Special Education
Transition to Middle School
2024
Upcoming Transition/Articulation Meetings

February 21, 2024 - April 25, 2024

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 student’s IEP services. Each middle school will also present general information.
Transition Meeting

- Purpose of the meeting is to determine the appropriate services in your new school, and determine a preliminary outline of courses your student will take
  - Strengths and areas of needs
  - Needed accommodations
  - Offer of FAPE

- Meeting is scheduled between February-April
  - A representative for the New School will attend with the Current School team. The rep who attends depends on the student’s school of residence.
  - Team may include: Current Case Manager, New School Rep, Admin, General Ed teacher, Parent, and Student. May also include service providers and/or Counselor.

- Student’s New Case Manager is assigned over the summer & will be in contact with your family within the first few weeks of starting the new academic year
Continuum of Special Education Services

- General Education
- Ged Ed w/ Supplementary Aides & Supports
- SAI Cotaught class & Other Related Services
- Specialized Academic Instruction (SAI) & Other Related Services
- Futures & Other Related Services
- Separate school
- Hospital/Residential
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
  - Ample opportunities for connections and mentorship during Wheel, Prime(Advisory), PE, and music.
  - Larger school environment, open campus, students move from class to class
- Students are becoming more independent and have more choice (e.g. brunch instead of recess, clubs, teams)
- Elective Wheel for CTE (Career Technical Ed), VAPA (Visual & Performing Arts) or Language
ACADEMIC LIFE

Schedule: ( e.g JLS Daily Schedule )
- Rotates between 4 periods with core teachers
- 2 periods (Wheel Electives, Music/PE)
- Special Education Support Class

6th Grade Courses:
- Core program
  (History; ELA; Math; Science)
- Music (Choir/Band) & PhysEd
  – or –
  Wheel (varies by site) + PhysEd
  (Art; Drama; Family & Consumer Science;
  Industrial Tech; World Languages;
  Computers)

Home-School Connection:
- Communication
- Student responsibility & self-advocacy
- Schoology
- Infinite Campus
- ParentSquare
# Daily Schedule

**Projected**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday - 7 per Day</th>
<th>Tuesday - A Day</th>
<th>Wednesday - B Day</th>
<th>Thursday - A Day</th>
<th>Friday - B Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Period + Annnc 8:30-9:15 (45 min)</td>
<td>1st Period + Annnc 8:30-10:00 (90 min)</td>
<td>5th Period + Annnc 8:30-10:00 (90 min)</td>
<td>1st Period + Annnc 8:30-10:00 (90 min)</td>
<td>5th Period + Annnc 8:30-10:00 (90 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing 8:15-8:20</td>
<td>Passing 10:05-11:00</td>
<td>Brunch 10:00-10:15</td>
<td>Brunch 10:00-10:15</td>
<td>Brunch 10:00-10:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Period 9:20-10:00 (40 min)</td>
<td>Brunch 10:00-10:15</td>
<td>2nd Period 10:15-11:40 (85 min)</td>
<td>2nd Period 10:15-11:40 (85 min)</td>
<td>2nd Period 10:15-11:40 (85 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lunch 11:40-12:20 (40 min)</td>
<td>4th Period 11:00-11:40 (40 min)</td>
<td>Lunch 11:40-12:20 (40 min)</td>
<td>Lunch 11:40-12:20 (40 min)</td>
<td>Lunch 11:40-12:20 (40 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing 1:00-1:05</td>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th Period 12:20-1:00 (40 min)</td>
<td>7th Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>7th Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>7th Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>7th Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Period 1:05-1:45 (40 min)</td>
<td>3rd Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>3rd Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>3rd Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
<td>3rd Period 12:20-1:45 (85 min)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
<td>Passing 1:46-1:50</td>
<td>Office Hours 1:50-2:10</td>
<td>Office Hours 1:50-2:10</td>
<td>Office Hours 1:50-2:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Period 1:50-2:30 (40 min)</td>
<td>4th Period 1:50-3:15 (85 min)</td>
<td>4th Period 1:50-3:15 (85 min)</td>
<td>4th Period 1:50-3:15 (85 min)</td>
<td>Teacher Prep 2:10-3:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLC Team/Site Mtg 2:35-3:30</td>
<td>Staff/Dept Meetings 2:35-3:30</td>
<td>Staff/Dept Meetings 2:35-3:30</td>
<td>Staff/Dept Meetings 2:35-3:30</td>
<td>Staff/Dept Meetings 2:35-3:30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Goalbook*
SpEd Instructional & Support Classes

- **Academic Planning** – 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 Writing** – supports students with deficits in written expression
- **Academic Communication** (Co-taught with the Speech Pathologist and Ed Specialist) – supports students with social learning and communication needs
- **TS - Therapeutic Class** (Greene/Fletcher Middle Only- IEP Decision ONLY) – supports students who require regular therapeutic interventions in order to access their educational programs. Education Specialist and ERMHS Therapist provide support and instruction
- **Futures** (IEP Decision ONLY) – supports students in acquiring functional & life skills in order to be an independent adult in the community
Developing Independence in Learning & Living

**Strengths**

- Self-Awareness
- Self-Management
- Social and Emotional Learning
- Responsible Decision-Making
- Relationship Skills

©2020 CASEL. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
Futures Program

- Teaches students academic, vocational, and functional and daily living skills
  - Students receive Certificate of Completion & participate in Gen Ed 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 (cafe, sugar scrub, mail delivery & 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

- Accommodation should align to area of individual need/deficit/disability
  - Helps student to access the curriculum,
  - Does NOT change the grade-level standards
- Student must still be able to demonstrate mastery of skills and standards
- Students are encouraged to discuss their accommodations with their teachers at the start of each semester
- Assistive technology (PATCH “PAUSD Technology Collaborative Hub”, UDL)

Accommodations vs Modifications
An accommodation changes how a student learns the material. A modification changes what a student is taught or expected to learn.
Who do I contact?

1. Case Manager*
   Manages student's IEP

2. School Counselor
   Assist students when needed

3. Assistant Principal
   Administrator assigned to grade level

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

- **Primary Contact**
- Coordination of Special Education Services
- Support for students, teachers, and parents
- Facilitate communication and collaboration with school staff
- Build students’ self-advocacy skills and independence
- Ensure student’s schedule is aligned to graduation requirements
- IEP Meetings
- IEP Documents
- Quarterly progress reports about IEP goals
Staff is supported by Site & District Administrators

Greene Middle School
Brooke Tassa (Assistant Principal)

Fletcher Middle School
Jane Jung (Assistant Principal)

JLS Middle School
Kim Lohse (Assistant Principal)

Site Administration and Program Specialists support the school’s special education team

- Kristin Apuzzo (Greene Program Specialist)
- Jodi Snyder (JLS Program Specialist)
- Cassidy Walko (Fletcher Program Specialist)
Supports for Student Well-being

- Counseling Department
- Associate Therapist in Wellness Centers
  - 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 counseling sessions on-campus to enable the student to benefit from their education.
  - The district also provides therapeutic classes which have behavioral and emotional supports embedded in the setting. This program is located only at Greene and Fletcher Middle School
Services and Supports for All Students

- Homework Help after school
- After school tutoring/support center (FEV Tutoring Services through District Office)
- Lunchtime activities
- Student-led Clubs
- Dreamcatchers
- After School Sports teams (City of Palo Alto program)
Information from a Parent Perspective

Transition FAQs Link: https://tinyurl.com/4jzb6p3y