

Inman (IMS)/Howard Transition

Meeting Notes

10/22/2019 @ 8:30am

SPARK Media Center

[Dr. Kevin Maxwell](#), Principal
[Dr. GERALYN HARPER](#), Assistant Principal, 6th Grade
[Chelsea Schultz](#), Counselor, 6th Grade

Intro

- Transition can be tough especially 6th and 9th grades for reasons like
 - 2 teachers to 6 teachers (in 9th grade it's 8 teachers)
 - Homework assigned from several teachers
- IMS will do their best to make it easier.

Classes

- 4 core classes (ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies)
- 2 connections classes

Connections

- Rotate every 9 weeks.
- There are 8 classes (Art, Latin, Spanish, Study/Social Skills, Career/Media Awareness, PE/Health, JLC (Junior Leadership Course), Reading Skills).
- Classes are random for equity reasons.
- Exposure to various interests.
- Efforts are made to get all students into Study/Social Skills and Career/Media Awareness.

Year-long Class

- Chorus, band, or orchestra are the only year-long classes available in 6th grade
- If student has year-long class, they will only be exposed to ½ of the available connections classes.
- Starting in 7th, student may have 2 year-long classes (chorus, band, orchestra, Spanish, Latin).
 - There are no prerequisites to language classes.
 - Students can take 2 music year-longs.
- 75% of students are in a music program.

Schedule

- School Hours are 9:05 am - 4:05 pm.
- Use a snake schedule
 - Research shows that if students take English and math in the morning, they remember it better.

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- Snake schedule allows all students to rotate learning through different times of day so they have equal opportunity to learn.
 - Red, green, blue, yellow is used to designate the schedules
- Homeroom
 - Starts day for about 10 mins.
 - Point of communication with parents
 - Assign lockers
- Advisory (Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) lesson) end of the day.

Teams and Class Size

- IMS has about 1200 students.
- Teams are used to make school smaller.
- 6th grade is on just one floor (1st), same at Howard (2nd floor)
- Divided into 4 teams to make it smaller.
- Expecting about 425 next yr.
- Class sizes generally under 30. Many are about 25.
- About 100 on a team.
- Teams are a mix of 4 feeder schools (Hope-Hill, Mary Lin, Morningside, & SPARK).

Lunch/Recess

- Short recess every day
- Only middle school at APS that has it
- Dr Maxwell does lunch supervision
- Students finish lunch in about 15 mins & want to move around.
- Last 15 mins of lunch is used for recess where students can move around.
- Howard will have area to eat outside for incentive.

About [Dr Maxwell](#)

- Has 6 kids.
- Youngest is in 6th Grade at IMS.

[Sports](#) & [Clubs](#)

- Lots of sports and clubs.

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- There is a club for Lunch Bunch where students can go there to eat in Media Center if they want.
- Kids can create clubs by working with IMS Staff.

Tutorial

- Teachers offer tutorial once per week, may be before or after school
- Students can go to any teacher tutorial, not just their teacher.

Communication

- IMS uses Remind to send information to parents.
- Remind signup link will be sent before Thanksgiving for those coming into 6th Grade

Transportation

- Plan in the works for bus routes
- Buses will be safer because there is a dedicated road just for buses. Right now at IMS, Clemont Rd has traffic both ways in addition to buses.
- Transportation meeting will be a published video.
- There are a few routes to Howard via the Beltline. These will be mapped and videoed for clarity.
- PTO working to get hawk installed at Howard.

Howard Info

- David T Howard name will remain.
- Active alumni club who are excited about the opening and have offered to volunteer.
- Alumni will be there the first day of school for a ceremony.
- CO due by July 1, but they expect it before then.
- Can begin to start moving in Feb.
- Mr Ruder looking to add garden at Howard.
- Hoping to hold the Summer Bridge Program (aids students in transition) at Howard.
- Hoping to hold Sneak Peek at Howard.
- Should know dates for Summer Bridge Program & Sneak Peek by Thanksgiving.

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Technology

- All students get a laptop.
- If a family does not have wifi at home, a hot spot is provided.
- Electronic agenda - MyHomeworkApp is used for assigning homework and hallpasses.
- Teachers and parents can track where/when students leave the classroom.
- Encouraging teachers to use Google classroom and MyHomeworkApp rather than websites. Teachers receive tutorials on how to use these two products.
- Most books online.
- Use computer and lighten backpack.

Testing

- STAR benchmarks
- Milestones
- 6th - reading and math
- Common tests and quizzes across teams
- Common formative assessments

Homework

- Supposed to be 60 mins or less per night.
- Teachers spread it out amongst themselves so as not to pile homework on.
- Does start ramping up each grade to prep for high school.
- Students learn how to prioritize, advocate for themselves, schedule work to get it done.

School Supplies

- Edukits (school supplies) can be purchased in the Spring for delivery to the school.
- Students can put their Edukit supplies in their lockers at the Open House or Bridge Program.

Scheduling

- A Google form link to request choices will be sent in the Spring.
- Dr Harper does scheduling.

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Challenge/Gifted

- Students take 2 gifted classes.
- Each team has a minimum of 2 gifted-certified teachers.
- Each team has 2 gifted classes.
- If you qualify for Accelerated Math, that counts as one of your gifted classes.
- 80% of staff is gifted certified.
- Gifted content same but taught with more critical thinking.

Accelerated Math

- Must meet all 4 requirements for placement.
 - Distinguished on Math Milestones
 - STAR Math score of 85+.
 - End of Grade score.
 - Mathematical disposition
- If student meets 3 of the 4 criteria, then they get a second look at the beginning of the school year.
- Do not have to be in Gifted Program to take Accelerated Math.
- [Accelerated Math path](#):
 - 6th grade - 6 & 7A
 - 7th grade - 7B & 8
 - 8th grade - Algebra OR Algebra + Geometry A
- Offered Level-Up over summer which allowed students to move to accelerated.

Capacity/Enrollment

- Inman current capacity is 875, without portables.
- IMS is currently fully staffed.
- Capacity at Howard 1350-1375,
- Next year expecting 1200.
- Expecting 425 6th graders next year.

[After School Care](#)