

5th Grade Parent/Student/Staff Transition Surveys Fall 2025

As part of our 5th grade implementation transition plan, we promised to provide surveys to gain feedback with what is/isn't working well with our plan. The initial survey was sent to 5th grade parents via Infinite Campus Messenger on October 9 with a "Last Call" reminder on October 16. The teachers shared the survey with students via Schoology on October 10 with a "Last Call" reminder on October 16. The survey was due for both groups on October 17 at 3pm. The Whiteford Administrative met with the 5th grade teachers on October 21 to gain their feedback as well as look at the student and parent data. Feedback from these surveys was used to determine appropriate adjustments to better serve our 5th graders as they transition from the elementary building.

Parent/Guardian Responses: 33 of 63 (52%)

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERCEPTION SURVEY					
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
My child feels safe and comfortable in the middle school?	33.3%	63.8%		0%	3%
My child has adjusted well to being in a new building?	36.4%	60.6%		3%	0%
The school helped make the transition from the elementary to the middle school smooth and positive?	21.2%	66.7%		12.1%	0%
My child feels safe during school transitions (hallways, restrooms, lockers, etc.)?	37.5%	56.3%		3.1%	3.1%
My child feels safe and comfortable during lunch and recess?	56.3%	43.8%		0%	0%
I know who to contact if I have a question or concern about my child's school experience?	33.3%	51.5%		15.2%	0%
Overall, how satisfied are you with your child's transition to the middle school?	24.2%	45.5%	24.2%	3%	3%

Open Response: What helped your child adjust most successfully or what led to a more unsuccessful transition to the new environment?

(+ Plus; - Delta)

- +looking forward to band
- not enough involvement at elementary
- +older sibling attending MS/HS (3)
- +staff/teachers (7)
- +elementary principal (4)
- +home prep before school year (2)
- bathroom use issue (afraid?)
- +parent being supportive of move (2)
- +past experience (specials, extracurricular, play practice, Christmas concert) at MS/HS (2)
- +recess and lunch at elementary (2)
- +hybrid model (3)
- +open house and tour (5)
- +classroom location at MS/HS
- AM Arrival with hallway congestion
- +MS/HS principal at arrival
- not providing an exclusive hallway for 5th/6th
- access to breakfast in MS/HS due to fear of walking hallway and eating with older students
- displacement of 5th to MS/HS due to TK program
- walking to elementary for lunch (2)
- +new MS playground sports court (2)
- +friends (2)
- +less congestion at MS drop-off compared to elementary drop-off
- whom to contact for support
- timeliness of open house, tour, and 5th grade camp - felt rushed, last minute, conflicts other events
- +communication

Open Response: Is there anything else you want to share about what is/isn't working well this school year?

(+ Plus; - Delta)

- more honesty on front end led to believe they would be more elementary
- lack testing support or extra help due to separation from elementary
- not being able to eat at MS/HS (4)
- prefer it to be all or nothing with transition
- travel back and forth between buildings (3)
- can't take advantage of new MS sports court
- not being included in MS homecoming assembly

- whom to contact for issues (absences, early pick-up)
- getting both building weekly newsletters
- having to walk outside after breakfast
- no staff member to monitor cross-walk between buildings
- missing the opportunity to say the Pledge of Allegiance and hear announcements due to travel time
- +hybrid model
- +familiarity is growing with MS/HS
- +being considered elementary while still being at MS/HS
- age appropriate location for 5th graders
- walking hallways with older teens and exposure to inappropriate language

Student Responses: 55 of 63 (87%)

STUDENT PERCEPTION SURVEY					
	ALWAYS	OFTEN	RARELY	NEVER	
Overall, I feel safe and comfortable at the middle school?	52.7%	43.6%	3.6%	0%	
I feel welcomed and supported by my teachers and staff?	71.4%	26.8%	1.8%	0%	
I feel confident finding my way around the middle school?	43.6%	38.2%	18.2%	0%	
I feel safe and calm during transitions (hallways, restrooms, lockers, etc.) when older students are present?	41.1%	42.9%	14.3%	1.8%	
I feel older students treat me with respect?	40%	41.8%	18.2%	0%	
I feel safe and comfortable eating breakfast in the MS/HS cafeteria?	30.5%	11.9%	5.1%	3.4%	Eat at Home 49.2%
I feel safe and comfortable during lunch and recess at the elementary school?	74.5%	20%	1.8%	3.6%	

Overall, how satisfied are you with your experience this year as a 5th grader?	Very Satisfied 25.9%	Satisfied 53.4%	Neutral 19%	Dissatisfied 1.7%	Very Dissatisfied 0%
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Open Response: Are there times during transitions that feel confusing or stressful? If so, explain.

-packing up at end of the day (2)
 -switching with 6th graders
 -making sure I have all my stuff (from locker)
 -transition to lockers during day (loud, congested) (7)
 -transitions and congestion (2)
 -loud hallways during transition
 +no (31)
 +sometimes (6)
 -always (1)
 -yes (14)

Open Response: Would you be uncomfortable to eat breakfast or lunch in the MS/HS cafeteria? If so, explain.

(+ Plus; - Delta)

-older kids would be present (4)
 +enjoy sitting next to friends (2)
 +prefer to eat at MS/HS so we don't have to walk to elementary
 +think that people are nice
 -MS/HS students are scary
 -unfamiliar setting (3)
 +no (34)
 -yes (10)

Open Response: What is your FAVORITE part about moving to the middle school?

(+ Plus; - Delta)

+later start time (2)
 +not having to walk outside for specials (10)
 +lockers (20)
 +independence (2)
 +seeing older friends or sibling (7)
 +more cooler (fun) than elementary (2)
 +being with 6th grade
 +teachers
 +lunch

Open Response: What is your LEAST favorite part about moving to the middle school?
(+ Plus; - Delta)

- not having lunch at MS/HS
- walking to elementary for lunch and recess (12)
- lots of people (5)
- can't see my siblings or friends (3)
- can't see my old teachers (5)
- sharing a locker (1)
- smaller classrooms
- it's big (2)
- being the youngest (2)
- distractions
- lots of work
- walking around building to special
- being treated differently by older kids (2)
- the bathroom
- its loud during transitions

Open Response: Is there anything else you want to share about what is/isn't working well this school year?
(+ Plus; - Delta)

- +being there (MS/HS) is going well
- +think everything is great
- we get out late
- walking to the elementary for lunch (2)
- +going to elementary for lunch and recess
- +like it very much
- adults don't pay attention to girls - I think it should be even
- new pack up system is not that good
- the homework and work is a bit harder
- my self-control
- +connecting with others is getting easier and more confident

Teacher/Staff Feedback: 4 of 4 (100%)

Open Response: What is/isn't working well regarding the transition to the middle school?
(+ Plus; - Delta)

- +separate transitions that are not similar to elementary and middle school
- +access to recess and lunch at elementary

- +ability to connect with elementary staff during lunch and recess block
- +PLC with 4th grade continues
- +students should have less anxiety with transition to 6th
- access to support staff (counselor, sped ed, intervention)
- students are asking for snack by 8:30am, so wondering why they are not eating breakfast
- +separate bathrooms for MS students
- +not following the MS bell schedule
- backend IC attendance process alignment
- +communication from principal to stay informed
- tracking 5th grade students down for early release/information as they may be at elementary

Plan Adjustments based Upon Stakeholder Feedback (10/21/25)

TASK	LED BY	DATE COMPLETED
Students need greater access to resources (Behavior Interventionist, Counselor, Interventionist). ● 1a: Create a regular schedule for these resource personnel to be at the MS daily or weekly. ○ Admin and 5th grade teachers got together to discuss when they feel students have the most need. ○ We decided that having support directly after lunch would be most beneficial. ○ Marsh, Hillard or Brossia are walking over with 5th grade after recess for access. We try for everyday! ● 1b: Consider how to make 5th grade students aware of how they access resources, maybe through a Google Form. ○ Admin and 5th grade teachers discussed doing a concern jar or a Google document for students to express their concerns. After feedback from 5th grade students, we have decided to create a Google form to post on teacher Schoology pages for students to request support. ○ The Google form has been created and will be shared with 5th grade teachers/students on 11/5/25. ● 1c: Hiring of a Title Aide that will cover 2nd grade, which would allow for another aide to support 4th/5th grade part-time. A new schedule would need to be created for 4th/5th coverage.	1a (Sam) 1b (Teachers; Support Staff) 1c (Sam)	1a 10/22/25 1b 11/5/25 1c Pending Filled Position

○ Job has been posted to Indeed and district website on 10/10/25 until filled.		
Students are asking for a snack by 8:30am each morning, so we need to make sure students have access to breakfast at MS. ● 2a: Option 1: Have the 5th grade teachers do a walking field trip to the MS/HS cafeteria after 8am, so students can learn about the staffing, process, and where they can sit. Also, ensure that students can get breakfast after the 8am bell, and they would bring it back to the classroom to eat. Option 2: Consider a remote breakfast opportunity where it is brought to the 5th grade classrooms by 7:55am, and students would be allowed to eat until 8:15am in the classrooms. ○ Scott spoke with The Nutrition Group leadership about both options, and after discussion, we will start with Option 1. (10/21/25) Scott communicated with lunch personnel and 5th grade teachers about the decision to go with Option 1. Walking field trips will begin the week of 11/4-11/7 for all 5th grade students. (11/3/25) ● 2b: If Option 2, then at the beginning of 2nd semester, take all 5th grade students on a field trip to the breakfast area to meet cafeteria staff, Chris A., Ken G., etc., so they will become more familiar with accessing breakfast in the MS/HS cafeteria. We would like to phase out the breakfast in the classrooms to breakfast in the MS/HS cafeteria.	2a (Scott / Teachers) 2b (Teachers)	2a 11/3/25 2b
As we consider the 4th grade transition to the MS for the 2026-2027 school year, we need to determine if we want to continue with the hybrid model or traditional model of full inclusion at MS. If a hybrid model, what parts of the model are working and make the most sense to allow for a successful transition between buildings. ● 3a: Survey 4th grade parents and students to better understand what they might expect to help with their child's transition to the MS. ● 3b: Seek feedback from staff (teachers, administrative assistant, administration, support staff) to understand how they felt the current	3a (Scott) 3b (Scott) 3c (Scott/Sam)	3a 3b 3c

hybrid model worked/didn't work and identify what might be the important structures and processes to keep for a successful transition. • 3c: Consider how this will affect staffing levels and budget for support, teacher preference for grade-level assignments, additional MS principal and/or MS counselor, etc.		
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From Elementary Website "5th Grade Transition"

We recognize that a building transition brings questions and a mix of emotions. Please know that the safety, comfort, and success of your child remain our top priorities. Your child can expect the following as they transition this fall:

Timeline/Progress Monitoring

AUGUST 2025

- Parent & Student Engagement
 - 5th grade orientation with building tour - **Completed 8/20 as WPA Welcome Back**
 - Distribute transition handbook - **Completed 6/25/25 as 5th Grade FAQ document**

SEPTEMBER 2025

- First Weeks of School
 - Welcome Assembly and Staff Introductions - **MS staff visited classrooms instead of assembly**
 - Daily support staff assigned to 5th grade areas - **Completed with assigned staff for student monitoring at arrival**
 - Morning check-ins by Counselor, Dean of Students, Behavior Interventionist, and principal - **Completed as regular visibility checks in AM**
 - Feedback surveys for students and parents in what is/isn't working well - **Completed 10/9-10/17**
 - Appropriate adjustments made if needed - **Completed 10/21 at a meeting with 5th grade teachers to consider survey feedback**
 - Added: Board approved the purchase of new student desks and chairs for all three 5th grade classrooms at the BOE 9/8/25 Meeting. - **Completed order on 9/10/25**

OCTOBER 2025

- Added: 5th grade student desks and chairs installed - **Completed on 10/6/25**

NOVEMBER 2025

- Added: 5th Grade Transition Survey Results BOE presentation on 11/10/25

JANUARY 2026

- Mid-Year Check-In
 - Feedback surveys for parents
 - Student Discussion Groups
 - Adjustments to routines and schedules if needed

MAY 2026

- End-of-Year Review
 - Review data
 - Gather final feedback from staff, parents, and students
 - Board report and recommendations for future improvements