

# THE TRANSITION PROCESS

FOR 5th to 6th GRADE STUDENTS  
WITH IEPS & 504 PLANS

JANUARY 2025



**OLENTANGY SCHOOLS<sup>SM</sup>**  
*Flourish Here.*

# PARENT MENTORS

- **Fran Gardner**  
(614) 332-6868  
Middle School & High School  
Families
- **Anne Pistone**  
(614) 332-5269  
Preschool & Elementary Families

For more information on the Parent Mentor Program, visit the [Pupil Services Website; Parent Mentor Program](#).



# GOALS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

The goals for this presentation include:

- Provide an introduction to the Pupil Services Department
- Explain the transition process that the district follows
- Explain what Intervention services can look like in Middle School
- Answer any questions you may have
- Provide an introduction to an Intervention staff member at your new middle school



# PUPIL SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS

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For more information on the Pupil Services Department, including your Pupil Service Supervisor, visit the [Pupil Services Website](#).



# THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS



# THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

## Throughout the School Year

- Ongoing Communication occurs between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Grade level Intervention Specialists to discuss scheduling needs based on individual student needs and differences between the two settings.



# THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

## January-February

- Elementary Intervention Specialists meet with Middle School Intervention Specialists and Pupil Services to review Individualized Education Plans and scheduling needs.
- Olentangy Parent Mentors will host office hours with parents to answer general questions about the transition. This meeting may be a virtual meeting or in-person.



# THE 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

## May

- Intervention Specialists will meet incoming 5<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Parents are notified (via email or letter) of their child's Intervention Specialist and/or are provided contact information of a Department Chair (per staffing).

## August

- All students will have an orientation event in August. We are still in the planning stages as to what this will look like for 2025. Information will be mailed home during the summer.





# SPECIALIZED LEARNING CENTERS: 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION

- Middle School Intervention Specialist attends a meeting during 5<sup>th</sup> grade upon request.
- Middle School Intervention Specialist visits elementary to meet students and have a Q & A session with students.
- Parents can schedule a time to visit the middle school with or without their student in the Spring.
- Students are supported as needed during the 6<sup>th</sup> grade orientation in August.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERVENTION

- Intervention Study Center/Student Assist
  - Intervention Specialist
  - Progress monitoring towards IEP goals, executive functioning skills, extended time for tests, homework/content support
- Inclusion ELA and Math (placement determined by IEP team)
  - Regular Education teacher and Intervention Specialist
  - Support for IEP goals and accommodations within the regular education classroom
- Specialized Learning Center
  - Intervention Specialist is the teacher of record
  - Extended Standards (Modified curriculum) in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies
  - Based on needs identified in evaluation
- Structured Literacy Instruction
  - Structured Literacy Instructor
  - Lessons directed towards IEP goals



# THE ROLE OF THE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Facilitate implementation of accommodations and modifications in the classroom
- Provide Specially Designed Instruction per the child's IEP
- Middle School team concept vs. Elementary School
- Parents should have direct communication with their child's Regular Education teachers and copy the Intervention Specialist
- Intervention Specialists attend content specific courses, so your student may have more than one Intervention Specialist they work with



# THE ROLE OF THE 504 CASE MANAGER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Section 504 Plan is a plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

- Share the 504 plan with school staff so accommodations can be implemented
- Update the 504 plan annually
- Parents should have direct communication with their child's Regular Education teachers and copy the 504 Case Manager



# SAMPLE 6th GRADE SCHEDULE

- Required Full-Year Core Classes
  - Integrated English
  - Math
  - Science
  - Social Studies
  - Intervention Period
  - Lunch



# SAMPLE 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE SCHEDULE

- Required Unified Arts Courses: These courses will be automatically scheduled for your student on a 6-week rotation basis.
  - Physical Education (2 times)
  - Digital Exploration
  - Academic Lab
  - Art
  - Health
- Elective Courses: 6<sup>th</sup> grade students have the option to take Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra during their second Unified Arts rotation. Students who choose not to take Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra will take a full year of Study Hall.



# ORIENTATION INFORMATION

- Parents
  - Each Middle School will have a Parent Orientation Night in the spring.
- Students
  - All students will have an orientation event in August. We are still in the planning stages as to what this will look like for 2025. Information will be mailed home during the summer.



# WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS?

- Set students up for success and don't over-schedule.
- Transitions are unavoidable.
- Educate yourself so you can best prepare your child.
- Communicate early and often! Please let us know if you have questions.





# WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS?

- Self advocacy
  - asking for help as soon as you fall behind
  - asking for extended time and other accommodations
  - asking for clarification when directions are unclear
- Become comfortable with Schoology (find notes and assignments)
- Focus more on the process of learning than the actual grade
- Identify strategies to help with anxiety and increased workload
- Time management skills



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What if my child has anxiety about transitioning to their new building?**

Reach out to the assigned IEP case manager or school counselor during the spring/summer so that we can help alleviate those fears and possibly arrange a tour during the summer.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Can middle school Intervention Specialists attend 5<sup>th</sup> grade IEP meetings?**

Yes, a representative from the middle school will attend an IEP meeting per parent or Intervention Specialist request.

**Do fifth graders tour the middle school?**

No, 5<sup>th</sup> graders do not tour the middle school as a large group. You are able to request an individual tour for your child by reaching out to your child's current Intervention Specialist to arrange a tour.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **How do I change my child's schedule?**

Contact your child's School Counselor. Make sure to tell them that your child has an IEP, so their specific needs are still met.

## **When will I find out my child's schedule?**

Students receive a copy of their schedule on orientation day. It can also be accessed on Powerschool in August.



# MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPT CHAIRS

- **Liberty MS** - Abby Buckerfield and Steven Evancho
- **Orange MS** - Jennifer McGuinness
- **Hyatts MS** - Eric Polhemus and Hillary Spencer
- **Berkshire MS** - Beth Palmer
- **Shanahan MS** - Max Zenker
- **Berlin MS** - Emily Foster and Chris Sansbury



A representative from each Middle School Intervention Department is available to answer any questions or concerns you may still have. Please complete this [Middle School Intervention Follow-up Request Form](#) to let us know that you would like further information or have additional questions.



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**THANK YOU**