

Frequently Asked Questions by Parents of Incoming 6th Graders

1. How many teams are there in 6th grade?
Next year there will be 3 teams of four teachers. Each team will also have a special educator as part of the team of teachers. The teams are Birch, Bonsai, and Forest.
2. When will I find out what team my child is on?
Team assignments will be posted in the Aspen portal in August.
3. How does the schedule work?
The middle school runs on a 6-day schedule with 7 periods each day. Students have all of their core classes (Math, Science, Social Studies, and ELA) every day and the Unified Arts (specials) / World Language classes every other day.
4. Do students have recess?
All 6th-grade students have recess every day either before or after lunch.
5. When does the school day start and end?
Next year the school day will start at 8:30 and end at 3:10
6. How often does Band/Orchestra/Chorus meet?
Band, Orchestra, and Chorus meet every other day for the entire year. These classes are held during a Unified Arts (UA) time and will replace 3 UA classes that other students will have.
7. How often do Unified Arts (UA's) classes meet?
UA classes meet every other day for one trimester (60 school days)
8. What are the Unified Arts (UAs) available to 6th graders?
Many students will have 9 UA classes that meet for 1 trimester and a World Language class that meets for the whole year.
The UA classes for grade 6 are: PE (2x), Health, Computers, Art, Digital Literacy, Music, Library, and Engineering.
9. Will students from other teams be in my child's UA classes?
Yes. All UA and World Language classes will be made up of students from all of the teams.

10. Are there any leveled classes in 6th grade?

No. All 6th-grade classes are heterogeneously grouped.

11. Can 6th graders participate in School Sports? Clubs?

6th-grade students can participate in clubs and other after-school activities.

However, school sports are only for 7th and 8th graders.

12. How much homework do 6th graders receive?

The guideline for grade 6 is an average of 60 minutes of homework per night. If a child consistently spends more time on homework than the guidelines, then parents are encouraged to contact the teachers.

13. Will my child receive a Chromebook?

All of the 6th graders will receive a Chromebook which they will bring to school and back home each night.

14. What is Schoology?

Schoology is our learning management system. Students will use Schoology to see upcoming events and assignments and to access the materials and grades for each of their classes. They can also use it to directly message their teachers within the platform.

15. When are parents able to meet with teachers?

Parent conferences are available on each team each week of the school year.

Jean Pallone, Student Services Secretary, schedules all of the conferences. She can be reached at 978-443-1071 x 7517.

16. How do students pay for lunches?

Students will use the same 4-digit pin code that they used at the elementary school. Once they enter their code, they can either pay cash or use their My School Bucks account to pay for their lunch.