

Transition Parent Coffee

Preparing Fifth Grade Students
with IEPs and 504s
for Middlesex Middle School



February 26, 2025

Introductions of Today's Participants

- Caitlin O'Keefe → Assistant Principal, MMS
- Sarah Ramaley → Special Education Program Director, Grades 6-8
- Emily Berezecky → School Counselor
- Sarah Young → Special Education Teacher
- Krista Young → Special Education Teacher
- Monique Ross → School Psychologist
- Jackie Petrasanta → School Counselor

Presentation Topics

1. The Middlesex Middle School Experience
2. The Transition to Middle School
 - a. Preparing for Articulation Meetings
3. Special Education Services and Supports
4. 504 Plans and General Education Supports
5. Questions

The Middlesex Middle School Experience



The MMS Student Services Team

- Administration: 1 Principal and 3 Assistant Principals
 - 1 Special Education Program Director for Grades 6-8
- 3 School Psychologists, 1 School Social Worker, and 1 Teen Talk Counselor
- 6 School Counselors
- 16 Special Education Teachers
- 3 Speech and Language Pathologists
- 17 Paraprofessionals
- 4 Additional Related Service Providers
 - OT/PT/APE/ATE
- Countless general education teachers who work hard to support all students

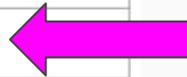
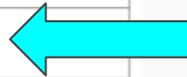
Guide to MMS

- Team Model: Teams per grade level
 - Collaboration
 - Assistant Principal, school counselors, school psychologists and SLP will travel from grade to grade with the class
- 6th Grade Content Classes
 - English A, English B, Math, Science, Social Studies, Spanish/French/Mandarin
- 6th Grade Unified Arts: Music, Art and PE

Sample Schedule



Block	Monday Schedule
1	Science
2	English A
Flex	SEL/Advisory
3	Math
4	Lunch/Study/Recess
5	Social Studies
6	PE/art/music
7	World Language
8	English B



- FLEX
- Rotating Schedule
 - Lunches never move
- Two English Classes

The Transition to MMS



Preparing for Articulation

- Many conversations between the all 5 of the elementary schools and MMS
- Professional Development:
 - Planning time for Elementary and Middle School Special Education teachers.
 - Discussing individual programs, services and transition needs
- MMS to set up visits to Elementary Schools (if needed)
- Scheduling and planning of PPTs (please be flexible as we schedule)

Articulation PPTs

- Goal of the PPT: Articulate services from 5th to 6th grade
- Occurs During the month of March
- Receive notice of your child's scheduled PPT time via email
- Thirty minute meetings take place over Zoom
- Structure of meeting and attendees

Articulation 504s

- Goal of the 504 Meeting: Articulate accommodations from 5th to 6th grade
- Occurs in April
- Receive notice of your child's scheduled 504 time via email. Any updated documentation is helpful.
- Meetings will take place over Zoom
- Structure of meeting and attendees

Special Education Services and Programs



Co-Teaching

- English A, English B and Math
- Popular Models: *Parallel Teaching* and *Station Teaching*
- Specially-designed instruction
- Lesson Example

Resource Room

- Mini-Lesson model
- Direct, specially designed instruction with application to content area class assignments
- Study Skills and Organization
- Self-Advocacy

Comprehensive Math Class

- Modified academic classes
- Taught by a Special Education Teacher
- Aligned to grade-level Mathematics classes
 - Extra practice and review

Direct Reading Support

- Small group settings
- Structured Literacy Approach
 - Focus on decoding and encoding
- Taught by a special education teacher

Academic and Individual Management/AIM

- Description of Program
- Staff Structure and Support
- DBT Implementation

Academic Learning Center/ALC

- Self-Contained Classroom with modified content instruction
- Direct instruction in social communication and functional living skills
- Related Services: Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy,
Speech/Language Therapy, BCaBA Supports

Related Services (not limited to)

- Speech and Language
 - Small group and individual services
- Counseling
 - School Psychologist or School Social Worker
- OT
- PT
- AT

****42 minute or 21 minute blocks****

504 Plans and General Education Supports



504 Oversight and Management

- School counselors manage and oversee student 504 plans
- Plans are reviewed and updated annually to reflect student needs and growth
- Documentation will be updated every 3 years
- Spring articulation meetings to transition from 5th to 6th grade

Mental Health Supports

- School Counselors
 - FLEX and Push-in lessons
- School Psychologists
- Social Workers
 - Teen Talk Counselor
- Individual / Group Counseling
- DBT Implementation

Communication- Who to Call

- Specific class or instruction →
Individual teacher
- Overall academic concern →
Team Leader
- SEL/ Behavior/ General update/
Scheduling/ 504→ School Counselor
- Specific Service Concern →
related service provider
- Scheduling a PPT → Sue Farmer
- Scheduling a 504 → Sue Loura
- Further support→ Administrator
- Absences (past/present/future) →
Attendance Line: Ms. LaDay
- Injury or medical need → Nurse

What to Expect

- Receive an email of your child's scheduled PPT or 504 time
- Attend your meeting which will take place over Zoom in a 30 minute meeting
- Discuss how services and/or accommodations will articulate from 5th to 6th grade
- Enjoy a relaxing summer vacation
- Join the MMS community in the fall!



Questions

Sarah Ramaley-

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