

Kirkland Middle School

5th Grade FAQs

Are there after school sports and clubs?

Yes. A full list can be found online at <https://kims.lwsd.org/activities>

What is the food like and is it good?

This will vary for everyone, but overall, most students think the food is pretty good. We always have a variety of choices (fries, pizza, burgers, salad) and different “hot meal” each day

How many people are in each class?

Class sizes are typically 25-30 students

Do we have to change for gym class and is there any privacy?

This year students were not required to change due to COVID-19. If changing is required next year, there is absolutely privacy to change if you want it

How much harder than elementary school is middle school?

It is not a TON harder but as you get older, more mature and learn more, your abilities to do more also grow.

Is there more homework?

Yes, there is more homework in middle school than in elementary. There are always opportunities to work on homework during the school day.

Do we have lockers? What is the backpack situation?

We do not have lockers; students are expected to keep their belongings with them at all times. We have lockers in the locker room for PE.

What if I have an instrument?

Instruments can be stored in the band/orchestra room during the school day.

How will we find our classes on the first day of school?

On the first day of school, 6th graders (and staff) are the only ones in the building for the first 2 hours. Students will get a tour of the school and see where everything is. We also offer tours for students and their families BEFORE the school year starts.

Will we get number or letter grades?

You will receive letter grades (A, B, C, D, or F)

When can we use cell phones at school?

Before school, after school, and during lunch

Questions asked by 5th graders at Peter Kirk, Mark Twain, and Lakeview

Is lunch 6-8 grade together?

Yes, lunches are mixed with all 3 grades.

Is there detention?

Yes, we have lunch detention and lunch clean-up.

Can cell phones be used to do research?

No, you will be provided with a laptop that you can do research on.

School dances, special functions next year?

This year, we did not have any due to COVID-19. We are unsure what this will look like next year.

Is Lexia used?

No

Are there opportunities to sit with people you know?

Absolutely! We have free, open seating for lunch. In class, we do have assigned seats, but they are changed regularly so you have the opportunity to sit by different people.

Is there a period of time to get a book from the library?

Before school, after school, and during lunch. Your English class will also regularly go to the library to get books.

What are the afterschool clubs?

Currently we have: Battle of the Books, Math Olympiad, Builder's Club, GSA (Gay Straight Alliance), Green Team, Pages for Pancakes, and TSA (Technology Student Association). If there is a club you would like to see at KIMS, come to the office and ask what the process to start a new club is!

Does everybody get picked for band or do you have to tryout?

Everyone that signs up for band as a class will get in to band, there is no prior experience needed (you don't even have to own an instrument!) Jazz band is an extracurricular activity that might require an audition.

How long do clubs last?

Calendar-wise: most clubs are year round

Timewise: afterschool club meetings can range anywhere from 30 minutes to an hour

Is the science hands-on?

Yes! Science is very hands on at KIMS

How far apart are the classes?

Most of your classes will be in the same “pod” (we have a 6th grade pod, 7th grade pod, etc.) Even if you have a class outside of your pod, classes are NOT super far apart and a 5-minute passing period is sufficient to get to class on time

What times are school sports (before or after school)?

Sport practices and games take place after school

Is there a school play?

Yes! This past fall we had a school musical. We also have a drama class you can take as an elective in 7th and/or 8th grade

Can I bring my own laptop?

No, the school will provide you with a laptop and charger. Personal computers will not have the required software installed by the district to access all school materials.

Is there chemistry at KiMS?

There is not a separate chemistry class but as you progress in science there are chemistry lessons

About how many pages of homework are there each night?

Most classes do not give more than a page or two of homework each night, and most teachers give class time to work on homework assignments. This can vary depending on the class/assignment.

Do you need to already have an instrument to play in band/orchestra?

No, we can provide one for you.

Are there bullies?

Unfortunately, yes. Every school will have bullies. KiMS’ staff do not tolerate bullying in any way and always encourage students to report bullying they experience or witness.

Is there a student council?

Yes! We also have a leadership class that supports the council.

What types of art do you do in the elective?

You will do a variety of different kinds of art (examples: drawing, painting, pottery, etc.)

Do we need to complete the student registration form if we are going to a different school?

No

What do you do in health class?

Health class will cover a variety of topics, from learning how to have a healthy lifestyle to learning about the changes your body goes through puberty. Recently, our health classes talked about mental health.

Are there morning announcements?

Yes

Can you do advanced math in 6th grade?

If you were in Quest this year (5th grade) you are eligible for an advance math class

Is there a yearbook or yearbook club?

Yes

Do the electives change in 7th grade?

Yes, you have more choices for electives. We are also the only middle school in LWSD that allows 7th grade students to sign up for Spanish.

Do sports travel? Are the games after school or during the school day?

Yes sports travel, games are after school. Transportation is provided by the school to and from games, but you can also be transported by a parent/guardian.

Do we get a map?

Absolutely! Maps are also posted around the school and there are always staff members roaming the halls to ask for directions. If you lose your map, head to the main office and they can provide you with another one.

What sports do you offer?

This school year so far, we have offered: Boys Basketball, Co-Eds Cross Country, Boys Tennis, Girls Badminton, Co-Ed Soccer.

Other sports we offer: Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Co-Ed Wrestling, Girls Tennis, Co-Ed Track, Girls Volleyball

Keep in mind that COVID-19 may affect what sports are offered/available.

How long are passing periods?

5 minutes

Are there fieldtrips?

In the past there have been fieldtrips. This is dependent on what happens with COVID-19.

What letter grades are considered a fail?

The only letter grade considered a fail is an F (others are A, B, C & D). However, your teacher will meet and talk with you BEFORE your grade drops that low.

Is there safety patrol?

No

What if your computer is not charged?

The expectation is that you charge your computer every day at home PRIOR to coming to school so you are ready to go.

Can you join math Olympia club easily?

Yes

Can you learn a language in 8th grade?

Yes, we offer Spanish for 8th graders and have opened up 30 seats for 7th graders as well.

Is there girls' soccer?

Yes, this year we were able to have Co-Ed soccer.

Do you get time with your friends if you have different lunch times?

Before school and after school there is time to socialize with friends. Depending on where your classes are, you can also socialize a bit during passing period. Sometimes teachers will give socializing time during class as well.

How much time in school do you have to work on homework?

Most teachers gave 5-10 minutes of class each day to work on homework. Otherwise, there you have Academic Prep 3 times a week for 30-minute sessions, these are opportunities to work on homework and get help from teachers if needed

What are the requirements to start a new club? Does the club have to be at school?

If it is a school club it does have to be at school. To start a new club, visit the office! They will ask you questions and can provide more information.

How many kids are at KiMS?

This year we had ~550 students

Is there piano offered in music?

No

What should we expect on the last day of school?

Can kids do morning announcements?

Yes! All our morning announcements are done by the leadership students.

How old do you have to be to join student council? What does student council do at the middle school?

Are you able to change your computer profile, such as wallpaper or profile pictures?

Yes, as long as they are school appropriate.

Are there bells?

No, after a while you get accustomed to the schedule. We also have schedules posted all around the school and teachers let you know when to head to your next class.

Can we create a sport club or add a new sport?

Yes! Go to the office to find out more.

Does the guitar combo allow you to choose which 2 classes you get?

No, counselors will assign you to 2 Panther Academy classes based on availability.

When do busses leave?

All busses leave KiMS to take students home by 3:15pm. You can always check your bus stop out here <https://busroutes.lwsd.org/elinkRP/Students/BasicTransBoundarySearch.aspx>

Can you redo tests if you get a bad grade?

Some teachers allow test retakes, make sure to talk to your teacher about their class policy BEFORE the test even happens.

Is Spanish the only language you offer?

Yes, but we are the only middle school that offers Spanish to 7th graders.

Is there an AV club?

No

What is the cafeteria / lunch layout like?

We have a large cafeteria with a stage that students can sit inside and eat in. We also have a large outdoor tent and outdoor seating area.

How many teachers are there?

There are ~35 teachers, ~65 staff members total (paras, office managers, principals, etc.)

What are the school hours?

M, T, Th, & F – 8:35am-3:05pm

Wednesdays – 8:35am-1:05pm

Full daily schedules can be found here <https://kims.lwsd.org/studentsfamilies/daily-schedule>

How do you know what lunch you are?

Lunch is dependent on your 4th period teacher; you will be informed what lunch you are based on your schedule

Do you provide computer bags?

No

Are the soccer and volleyball teams for girls, boys, or both?

This year we offered soccer for boys and girls (co-ed) and girls' volleyball.

Are there drama/theatre classes or after school program?

Yes! We have a drama class you can take as a 7th and/or 8th grader and 2 school plays (one in the fall, one in the spring) open to all grades

What should you do if you get lost and don't know your teacher's name?

Head to the main office, we can give you a new copy of your schedule and show you where your class is

Does the school provide supplies - like pencils and pens?

We will provide your laptop and charger, if you are in need of other school supplies, please contact your counselor

How do you divide students into different classes?

This is done randomly

How long are the clubs after school? Like an hour?

Roughly 30 minutes to 1 hour

Can you request to be with friends for classes or lunch?

No

How much time do we get to our next class?

Passing period is 5 minutes

Can we sign up for tackle football?

No, we do not offer touch or tackle football at KiMS

Do we need to buy our own school supplies?

Yes, if you require assistance with school supplies, please contact your counselor

Are there assigned seats in each class?

Yes

If you are lunch A and your friends are Lunch B - can you swap?

No

How much time do we have for lunch?

30 minutes

Do we need to bring a binder for schoolwork?

Binders are not required, but if you like to use a binder to stay organized feel free!

Do we have homework on weekend?

Not usually but it can happen

Can students chew gum or have any snacks during the day?

This is teacher dependent, gums/snacks cannot be disruptive to class or interfere with proper mask wearing