



IPS | BUTLER UNIVERSITY  
LAB SCHOOL 55

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*Inspiring children to transform the world.*

Dear Parents/Guardians of Rising 6th Graders,

Thank you to everyone who attended our meeting last week! If you were not able to attend below is an outline of what was discussed. We will have a variety of experiences for our 5th graders and their families to learn more about middle school this semester. Here are a few of the things to look forward to:

- The middle school teachers will lead a morning meeting in each of the 5th grade classrooms to introduce themselves and start to build relationships with the kids.
- A panel of current middle school students will be answering 5th graders' questions.
- The 5th graders are invited to join the middle schoolers for an End of the Year event during the last day of school to welcome them to the middle school.

Next year there will be four content-area middle school teachers. Miss Sjoerdsma will teach ELA, Miss Hayden will teach Math, and we are currently working on hiring the Social Studies and Science teachers that will join our team! Classes will be about an hour long. Students will go to ELA, Math, Social Studies, Science, and one Related Arts class (Movement, Media, Music, Studio) each day.

The Middle School program will continue to be housed inside the building in the short hallway with the Music and Art rooms. We have two classrooms in that hall that will transition from their current use into Social Studies and Science. We will also be adding more lockers this summer. It's important that middle school students have a defined space in the school that is theirs and represents them. We will add middle school voices and artwork to the hall as the school year progresses!

Students will be responsible for their binder which will house important information about each class, their planner, and necessary materials. It's expected that they bring this back and forth between home and school each day. There will be at least one homework assignment per class each week. Homework will be recorded in student planners. We ask that parents sign planners each week.

We believe that students take on more responsibility for their choices and behavior in middle school. There are many exciting privileges to enjoy like passing periods, having a locker, and attending social events like the middle school dance! The expectations are high for behavior and academics. If students are disruptive to the learning environment or behind on academic work, they will face consequences like lunch and recess reflection or after school detention. We ask that you support us by helping your child take responsibility for the choices they make each day!

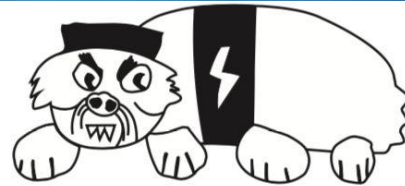
We are committed to working as a team and continuing to build an excellent middle school for your students at Butler Lab #55. Our middle school team currently works together weekly on future planning and will continue the work over the summer as well! The slideshow from the Transition Meeting is also posted on our website under the *Students and Family Resources Tab*.

Sincerely,

School 55 Middle School Team

# Transition to Middle School

February 13th, 2020



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LAB SCHOOL **55**

# Introductions

Middle School Team

# Middle School Students

## **Stereotype**

Are jumpy and squirmy  
and can't sit still

Are always challenging  
authority

## **Brilliant Truth**

Are full of energy

Are balancing the desire  
to be independent and  
the need for guidance

# What are we doing to prepare 5th graders?

- MS Teachers Leading Morning Meeting
- MS Student Panel
- Mr. Munson Locker Demonstration
- End of Year Event (Last Day of School)

# Similar & Different

## Similar:

- Math, English, Social Studies, Science content
- Workshop Approach
- Related Arts - PE, Art, Music, and Media
- Rubric Grade
- Lunch and Recess with other 6 grade students

## Different:

- Math, English, Social Studies, Science classes with different teachers
- Lockers
- Homeroom every day
- Passing Periods
- Advisory
- Grades for Related Arts as well as core subjects

# Similar & Different

## Similar:

- Teachers and parents still communicate and build relationships
- High expectations for academics and behavior

## Different:

- Communication may feel like an adjustment for families
- More student responsibility - HW, being on time
- Consequences may look different - i.e. lunch and recess reflection and after school detention

# Daily Class Schedule

<b>Homeroom</b>
<b>Class #1</b>
<b>Class #2</b>
<b>Lunch / Recess</b>
<b>Class #3</b>
<b>Class #4</b>
<b>Related Arts</b>

## **Classes (1 hour each)**

- ELA
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies

## **Related Arts**

- Studio
- Movement
- Music
- Media



# Space

- Defined Middle School hallway
- Adding more lockers this summer
- Middle school hallway privileges



# Extra-curricular

- Athletics - basketball, volleyball, cheerleading
  - Robotics Club
  - Middle School Book Club
- 
- Middle School Dance
  - Spirit Week
  - 8th Grade Trip
  - End of Year Event

# Beginning of Next Year

- Back to School Night
  - Get lockers and combinations
  - Schedule
  - Meet the teachers
  - Walk your classroom schedule
  - Middle School Identity Activities
- Curriculum Night
- First week community building

# Materials / Homework

- **Take-Home Binders**
  - planner
  - book
  - pen/pencil
  - tabs
  - bring home and to school **EVERY DAY**
- **Homework**
  - at least one assignment a week per class
  - written in planner
  - PLANNERS SIGNED ONCE A WEEK

# FAQs

- Classes & Schedule
- Lockers
- Cell phones
- Homework
- Technology in the classroom

# What's Going Well

- Data showing academic improvement
- 7th grade leadership - morning announcements, whole school meetings
- Advisory
- High engagement in class and at recess/lunch
- Positive behavior



# Continued MS Planning

- Weekly team meetings
- Summer planning days
- Commitment to continued growth and improvement
- Learning from experiences here and at 60

# Questions??

The presentation will be posted on our website so you can refer to it.