

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why did you change this year's schedule?

The change in this year's schedule was caused by budget reductions with staff and the placement of math back into the core area with social studies, science, and language arts.

2. Why not have teachers transition to a CEC classroom, rather than moving all the students?

Many of the Middle School classrooms or spaces have specific or unique structures that we don't have at the CEC. These structures include a wood shop, technology lab, fitness room, and cafeteria. Another factor is space. The space at the CEC is not big enough to handle our high enrollment in music (band/choir) and physical education.

3. How often are sixth graders traveling between the CEC and the Middle School?

It depends on each child's schedule. All students will travel back and forth for lunch. Approximately 60% of our students will travel to an allied arts or physical education class for two of the three trimesters. We are looking at eliminating a transition by having choir start the year at the CEC.

4. How much time will the students have to go from one building to the other between classes?

The schedule lists five minutes as the passing time. We realize it will not be five minutes early in the year. Students will be given adequate time to transition between classes. The walk from building to building takes less than three minutes. Last year the sixth graders were able to make the transition in five minutes or less. It will help this year that students will not have a locker (one less combination to remember!) at the Middle School. They will go directly to class or lunch. Our teachers will provide an abundance of support and care to make this a smooth transition.

5. Will this walk between buildings be too difficult for a sixth grader?

We have taken a positive approach when our staff talks with the students at the beginning of school. Research has shown that kids need exercise more than ever. There is a positive correlation between exercise and academic learning. Most of the students look forward to the walk and many of them have plenty of energy to burn off.

6. Will enough time be given to change after physical education?

Our physical education teachers will allow adequate time to dress after class – just like they would for any other class.

7. If they will not have lockers at each building, where do their personal belongings go?

Students will simply hang their coats at their desk or lay their coats in a designated area in the room. They will have lockers for physical education. The classes that sixth graders have at the Middle School require limited school supplies. Art, technology education, wood shop, physical education, and foreign language classes may require a folder and a writing utensil. None of these classes require textbooks, and some classes will provide space to store their folders so they don't have to carry them to class. The greatest concern the past two years with the transition was the weight and amount of books and supplies students had to carry in their backpacks. This will not be a concern anymore. Closure to the day will take place at the CEC and teachers will assist students with the daily homework wrap-up.

8. What will happen on extreme weather conditions (i.e. thunderstorms or extreme cold)?

We are prepared to transport students by bus during extreme weather conditions. This has happened three times in the past two years. It is important for students to dress properly for school. Just like physical education classes, we will go outside in the winter, but not in extreme weather conditions.

9. What is the plan for safety and security when students are crossing a public road multiple times during the school day?

Teachers will lead the students out of the building to the crosswalk. We will always have a paraprofessional staff member conducting the road crossing to the Middle School and CEC. An administrator and/or police liaison will often be present during this supervised transition.

10. Is it true that students will not be assigned their lockers during open house?

All sixth graders will be assigned lockers on open house night.