



301 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: 724-662-5102
Fax: 724-662-5103

Gregory R. Acre
Ext. 3010

Shirley A. Spiegel
Ext. 3020

Principal
gacre@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Assistant Principal
Special Education Coordinator
sspiegel@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Elementary Transition Plan 2023-2024 **KINDERGARTEN**

Rationale:

The transition into a full-day Kindergarten program is a critical time that is considered to be one of the most difficult for students and their families. These students can experience several negative effects during the transition, including: anxiety, stress, fear, and apprehension; however, the Mercer Area School District can make the transition easier and more comfortable for rising Kindergarteners by creating excitement and providing opportunities for students to interact with their peers and explore the elementary school prior to the beginning of their Kindergarten year. Implementing a comprehensive transitional program can be beneficial for incoming Kindergarteners, leading to an increase in student attendance, academic improvement, and a decrease in student and parent apprehension. By implementing transition activities, Mercer Area Elementary School helps to build a sense of community for the upcoming elementary students and assimilating parents, who can help them feel more comfortable with the transition process.

Activities:

1. Registration Day
 - a. During the month of March, the elementary school will host a weeklong registration event at the Mercer Area Elementary School. During this time the parents and students will have the opportunity to meet with members of the school and become acquainted with the school building. Screening activities will take place for the students to determine current education levels, identify vision, hearing, and speech concerns, etc. These results are shared immediately with the parents. There is a plethora of opportunity to learn information not only about the school building itself, but also Kindergarten and the expectations for the upcoming year.
2. Early Intervention Day
 - a. During the month of February, representatives from the Early Intervention program meet with school officials, teachers, and parents to review necessary information for incoming Kindergarten students with Early Intervention needs. Communication opportunities are allotted for the parents to communicate directly with school employees. This meeting takes place within the school building, as to increase comfort that parent has with new learning facility.

3. Head Start/Pre-K Transition Day
 - a. During the month of April, representatives from Mercer Elementary, including administrators, school counselors, and teachers will meet with representatives from Head Start and Pre-K program, along with the parents to discuss transition into Kindergarten. The teachers of the Head Start and Pre-K program will review each individual student and provide important information regarding their educational progress and make recommendations for what will most assist those students. Parents have the opportunity to meet with a teacher representative, school counselor, and administrator during these meetings.
4. Success by Six Program
 - a. In conjunction with the United Way of Mercer County, Mercer Area Elementary School operates one Success by Six classroom. There are twenty (20) students that have the opportunity to participate in the program. The selection process provides priority to students who earned low screening scores during registration, students who have limited pre-school experience, and students who have been recommended for additional transitional experiences.
5. Walk the Building Days
 - a. Mercer Area Elementary School is open throughout the summer, with the exception of the Fourth of July. Parents are notified of this during registration and also upon information request shall they contact the school. Parents and their children are welcome to visit the elementary school and become more familiar with the building. Informal opportunities are available to meet with the administrators on staff and employed during the summer.
6. Welcome Letters and Packets
 - a. On the first day of August important letters are mailed directly to the household of the incoming Kindergarten student. These letters include their teacher assignment, but also a litany of additional resources for the students and their parents. Information regarding policies and procedures will be included in this welcome mailing packet. This information assists in alleviating apprehension about coming to Kindergarten.
7. Orientation Day/ Meet the Teacher
 - a. In the week prior to school Mercer Area Elementary School will hold an orientation session at the facility. Students and their families are welcomed to the elementary school to prepare them for the upcoming week of their start of school. A school bus is on site, in addition to the transportation director, to assist in alleviating transportation concerns and provide the students with a chance to sit on a bus before their first day. The administrators meet with the parents to review necessary information. The students have the opportunity to sit in their seats, meet their teachers, and become more familiar with the setting.
8. Rule Roll-Out Days
 - a. Within the first week of school the students will spend a great deal of time learning new procedures. As these new rules and regulations are unveiled in the classroom, the Kindergarten students rotate through different stations in the building to learn the rules and see examples of what it means to be safe, kind, respectful, and responsible in conjunction with our School Wide Positive Behavior system.



301 Lamor Road
Mercer, PA 16137

Phone: 724-662-5102
Fax: 724-662-5103

Gregory R. Acre
Ext. 3010

Shirley A. Spiegel
Ext. 3020

Principal
gacre@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Assistant Principal
Special Education Coordinator
sspiegel@mercerc.k12.pa.us

Elementary Transition Plan 2023-2024
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO MIDDLE SCHOOL (6TH – 7TH)

Rationale:

The transition from the elementary to the middle-high school building can be incredibly challenging for students and their families. These students can experience several negative effects during the transition, including: anxiety, stress, fear, and apprehension; however, the Mercer Area School District can assist in making the transition easier and more comfortable for rising seventh grade students by providing opportunities for students to interact with their peers and explore the middle-high school building prior to the start of their middle school experience. The individual responsibilities and demands levied upon these transitioning students highlight the importance of our mission. Implementing a comprehensive transitional program can be beneficial for rising seventh graders, leading to an increase in student attendance, academic improvement, and a decrease in both student and parent apprehension. By assisting Mercer Area Middle School in the implementation of transition activities, Mercer Area Elementary School helps build a sense of community and individual ownership for the rising seventh grade students, as well as assimilating parents who can help their children feel more comfortable with the transition process.

Activities:

1. Walk the Building Days
 - a. Mercer Area Middle-High School is open throughout the summer, with the exception of the Fourth of July. Parents are notified of this during the school year and also upon information request shall they contact the school. Parents and their children are welcome to visit the middle school and become more familiar with the building. Informal opportunities are available to meet with the administrators on staff and employed during the summer.
2. Welcome Letters and Packets
 - a. At the end of July important letters are mailed directly to the household of the incoming seventh grade students. These letters include their course schedule, but also a litany of additional resources for the students and their parents. Information regarding policies and procedures will be included in this welcome mailing packet. This information assists in alleviating apprehension about coming to the middle school.

3. Orientation Day
 - a. In the weeks prior to school, Mercer Area Middle School will hold an orientation session at the facility. Students and their families are welcomed to the middle school to prepare them for the upcoming week of their start of school. Students will be provided with their academic schedules and will have an opportunity to explore the building. The administrators meet with the parents to review necessary information. The students have the opportunity to visit each classroom on their schedule, meet their teachers, and become more familiar with the setting.
4. Principal's Meetings with Students
 - a. Within the first week of school the students will spend a great deal of time learning new procedures. The collective seventh grade class will meet with the principal, assistant principal, and guidance counselor to review the student-parent handbook. Specific areas are highlighted and focused upon by the administration. Students receive their handbooks and have the opportunity to ask specific questions about the middle-high school.
5. Middle School Visitation Day
 - a. During the month of May, the sixth grade classes will visit the middle school facility. They are accompanied on this trip by the guidance counselor. Students meet with their new counselor, principal, and assistant principal. Students have the opportunity to experience the cafeteria, which has a completely different configuration, and eat at the facility. Students are guided on a tour through the building by adults and older students as they get their first experience through the school. This provides an opportunity alleviate fears of a new building with the peers, counselor, and teacher that they know.
6. Middle School Planning Activities
 - a. There are a number of minor transition activities that the students complete during their sixth grade year in preparation for the move to a new building. Students in sixth grade receiving the same academic planner tool that is provided to the middle school students. This reinforces the expectations of organization and accountability that they will experience in the secondary. Students meet with the school counselor to review the academic course offerings and the extracurricular opportunities of middle school.
7. Career and Long-Term Planning
 - a. During their sixth grade year, the students will visit the Mercer County Career Center to be introduced to the facility. Although most students are not able to begin attending the program until their 11th grade year, the formulation of long-term plans are important in establishing the seriousness of their secondary experience. For those students who may wish to go to MCCC, the importance of maintaining good academic standing is reinforced. Unrelated to the career center, the guidance counselor works with the students to create a Career and Academic Plan as they transition to the secondary. These goal setting activities will provide additional support to the students as they prepare to move to a new building a focus attention on their long-term plans.