their related services and resource support during Flex.

# Flex Continued

- When students are not being pulled by their teachers, receiving intervention, or services, the students are working on activities focused on...
  - Reading: independent silent reading
  - Math- IXL
  - Self-paced and interest driven Flex Menu options. These options span all curricular areas.

# — A Word From Our Experts

**What is it like having different teachers for different subjects?**



# A Word From Our Experts

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**Socially, how was the transition to TG/WL with an entire group of new students?**

# Parents' Top Ten List



8. You mentioned “teams”. How do teams work?

# Grade Level Teams

- Group of teachers responsible for a small group of students (100–125 students)
- Meet regularly to discuss programs, curriculum, students, cooperative plans
- Communication with parents; newsletters, phone calls, conferences, e-mail
- Students identify with smaller group; sense of community.
- Teachers know students well
- Students have classes with their team for SS, Math, Science, Language Arts
- Students have exploratory, Spanish, lunch, and PE with both teams

# Parents' Top Ten List



7. How will students know what's going on?

- TeacherEase
- Schoology
- Daily Announcements
- Twin Groves/Woodlawn Websites
- Email



# Parents' Top Ten List

## 6. How will parents know what's going on?

- Teacher Ease
- Weekly Principal's Blog
- Schoology
- PTO - **GET INVOLVED!**
- E-News
- Email, Phone, Notes
- Daily Announcements
- If you have a question, please just ask!
- Twin Groves/Woodlawn Websites

# A Word From Our Experts

**What advice do you have for the parents of next year's 6th grade class?**

# Parents' Top Ten List



5. What happens if my child needs extra help?
- Talk to the teachers
  - Talk to our Student Services staff
  - Call the office and they will direct you.

# — Extra Help...

- PIT (Problem Intervention Team) crew
- Math and Literacy interventions
- Flex
- Study Hall
- Guided Study Hall
- Call and talk to our staff! We are here to help!



# Parents' Top Ten List



## 4. What happens at the beginning of the year?

- Placements sent out early-June
- IN ORDER TO GET YOUR SCHEDULE...Health forms must be turned in!
- Schedules will be sent out early August
- Locker set up night August 14th (details TBD)
- First day of school for students on Thursday, August 15th

# Parents' Top Ten List



## 3. How are iPads monitored?

- Block inappropriate content no matter where the iPad is.
- Gaggle- content analysis, expert review, security
- Light Speed- Weekly student reports available

# Parents' Top Ten List



2. What extracurricular activities are available for 6th graders?

- Clubs! Clubs! Clubs!
- Events--Musical, Play, Variety Show
- Band, Orchestra, Chorus
- Sports--Cross Country, Soccer, Wrestling, Track
- Study Hall/Activity Period 2:30-3:15
- Check the schools' websites and Daily Announcements

# Extracurricular Activities

All clubs/activities, study halls, and sports will be advertised in the Daily Announcements and on the school website.

Students do not need to sign up or register for clubs. There are expectations to clubs with space constraints. These will be communicated in the daily announcements.

Students who access transportation to and from school will have transportation home after clubs.

# Fees for Extracurricular Activities

Parents can prepay \$40 for activities at the beginning of the year.

Students enrolled in band and orchestra pay an additional \$20.

Students participating in soccer, basketball, volleyball or poms (dance team) pay an additional \$20.

# A Word From Our Experts

**What After-School Activities  
have you been involved in at your  
school?**

# A Word From Our Experts

**What did you worry about  
BEFORE starting MS?**

**What would you tell parents and  
incoming 6th graders NOT to  
worry about?**

# A Word From Our Experts

**Is there anything you WISH you had known before starting 6th grade?**



# Parents' Top Ten List



1. Will "I" be able to keep up with the 6th grade homework load?

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NO!

It is *your* student's work! You  
already finished Middle School!