

# Compass FAQ

## WBMS Compass Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is Compass?**

Compass is a dedicated 25-minute class to start school each day and it serves as Period 1. Students are heterogeneously and randomly assigned to their Compass teacher, who serves as the Period 1 teacher. This dedicated time is for the educator to work closely with students on academics, student supports and community building.

### **Why do we have dedicated Compass time?**

Middle School is a time of great transition and change for students: transition to a new school and changes in physical appearance and possibly in social circles. We believe that during these transitional years, it is imperative for students to form healthy relationships with educators. Research supports that students who have a personal connection to school do better academically, have a more positive self-image and make healthier lifestyle choices. Please see this article for more information:

<https://www.amle.org/BrowsebyTopic/WhatsNew/WNDet/TabId/270/ArtMID/888/ArticleID/864/The-Challenge-of-Advisory-and-Why-its-Worth-the-Effort.aspx>

Additional supporting research can be found here:

<http://www.ncmle.org/research%20summaries/ressum9.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying-suicide-translation-final-a.pdf>

At Webb Bridge Middle School, we are committed to helping all students navigate through these transformative years. We continually evaluate and improve upon our Compass goals to ensure that Advisory is meeting the needs of our students.

This upcoming year will see a dedicated focus on our newly re-defined WBMS Values.

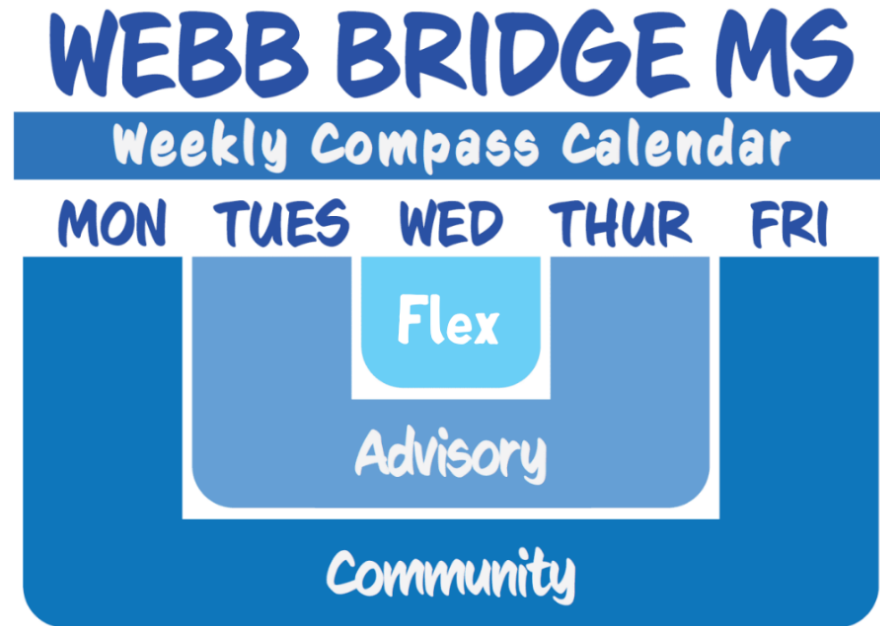
### **Who participates in Compass?**

All students and all certified teachers participate in Compass.

### **What is the role of the teacher in Compass?**

The Compass teacher serves as a student's advisor, the student's first connection with WBMS. The teacher will advise students regarding academic and other goals. The teacher is expected to monitor student grades and attendance, serve as the liaison between core teachers and home, participate in parent/teacher conferences, lead lessons on social-emotional learning and our WBMS Values, and help guide students to live their best life.

What is the daily/weekly structure of Compass?



*\*subject to changes based on WBMS weekly/monthly schedule of events.*

What happens on each day?

**Community**  
To support students' relationship building skills  
The Webb Way, Student Success Skills, Fun Friday, WEB Leaders

**Advisory**  
To support students' success inside and outside of the classroom  
Check-Ins, Guided Work Period, Goal Setting, Club Meetings

**Flex**  
To support students' development of catching up, and completing tasks  
WBMS Service Learning Novel Read, student feedback surveys, drills,

**What are the expectations of students during Compass?**

Students are expected to:

- Bring all necessary materials to class
- Participate in student/teacher check-ins
- Communicate with Advisor regarding coursework and goal-setting
- Participate in lesson and game days
- Be prepared for changes in the daily/weekly Compass schedule.

**Students should not expect:**

- To be able to play games on devices during Compass
- GWP to be a guaranteed study hal

## **How do WEB Leaders support 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass?**

WEB Leaders are selected 8<sup>th</sup> graders who are trained throughout the year to connect with the 6<sup>th</sup> graders; their main purpose is to ease the transition from elementary to middle school. WEB stands for Where Everyone Belongs and our WEB Leaders help bring our vision of community to our building. We believe that by having 8<sup>th</sup> graders they can ask questions of, say “Hi” to, and learn from, our 6<sup>th</sup> graders will become better Webb Bridge citizens and leaders themselves. The WEB Leaders lead 6<sup>th</sup> grade Orientation and actually get the first opportunity to connect the members of each Compass group. WEB Leaders will be joining their assigned 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass classes on various occasions throughout the year (about twice a month) to lead activities and build relationships with our 6<sup>th</sup> graders. They will lead activities about getting to know one another, how to deal with gossip, how to be a good friend, and many more. We ask that our 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass leaders welcome the WEB Leaders, help them accomplish the goal of the activities they are presenting, and evaluate their progress throughout the year. If, as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade Compass leader, you see an area that your Compass could benefit from having a WEB Leader perspective about, please discuss with the WEB Leaders and/or the WEB Coordinators, so that the program can support your needs. We ask that our 8<sup>th</sup> grade Compass leaders are understanding of when their WEB Leaders will miss Compass and/or Connect for WEB Leader activities.