

Special Education Middle School Transition

Presented by:
Laurie Garcia & Jackie Selfridge-Hombaker



Timeframe for Transition Meetings

March 17- April 28

Your child's current elementary school case manager will be in contact with you to provide the day/time for the individual meeting. During this meeting, the team will answer all of your individual questions you may have about your child's IEP services. Each middle school will be in contact with you regarding general information.

HOW IS 6TH GRADE DIFFERENT FROM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL?

- Students have more than one teacher
 - Understanding and meeting expectations across more teachers/classes
 - Accountability for one's own time management and planning, executive function, and self-advocacy
- Students move from class to class
- Larger school environment
- Elective Wheel
- Students are becoming more independent (e.g. brunch instead of recess)



WHAT 6TH GRADE STUDENTS ENJOY AT MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Switching periods and classrooms
- More independence & freedom
- Many, many clubs
- Snack bar and more hot lunch options
- Getting two lockers - a main locker and PE locker



DAILY SCHEDULE

7 periods, all blocks. Students meet with teachers, virtually, three time per week.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Common Learning Day				
10 AM-10:30 AM Period 1	9 AM-10:15 AM Period 1	9:40 AM-10:55 AM Period 5	9 AM-10:15 AM Period 1	9:40 AM-10:55 AM Period 5
10:40-11:10 AM Period 2	10:25 AM-11:40 AM Period 2	11:05 AM-11:40 AM SELF/Advisory	10:25 AM-11:40 AM Period 2	11:05 AM-11:40 AM SELF/Advisory
11:20 AM-11:50 AM Period 3	11:40 AM-12:10 PM Lunch	11:40 AM-12:10 PM Lunch	11:40 AM-12:10 PM Lunch	11:40 AM-12:10 PM Lunch
12 PM-12:35 PM Period 4	12:20 PM-1:35 PM Period 3*	12:20 PM-1:35 PM Period 6*	12:20 PM-1:35 PM Period 3*	12:20 PM-1:35 PM Period 6*
12:35 AM-1:05 PM Lunch	1:45 PM-3 PM Period 4	1:45 PM-3 PM Period 7	1:45 PM-3 PM Period 4	1:45 PM-3 PM Period 7
1:15 PM-1:45 PM Period 5*	3:10 PM-3:40 PM Office Hours/Tutorial	3:10 PM-3:40 PM Office Hours/Tutorial	3:10 PM-3:40 PM Office Hours/Tutorial	
1:55 PM-2:25 PM Period 6	* Announcements during 3 ^o	* Announcements during 6 ^o	* Announcements during 3 ^o	* Announcements during 6 ^o
2:35 PM-3:05 PM Period 7				
3:10 PM-3:40 PM Meetings/ Training				
* Announcements during 5 ^o				



ACADEMIC LIFE

Schedule:

- Rotates/ 4 periods with core teachers
- 2 periods (Music/PE/Wheel or Electives)
- Special Education Support Class

Home-School Connection:

- Communication
- Student responsibility & self-advocacy
- Schoology
- Infinite Campus

6th Grade:

- Core program (History; ELA; Math; Science)
- Music (Choir or Band) & PE
 - OR
- PE/Wheel
 - Art; Drama; Family & Consumer Science; Industrial Tech; World Languages; Tools to Thrive, Computers



SCHOOL COUNSELORS

- Role is to counsel students individually and in groups.
- Work with students, teachers and parents to promote academic success, personal growth, and to address concerns in variety of areas (academic, socio-emotional, and career topics).
- Facilitate Student Study Team (SST) meetings for students who are struggling in order to develop plans for success.
- Help to foster stronger relationships between counselors and students.
- May attend IEP meeting.



Supports for Students

- Homework Help after school
- CASSY (Counseling and Support Services for Youth): on-site, short term weekly counseling sessions with on-site therapist
 - up to 12 sessions
- Educationally Related Mental Health Services (ERMHS) is an IEP related service that is determined by the IEP team.
 - Individual, group, and/or parent collateral sessions on-campus to enable the student to benefit from their education.
 - The district also provides therapeutic classes which have therapeutic supports imbedded in the setting.
 - This program is located at Greene Middle School.



Transition/Articulation Meetings

- March-April
 - Middle school representative will attend meeting with school team
 - The representative that attends depends on the student's school of residence
 - Team could include: Current Case Manager, middle school representative, parent, admin.
 - May also include service providers and counselor
- Purpose of the meeting is to determine services for middle school
 - Strengths and areas of need
 - Review accommodations
 - Offer of FAPE

*Case managers are assigned over the summer & will contact parents within the first few weeks of the start of the new school year.



Who do I contact?

*Case Manager is
always the first
point of contact
unless escalation is
necessary for AP or
Site Administrator
to step in.

3. Assistant Principal
Administrator assigned to grade
level

2. School Counselor
Assist students when needed

1. Case Manager
Manages student's IEP

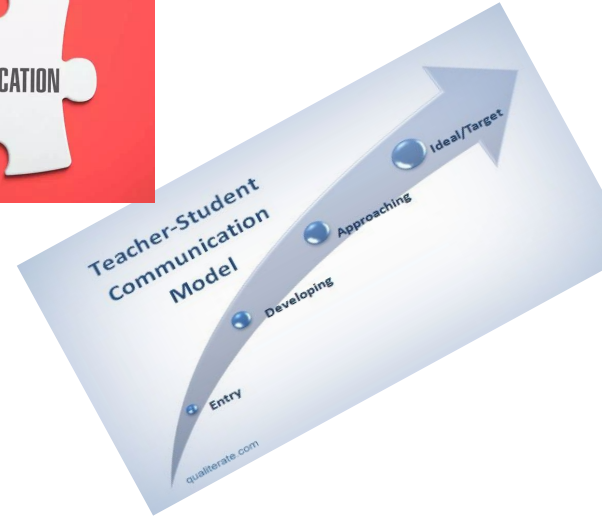


Role of the Student's Case Manager

- **Primary Contact**
- IEP Meetings IEP Documents
- Coordination of Services
- Support for students and parents, and teachers too!
- Collaboration
- ***Facilitate Communication*** with school staff
- Building self-advocacy and independence
- Send home quarterly progress reports about IEP goals



Independence



Staff is supported by School Counselors & Assistant Principals

Roles

- ◆ Assistant Principals & Program Specialists support the school's special education team

Greene Middle School

Ana Reyes (Dean)

Fletcher Middle School

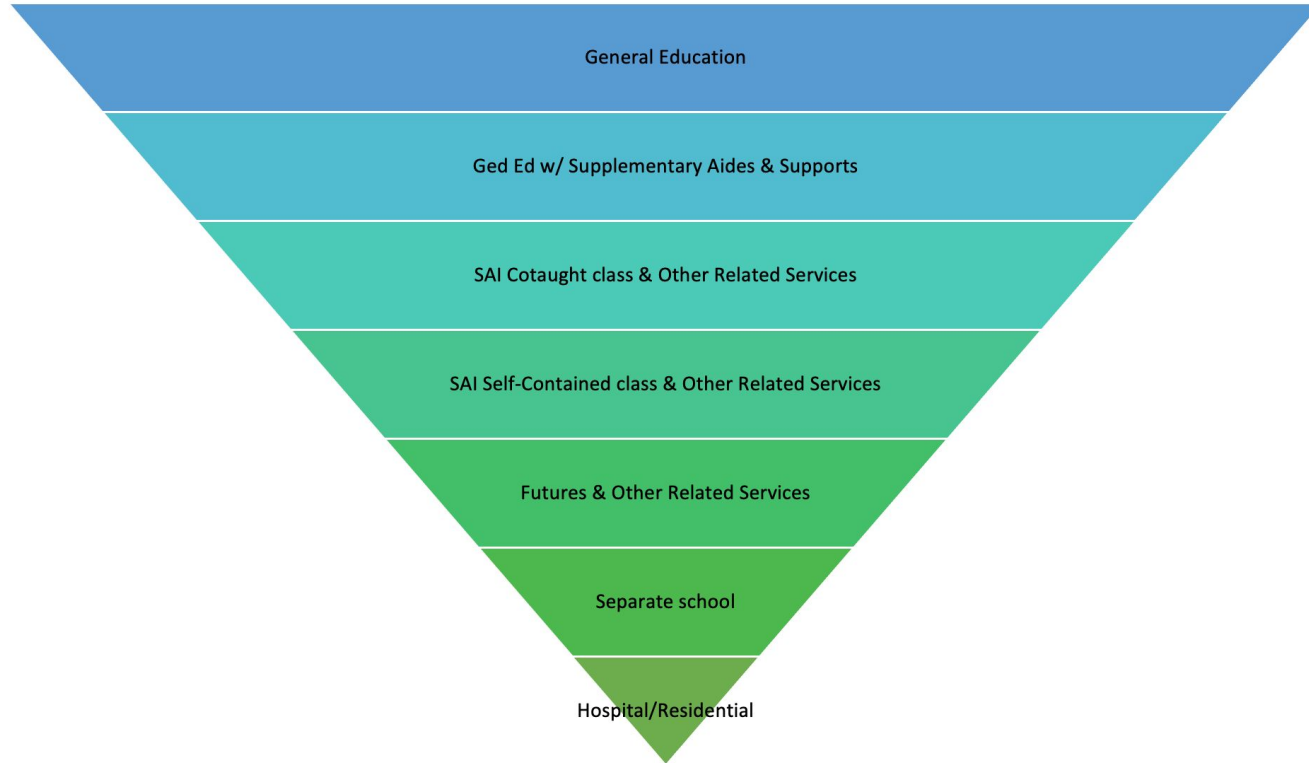
Pieter Dolmans (AP)

JLS Middle School

Amy Sheward (AP)

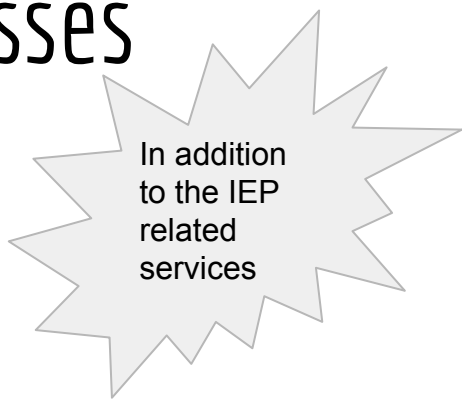


Continuum of Services



SpEd Instructional & Support Classes

- Academic Strategies
 - Supports students with deficits in executive functioning
- Academic Math
 - Supports students with deficits in math
- Academic English
 - Supports students with deficits in reading comprehension and written expression
- Academic Communication
 - Supports students with social learning needs
- TS- Therapeutic Support (Greene Middle Only)
 - Supports students who require regular therapeutic interventions in order to access their educational programs.
- Futures
 - Supports students in acquiring functional and life skills in order to be a independent adult in the community.



In addition
to the IEP
related
services

Futures Program

- Teaches students academic, vocational, and functional and daily living skills
 - Students are receiving certificate of completion and participate in gen ed elective classes
 - Focus on post-secondary goals and options, community instruction, and independent living
- Community-based instruction and outings
 - Transportation
 - Making a purchase
- School vocational businesses, such as cafe, sugar scrub, mail delivery and lunch orders
 - Banking
 - Social Skills
- MS and HS programs work closely together to streamline their classes
- Work experience with Palo Alto Veterans Affairs Hospital



Accommodations in Middle School Classes

- Accommodation should align to disability/deficits/area of individual need
 - Helps student to access the curriculum
 - Does NOT change the standards
- Student must still be able to demonstrate mastery of skills/standards
- General technology needs available to all students
- **Students** are encouraged to discuss their accommodations with their teachers at the start of each semester

Accommodations VS Modifications

An **accommodation** changes how a student learns the material. A **modification** changes what a student is taught or expected to learn. **Accommodations** can help students learn the same material as their peers. **Modifications** may change the curriculum the student is learning.



Strategies for Homework

- Independence with expectations & outcomes
- Communication, Planning, & Tracking Progress
- Support Resources: Academic Strategy class/Homework Club
- Planning/Backward planning
- **Schoology**- reviewing/submitting assignments, contacting teachers, current detailed grades
- **Infinite Campus** - progress report & semester grades



Other Student Supports

- Counseling Department
- After school tutoring/support center
 - FEV Tutoring Services through District Office
- Lunch activities
- After School Sport teams (City of Palo Alto Program)
- Clubs



Parent Perspective

Greene Middle School- Rika Yamamoto

Parent Transition FAQs Link:

<http://bit.ly/2SqoFiy>





Jacqueline Selfridge
Secondary Program Specialist
jselfridge@pausd.org



Teri Lee
Secondary Program Specialist
tlee@pausd.org





PALO ALTO
UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT