

THE TRANSITION PROCESS

FOR 5th to 6th GRADE STUDENTS
WITH IEPS & 504 PLANS

JANUARY 2026



OLENTANGY SCHOOLSSM
Flourish Here.

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Middle School & High School
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For more information on the Parent Mentor Program, visit the [Pupil Services Website; Parent Mentor Program.](#)



GOALS FOR THIS PRESENTATION

The goals for this presentation include:

- Provide an introduction to the Pupil Services Department
- Explain the transition process that the district follows
- Explain what Intervention services can look like in Middle School
- Answer any questions you may have
- Provide an introduction to an Intervention staff member at your new middle school



PUPIL SERVICES ADMINISTRATORS

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For more information on the Pupil Services Department, including your Pupil Service Supervisor, visit the [Pupil Services Website](#).



THE 5TH GRADE TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS



THE 5TH GRADE TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

Throughout the School Year

- Ongoing Communication occurs between 5th and 6th Grade level Intervention Specialists to discuss scheduling needs based on individual student needs and differences between the two settings.



THE 5TH GRADE TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

January-February

- Elementary Intervention Specialists meet with Middle School Intervention Specialists and Pupil Services to review Individualized Education Plans and scheduling needs.
- Olentangy Parent Mentors will host office hours with parents to answer general questions about the transition. This meeting may be a virtual meeting or in-person.



THE 5TH GRADE TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION PROCESS

May

- Intervention Specialists will meet incoming 6th graders.
- Parents are notified (via email or letter) of their child's Intervention Specialist and/or are provided contact information of a Department Chair (per staffing).

August

- All students will have an orientation event in August. We are still in the planning stages as to what this will look like for 2026. Information will be sent electronically during the summer.



SPECIALIZED LEARNING CENTERS: 5TH GRADE TO 6TH GRADE TRANSITION

- Middle School Intervention Specialist attends a meeting during 5th grade upon request.
- Middle School Intervention Specialist visits elementary to meet students and have a Q & A session with students.
- Parents can schedule a time to visit the middle school with or without their student in the Spring.
- Students are supported as needed during the 6th grade orientation in August.



MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERVENTION

- Intervention Study Center/Student Assist
 - Intervention Specialist
 - Progress monitoring towards IEP goals, executive functioning skills, extended time for tests, homework/content support
- Inclusion ELA and Math (placement determined by IEP team)
 - Regular Education teacher and Intervention Specialist
 - Support for IEP goals and accommodations within the regular education classroom
- Specialized Learning Center
 - Intervention Specialist is the teacher of record
 - Extended Standards (Modified curriculum) in the areas of Math, English, Science, Social Studies
 - Based on needs identified in evaluation
- Structured Literacy Instruction
 - Structured Literacy Instructor
 - Lessons directed towards IEP goals



THE ROLE OF THE INTERVENTION SPECIALIST IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Facilitate implementation of accommodations and modifications in the classroom
- Provide Specially Designed Instruction per the child's IEP
- Middle School team concept vs. Elementary School
- Parents should have direct communication with their child's Regular Education teachers and copy the Intervention Specialist
- Intervention Specialists attend content specific courses, so your student may have more than one Intervention Specialist they work with



THE ROLE OF THE 504 CASE MANAGER IN MIDDLE SCHOOL

A Section 504 Plan is a plan developed to ensure that a child who has a disability identified under the law receives accommodations that will ensure their academic success and access to the learning environment.

- Share the 504 plan with school staff so accommodations can be implemented
- Update the 504 plan annually
- Parents should have direct communication with their child's Regular Education teachers and copy the 504 Case Manager



SAMPLE 6th GRADE SCHEDULE

- Required Full-Year Core Classes
 - Integrated English
 - Math
 - Science
 - Social Studies
 - Intervention Period
 - Lunch

The district middle schools have prepared a [Course Planning Guide](#) to help you understand the course selections available each year.



SAMPLE 6TH GRADE SCHEDULE

- Required Unified Arts Courses: These courses will be automatically scheduled for your student on a 6-week rotation basis.
 - Physical Education (2 times)
 - Digital Exploration
 - Academic Lab
 - Art
 - Health
- Elective Courses: 6th grade students have the option to take Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra during their second Unified Arts rotation. Students who choose not to take Band, Choir, and/or Orchestra will take a full year of Study Hall.



ORIENTATION INFORMATION

- Parents
 - Each Middle School will have a Parent Orientation Night in the spring.
- Students
 - All students will have an orientation event in August. We are still in the planning stages as to what this will look like for 2026. Information will be sent electronically during the summer.



WHAT CAN PARENTS DO TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS?

- Set students up for success and don't over-schedule.
- Transitions are unavoidable.
- Educate yourself so you can best prepare your child.
- Communicate early and often! Please let us know if you have questions.
- Make sure you are actively using all district technology, such as PowerSchool, Schoology, and ParentSquare



WHAT CAN STUDENTS DO TO HELP WITH THE TRANSITION PROCESS?

- Self advocacy
 - asking for help as soon as you fall behind
 - asking for extended time and other accommodations
 - asking for clarification when directions are unclear
- Become comfortable with Schoology (find notes and assignments)
- Focus more on the process of learning than the actual grade
- Identify strategies to help with anxiety and increased workload
- Time management skills
- Make sure you know how to utilize Schoology including messaging teachers and the calendar, also show your parents!



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What if my child has anxiety about transitioning to their new building?

Reach out to the assigned IEP case manager or school counselor during the spring/summer so that we can help alleviate those fears and possibly arrange a tour during the summer.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can middle school Intervention Specialists attend 5th grade IEP meetings?

Yes, a representative from the middle school will attend an IEP meeting per parent or Intervention Specialist request.

Do fifth graders tour the middle school?

No, 5th graders do not tour the middle school as a large group. You are able to request an individual tour for your child by reaching out to your child's current Intervention Specialist to arrange a tour.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I change my child's schedule?

Contact your child's School Counselor. Make sure to tell them that your child has an IEP, so their specific needs are still met.

When will I find out my child's schedule?

Students receive a copy of their schedule on orientation day. It can also be accessed on Powerschool in August. Watch district and building communication for specific date of schedule availability.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPT CHAIRS

- **Liberty MS** - Amy Friece
- **Orange MS** - Jennifer McGuinness
- **Hyatts MS** - Eric Polhemus and Hillary Spencer
- **Berkshire MS** - Beth Palmer
- **Shanahan MS** - Max Zenker
- **Berlin MS** - Emily Foster



A representative from each Middle School Intervention Department is available to answer any questions or concerns you may still have. Please complete this [Middle School Intervention Follow-up Request Form](#) to let us know that you would like further information or have additional questions.



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THANK YOU