Transitioning from Elementary to Junior High School

November 13, 2019
Differences Between Elementary and Junior High

Nicole Williams     &     Layne Dickens
Fielder Elementary                      Beck Junior High
Comparing Elementary and Junior High

**Elementary**

- 1-3 teachers
- Class length (1.5 hr–6 hrs depending)
- Travel in groups with teacher
- Recess
- Lunch – few choices
- Fine Arts during specials

**Junior High**

- 7-8 teachers
- Class length – 45 minutes and advisory
- Travel independently
- PE
- Lunch – more choices
- Fine Arts elective class
  - Typically include: choir, theater, art, band, and orchestra
## Sample Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Course-Section</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>G632-1</td>
<td><em>Science 6 PreAP/GT</em></td>
<td>2021</td>
<td><em>Hoover, Kinnari</em></td>
<td>8:40 AM - 9:40 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>G622-1</td>
<td>Soc Studies 6 PreAP/GT</td>
<td>2024</td>
<td>Worley, Anna</td>
<td>9:45 AM - 10:30 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>J680-1</td>
<td>PE 6 (Boys)</td>
<td>BYGYM</td>
<td>Troncale, Charles</td>
<td>10:35 AM - 11:20 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6L</td>
<td>J688-1</td>
<td>Lunch 6</td>
<td>Cafe</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>11:20 AM - 11:50 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>G601-2</td>
<td>Eng/Read 6 Block PreAP/GT</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dupont, Julie</td>
<td>11:55 AM - 12:40 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>G601-2</td>
<td>Eng/Read 6 Block PreAP/GT</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Dupont, Julie</td>
<td>12:45 PM - 1:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>J676-1</td>
<td>Cornet/Trumpet</td>
<td>1130</td>
<td>Guess, Bobby</td>
<td>1:35 PM - 2:20 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>G612-5</td>
<td>Math 6 PreAP/GT</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ganther, Britany</td>
<td>2:25 PM - 3:10 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>G695-2</td>
<td>Advisory 6 GT</td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Ganther, Britany</td>
<td>3:15 PM - 3:55 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Junior High Relationships at School and Home

Penny Flores & Pearl Fierro
Bryant Elementary & West Memorial Junior High
Making Friends: Social Relationships

- Students come from 2–8 different feeder elementary schools
- Each class is filled with a different mix of potential friends
- Talk about social skills (What is the motive behind what we think and speak)
- Joining Groups—Finding a connection with your school
Parent/Child Relationship in Junior High

- Student and social relationships become most important
- Listen, Encourage and Support
- Communication is vital
- In the Developmental LifeSpan: Junior High is a time for trying on different personas, until they find the one persona that feels safe and comfortable.
- Allow for Autonomy
• Rate your day on a scale of 1-10. What made it that?
• What three words could describe your day?
• Are you looking forward to anything for tomorrow?
• What was the most challenging part of your day?
• Is there anything that I can help you with?
• If you could do any moment from today over again, what would it be? Would you change anything?
• If you could buy anything for your school, what would it be?
• If you could do anything with any classmate, who would it be and what would you do?
• When you think about the other students at school, was there anything that concerned you?
• Do you have someone at school that you feel comfortable talking to? Who would that be? Why?

Adapted from Kate Bailin’s “25 Ways to Ask a Child: How Was Your Day?”
Academics and Course Selection

Susan Coventon & Jodi Slaughter
District Lead Elementary Counselor
Nottingham Country Elementary

District Lead Junior High Counselor
WoodCreek Junior High
### Weight of Grades

#### Grades 1-5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Tests, In-Class Projects, Formal Assessments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Quizzes, Classwork, Projects completed at home, Daily Assignments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Homework, Participation, Effort, Process, etc.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Grade 6

**Academic and Pre AP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>Tests, Projects, Research Papers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minor</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Quizzes, Products, Classwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>Homework, Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grade Reporting

● Frequency of grade reports
● UIL implications in Junior High
  ○ University Interscholastic League (the organization that governs extracurricular activities)
  ○ No pass, no play
  ○ Future parent meeting
● Parent signatures not always required
Course Selection

- Timeline and process
- Different levels of classes
  - Based on eligibility for programs (SE, ESL, 504, GT) students may be placed in specific clusters and/or classes with qualified staff
    - Parents will receive information about this (ARD, LPAC, 504, letter, etc.)
- Choosing electives
- How STAAR test can affect course selection
- Informational Events for Parents
  - KAP (formerly known as Pre-AP) District Meeting
  - Junior High School Parent Night Meeting
- Opportunity to make changes
- Elementary Counselor will support your fifth grade student throughout the course selection process
Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

Karen Merriman & Jodi Slaughter
Pattison Elementary
District Lead Junior High Counselor
WoodCreek Junior High
Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

● Problem Solver
  ○ Problems in elementary & junior high are usually not big.
  ○ How do we teach problem solving?
    ■ Let them solve their own problems.
    ■ Provide empathy.
    ■ “How do you think you are going to solve this problem?”
    ■ Ask for permission to give ideas.
    ■ Don’t save them from the consequences of their solution.
    ■ Start with small problems.

● Decision Maker
  ○ Decisions in elementary and junior high are not usually high stakes.
  ○ How do we teach decision making?
    ■ Let them make their own decisions.
    ■ “Wow, that’s a tough decision.”
    ■ “Do you want to talk through the pros and cons?”
    ■ Don’t save them from making the wrong decision.
    ■ Start with small decisions.
Characteristics of a Successful Junior High Student

● Responsible & Organized
  ○ Homework/Sleep/Time Management
  ○ How do we teach?→Natural Consequences
  ○ Set a Routine
  ○ Set Expectations
  ○ Increase Responsibility
  ○ Calendar/Planner/Electronic
  ○ Have a place for everything (supplies, where to study, coursework)
  ○ Canvas

● Attentive
  ○ Classroom
  ○ Announcement
  ○ Accountability

● Independent
  ○ Advocate for Self
  ○ How do we teach independence?

● Communicator
  ○ Peers
  ○ Teachers
  ○ I Messages

● Resourceful With Technology
  ○ Home Access Center
  ○ Katy Cloud
  ○ Canvas
  ○ Other Helpful Apps (Remind 101/Quizlet)
Closing and Questions

Susan Coventon & Jodi Slaughter
District Lead Elementary Counselor
Nottingham Country Elementary
District Lead Junior High Counselor
WoodCreek Junior High
For Parents: Helping your Kids Transition to Middle School with Dr. Dehra Harris

*Find Support

*Practice Self-Care
Please fill in our feedback form!

Thank you!

https://forms.gle/J8rRBwjHxHXhx7R76