

The BEST is in the MIDDLE!



HILL COUNTRY

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Meet Your HCMS Special Education Team!

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Are you wondering about...?

Case Managers

A case manager's role in middle school is similar to the role you and your child experienced in elementary. This will be the point person for all things relating to your child's special education services. The frequency of contact the student will have with the case manager will depend on the services and support the student receives. In almost all cases, a case manager and student will have at least one class period together per day.

You should expect a phone call or email from your child's case manager near the start of school. If you happen to have a question prior to the start of school, you can contact Nicki Kennington, your campus coordinator.

Student Schedules

The decisions in your child's last ARD will determine the services needed in your child's schedule. Specific special education courses or supports will be completed internally by the special education department.

Here are a few things to keep in mind:

- * Electives are not decided by an ARD committee, although an ARD committee can substitute a Special Ed elective for a General Ed elective.
- * Several electives are offered only once or at specific times during the day. This can create a conflict with a special ed class or service that is only offered at the same time. In a "battle of singletons," your child's special education program will trump an elective choice unless you go back to ARD and the ARD committee decides that Special Ed support is not needed. In this situation, your case manager would contact you to gain your feedback.
- * Schedule changes are not uncommon in the first few weeks, and many times are out of the special education department's control. Due to over or under-enrollment, changes to the campus master schedule or staffing are made during the summer, which impacts all students. Your child's case manager will ensure that the schedule of services decided in their ARD, matches their class schedule.

Start of School

The start of a new school can be an anxious time for both students and parents. In order to support all students, 6th graders are encouraged to attend Cougar Camp in August. During Cougar Camp, students get an orientation to Hill Country which also includes study habits, expectations, the library, and lots of helpful hints for middle school success. The campus will hold a Hill Country Hello, which is an open house event for all middle school students. Your child will be able to walk their schedule around campus, and there will also be a specific time at which teachers will be in their classroom. You and your child are encouraged to stop by and say hello to any of the teachers that are on your schedule.

Summary

- Case Managers have similar roles as they did at the elementary schools
- Parents will receive an email or phone call from the case manager in August before school starts
- Case Managers and students will have frequent contact/communication
- ARD decisions drive your child's schedule & can trump electives
- Schedule changes are common for all students during the first few weeks of school
- Cougar Camp is available to 6th graders prior to the start of school