
OWEN J. ROBERTS

OJR
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Navigating the Pathway

Joseph Milnes & Geoff Ball

Introduction

Key Contacts

- Geoff Ball – 5–8 Supervisor
 - Erica Wood – 5–8 IEP Facilitator
 - Joseph Milnes – High School Supervisor
 - Lynn Keisel – High School IEP Facilitator
 - Alicia Braksator - Secondary Transition Coordinator
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Structure

Grades 5-8

Restructured to a 5–8 model, allowing supervisors and facilitators to spend four years with students and families. This continuity supports stronger relationships and aids in the transition from elementary to middle school.

Transition Meetings Days

These meetings take place over three days in February. During this time, elementary teachers visit the middle school to meet with the Principal, Assistant Principal, Department Heads, Case Manager, IEP Facilitator, and Special Education Supervisor. Together, the team carefully reviews each student's strengths, needs, and supports to ensure a smooth and successful transition to middle school.

Spring IEP Meetings

In the spring, current 6th grade support teachers hold IEP meetings with families to plan for the 7th grade year. When possible, the 7th grade support teacher also joins these meetings to support a smooth transition. Together, the team reviews and updates IEPs, discusses programming, and ensures that each student's strengths and needs are fully understood. We value our partnership with families and view this collaborative process as an important step in supporting every child's growth and success.

ESY

Qualifying 7th grade students may attend Extended School Year (ESY) programming in the middle school. This experience provides opportunities for students to tour the building and become familiar with the space during times of lower student population. Students also have opportunities to connect with staff and administrators in a smaller, more comfortable setting. These experiences help build familiarity, confidence, and a smooth transition to middle school.

Middle to High School

(all freshman)

Freshman orientation
9th grade seminar- 8 full class
sessions over the first semester

Self-Care Fair

Flex

Clubs & Activities

Study Skills

Self-Advocacy

Middle to High School

Secondary Transition Coordinator
IEP Meeting Participation
Program Tours
Case Management Coordination
Course Coordination
Senior Student Panel
ESY

Secondary Transition Coordinator

- Dedicated to students qualifying for Specially Designed Instruction.
 - Coordinates with students families, school personnel, and support agencies.
 - Supports parents, case-management and school counseling
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IEP Meeting Participation

- Key members of the HS team are available to attend the IEP meetings of 8th grade students.
 - Participation is often critical in helping to design placement and programming details; it also serves to begin the connections between MS students and their families with the HS team.
 - Participation is typically determined by request, either the family or the MS case-manager.
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Program Tours

- HS will coordinate with MS case-managers to design program tours specific to student need.
 - HS offers itinerant and supplemental levels of AS, ES, LS, and LSS.
 - Tours can be designed as individual and/or small group.
 - Tours can include chaperoned visits and structured presentations and/or partial-day shadow opportunities.
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Case-Management and Course Coordination

- Specific coordination opportunities arranged for MS and HS case-managers to connect and discuss student transitions.
 - Coordination meetings include but are not limited to the review of student progress, course alignment and recommendations, as well as, case-management.
 - Consistent, 4-year, case-management for majority of HS students.
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Student Senior Panel

- Opportunity for current seniors to present to incoming freshman.
 - Topics are generated via survey but have included self-advocacy, leadership, accepting support, trust, building connections, TCHS, extracurricular activities, as well as, both personal and academic growth.
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ESY

- Qualifying 8th grade students attend ESY programming in the HS building.
 - Opportunities to tour/learn the building at times of lower student concentration.
 - Opportunities to connect with current HS students who similarly qualified for supports.
 - Opportunities to meet staff and administration during times of lower student concentration.
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High School to Post-Secondary

Transition Battery

Transition Planning

Transition Battery

- Two phases; 9th grade and focused follow-up in 11th grade.
 - Transition coordinator works directly with student to develop transition profile (interests, aptitude, skills, needs).
 - Profile is integrated into IEP to help drive course, support and program recommendations.
 - Re-visit in 11th grade for adjustment and/or further honing.
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Transition Planning

- Leveraging the transition profile to drive course, support and program engagement.
 - Identifying and leveraging tools such as Naviance the platform for resume development, letters of recommendation, and other artifacts.
 - Identifying and leveraging agencies such as the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Office of Mental Health and Intellectual Disabilities for adult support planning.
 - Post-secondary school and/or program investigation.
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QUESTIONS

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