

The Lower Middle School Transition Night



Head of School: Mr. Dan Quesnel

Director of Teaching and Learning: Dr. Linda Uveges

Lower Middle School Coordinator: Ms. Ashley Blackmer

4th Grade Social Studies and ELA Teacher: Mrs. Catherine Biggs

4th Grade Applied Mathematics Teacher: Mrs. Lexie Ellis

May 2, 2019

Purpose

- Parent Education
- Getting to know resources for the transition
- Question/Answer Session



What are educational transitions?

Most students make many transitions in their school lives. They do so when they:

- begin early childhood (Preschool)
- start school
- change year levels within a school
- transfer from one school to another
- shift from Lower School to Middle School and on to Upper School
- Upper School to College



What is important during transitions?

- School and Family Partnerships (with classroom teachers, Advisors, and Division Coordinator)
- Promoting Academic and Social-Emotional competence
- Continuity



What do successful transitions look like?

Students feel that ...

- They belong in their new school, and are included in school activities and programs
- They are positively connected to their peers, other students in the school and to their teachers
- Their teachers know them, including their strengths, interests, and learning needs
- they have a sense of purpose in being at school



- they have an understanding and commitment to their learning pathway through their schooling and beyond.
- they are making progress
- their current learning follows from their previous learning and is appropriately challenging
- learning is interesting and relevant
- they are physically and emotionally safe
- they have opportunities to try new, exciting things and/or extend their particular skills/interests



We can support students to make successful transitions by helping them develop a sense of themselves as competent and capable beings characterized by:

- A “can do” attitude
- A sense of self-capability
- Resourcefulness
- Resilience
- Strategies to deal with challenges
- Independence
- Skills relating to others such as actively listening, being tolerant, and cooperation
- A sense of contribution to school and community



Middle School Community

Weekly Morning Meeting led by SGA

Cross-Divisional Opportunities (HUGS)

Opportunities across Grade Levels (BUDS)

Seminars and OASES Day

LMS Annual Team-Building Trip to ECU

LMS End-of-Year Service Day



4th and 5th Grade Classes

- Morning Advisory from 815–8:30AM each day
- 1.5 hour blocks twice per day for core academic classes (Social Studies, English Language Arts, Applied Mathematics, and Science)
- 45 minute blocks three times per week for Spanish class
- Continues spiraling curriculum of EveryDay Math and OpenCourt Reading from Lower School
- Special classes including PE, Art, Music, Dance, Theater, Hands-on Agricultural Science, Advisory, and Technology



Provided Materials in Lower Middle School

A locker

A planner (with space for parent/teacher signatures)

3-ring binder with binder tabs for each class

Looseleaf Paper

Pencil case with pencils and highlighter

In-class Headphones

All textbooks and novels



Technology in Lower Middle School

Students are required to have their own iPad device starting in 4th Grade. Each 4th Grade Advisory will have iPad charging/docking stations for use during the school day

Technology information included in your folder:

- iPad requirements
- iPad accessory suggestions (cases, etc)
- iPad set-up procedures
- Oakwood login information
- Contact information for Mr. Fred Austin (Technology Director)



Middle School Opportunities

- Student Government Association (SGA) Representatives (and Officers for 6th/7th Grade)
- Annual Spelling Bee and Geography Bee
- FLL Robotics
- Science Olympiad
- Math Olympiad
- Noetic Math Contests
- Battle of the Books
- Growers' Club
- Crazy Running!
- Oakwood Sports Teams (starting in 6th grade)
- Envirothon(6th/7th grades)



Middle School Summer Work

Required work to prevent the summer slide!

- Math packet reviews basic skills needed for approaching grade level.
- Reading assignment features a variety of book titles and a menu of project options, all based on a common Social Studies theme.
- Summer journal includes a variety of writing prompts with an editing checklist to monitor the writing process



Communication in 4th Grade

Academic Planner (signed by teachers and parent daily)

1st Quarter: Weekly communications with morning work (parent signature required)

2nd Quarter: Access to online grades and monthly newsletters

3rd Quarter through 5th Grade: Quarterly Newsletters



We are here to help with the transitions of Lower Middle School!

Transition Day for Students (May 1, 2019)

Transition Night for Parents (May 2, 2019)

Locker Decorating Extravaganza for 4th Grade Students and their Families (August 17, 2019)

Curriculum Night (September 2019)

We are always here to answer your questions or meet with you – just let us know what you need!





Thank you for coming this evening!