



6th Grade Center (2019-20 School Year) Questions & Answers

What time will school start and end?

The 6th Grade Center will have the same start and end times as our middle schools. School will start at 8:15 am and end at 2:30 pm.

How will transportation work?

While specific bus routes and pick-up locations won't be finalized until mid August, the plan is for Brentwood, Evergreen and Farwell 6th graders to ride the bus with Northwood students. These three schools are feeder schools for Northwood so 6th graders will simply exit the bus with 7th and 8th graders and go directly to the old Northwood building.

We are still working on the transportation plan for Midway students and will share it once it is finalized.

What about after school sports?

Student athletes will return to their home elementary school at the end of the school day for after school sports. This plan has worked well for Prairie View 6th graders for the past three years.

What about before school band, orchestra and choir?

Students will have the opportunity to participate in before school music programs just like in previous years. We are still working on the specific logistical details of participation and will share them once they are finalized.

Who will the teachers be?

Our priority is to staff the 6th Grade Center with teachers passionate about teaching 6th graders. We plan to announce teachers who will move to the 6th Grade Center by Spring Break.

What about Special Education (resource room, OT/PT, SLP) services?

Special Education services will be provided just like at our current schools.

How will class assignments be determined?

The district is committed to maintaining current school communities as much as possible. Therefore, the 6th Grade Center will have three teams/groups: (1) Prairie View - (2) Midway & Farwell - (3) Brentwood & Evergreen. Based on their home elementary school, students will be assigned to a teaching team. 6th graders will rotate within their team for core academic instruction, which is our current practice at all elementary schools.

What about 6th Grade Camp?

Students will have the opportunity to participate in 6th Grade Camp. However, camp may look somewhat different than the current structure. The following school year (2020-21), when 6th graders are part of our middle school communities, the district will no longer sponsor this activity.

How many students will be at the 6th Grade Center?

Enrollment at the 6th Grade Center will be approximately 525 students.

Will there be parent-teacher conferences like at elementary schools?

Since the 6th Grade Center will operate on a middle school schedule, traditional elementary parent-teacher conferences will not take place in the fall and spring. However, other opportunities for parent-teacher engagement will be scheduled. As always you are encouraged and welcome to contact your child's teacher at anytime.

How will students be graded?

Student report cards will reflect letter grades, which is a change from the standards-based report card used at our elementary schools. Middle school students receive letter grades.

Will the 6th Grade Center be self-contained?

Yes, all instruction will take place in the old Northwood building.

What community activities are planned?

In late May (exact date tbd) there will be a Parent/Student Orientation and, prior to the start of school, there will be a special *Welcome Back Day* for students.

What six classes will my child take?

Students will take four core classes (math, ELA, science & social studies) plus two electives.

What electives will be offered and will PE be offered every day?

PE will be offered two quarters. We are still working on the other elective options that will be available for students.

Will my child have six different teachers?

Yes.

What about technology?

Students will have access to the same technology as is currently provided in our elementary schools.

Will the Quest program be offered?

Yes. We are looking at our current model and may offer Quest as an elective for students who qualify.

Will students have library?

Students will not have library as a class but will have access to a library, its books and all other services provided in our libraries.

Will students be grouped according to ability for each subject?

No.

Will there be a 6th grade graduation?

The 6th Grade Center community will determine this.

Will there be a homeroom?

Still under consideration.

Will social/emotional learning be offered to students?

Yes.

How many students will be in each classroom?

There will be a maximum of 30 students in each class.

How many classrooms will be at the 6th Grade Center?

We are planning for at least 18 core classrooms.

How will the boundary change affect students who will be attending the 6th Grade Center?

For next year (2019/20) there will be no impact as any boundary change will not go into effect until the 2020/21 school year when our new elementary school and new middle school open.

Is the 6th Grade Center an inclusive school and will all kids be offered the same opportunities?

The answer to both questions is “yes.”

Will “Math is Cool” be offered?

Parent volunteers run “Math is Cool”. The 6th Grade Center community will determine offering this opportunity.

What is the likelihood the 6th Grade Center will last beyond one year?

The 6th Grade Center is a one-year only solution to provide space at our five largest elementary schools for the 2019-20 school year. In 2020/21 the district will open a new elementary school and a new middle school that will provide needed classroom space negating the need for the 6th Grade Center.

How were parents selected to participate on the 6-8 Transition Parent Committee?

Each elementary school was asked to select two parents who had the time to volunteer and whose children are current 4th graders. These students will be 6th graders when our new middle school opens in the fall of 2020 and we move to a 6-8 grade middle school model.

Will there be a yearbook?

The 6th Grade Center community will determine this.

Will there be counselors?

Yes.

Will SPED be separate classes?

Yes.

Will there be recess and will there be playground equipment?

No. Recess is not provided at middle school and the 6th Grade Center will be operating on a middle school schedule.

Will the YMCA before school and after school program be offered?

This has yet to be determined. We are working on options.

Will there be homework?

Yes, students can expect some homework.

How will the PTO support activities when there isn't a budget?

This is under discussion with current PTOs.

How are 5th grade teachers preparing students for a smooth transition?

Each school is and will be creating special opportunities to help students transition to the 6th Grade Center.

Will there be breakfast?

Yes.

Will there be counselors?

Yes.

Will there be lockers?

Yes.

Does old Northwood meet codes, fire alarms, single point of entry, sprinklers?

Yes, the building meets all building codes and regulations.

What about activities like “Donuts with Dads” and “Muffins with Moms”?

The 6th Grade Center community will determine this.

Additional questions?

If you have questions we have not addressed please email those to jolene.andres@mead354.org. Not only will we answer your specific question but, when appropriate, will add your question with the answer to the list posted on the district homepage.