

Transitioning to the Intermediate School

Welcome Parents of
Third Grade Students

Presented by Tara Cooke, JPLIS school counselor
and Brynne Rice, JPLIS school psychologist

4th Grade Teachers

- Your child will have two or three core teachers next year: one for Math/Science and one for English/Language Arts (ELA)/Social Studies (SS) OR one for math, one for ELA, and one for Science/SS
- There will be 4 or 5 4th grade teams, plus a Spanish Immersion team
- Currently, Spanish Immersion and 2 teams are downstairs, and 2 teams are upstairs
- ALL 4th grade is located on the same wing

Schedule

- Your child's day will begin in homeroom, which leads right into core 1
- Your child will have 3 cores each day: 90 minutes of Math, 90 minutes of ELA, and 45 minutes each of Science and Social Studies
- Students have 15 minutes of recess, followed by 30 minutes for lunch
- There is a 30 minute Spartan period each day for enrichment and focus activities, where students attend interventions and instrument lessons

Spartan Block

- Every Day E, all Spartan periods meet at the same time for the grade level.
- 4th grade orchestra, band, and chorus rehearse at this time (it is possible for students to participate in any two of these)
- Students not involved in music have an extra "special", including a library and guidance rotation

Specials

- We will have a 5-day cycle, Days A-E next year, with every special occurring all year
- PE/Health will occur twice in a 5-day cycle
- Art, STEM, & Music will occur once in the 5-day cycle
- Students will visit the library during Social Studies once in the 5-day cycle

We R Spartans!

- Our School-Wide Positive Behavior Support System designed to encourage positive behaviors and social responsibility at JPLIS
- Students are recognized and rewarded for the following Behavior R's: Respectful, Responsible, Rule Abiding, and Ready
- Students receive "Sparkens" and "Honored Sparkens" for exhibiting these behaviors

Major Changes

- Lockers - Students receive a bottom or top locker with a combination lock. They will get their locker at orientation and will have plenty of opportunity to practice opening their lockers.
- Check out the Locker Combo Movie on our school's website! You may want to buy a combination padlock and have your child practice with this over the summer.
- In the beginning, some students find managing a locker and their materials a challenge, but most catch on over time. If the locker becomes an issue, the teacher may ask the student to leave materials in the classroom.

- Multiple Teachers - Your child will need to adjust to having two or three main teachers instead of just one.
- Switching Classes - Your child will move between two or three classrooms throughout the day. There is a set start and end time for each academic subject as well.
- New Peers & Friendships - Students from Hopewell and Liberty Bell elementary schools are coming together, in addition to new students from other local schools and districts. This is a great opportunity for your child to make new friends.

Staying Informed and Connected

- Sapphire Community Web Portal: Found under the parents tab on the district website. This is where you can check your child's grades and attendance, as well as receive online report cards. You can also update your contact information here.
- After signing up online, don't forget to print your application and either mail it to central office or send it into school with your child.

- BlackBoard Connect! - Electronic Communication System: Sign up to receive school-wide announcements and information from our Principal. Please provide an e-mail address as well as a phone number(s).
- Class Dojo and Remind: Used by many teachers to send out text reminders.
- Teacher Websites: Familiarize yourself early on. Homework is posted here.
- Agenda: Check daily! Students should be writing their assignments in here. Also a great way to communicate with your child's teacher.

Advice from the 4th Grade Teachers

- Follow the supply list posted on our school website. Wait to purchase items until you know what team your child is on, as the lists are team specific.
- Give your child small organizational tasks now in order to practice how to organize him- or herself.
- Help your child learn how to manage longer-term projects by chunking larger assignments and using a monthly calendar to plan ahead.
- Download a typing program for your child to practice keyboarding (we have 1:1 chrome books).
- Practice math facts, especially multiplication, and read with your child over the summer.

- Check your child's agenda, binders, and backpack daily, as well as teacher websites. Although your child is older, he/she will still need your continued involvement.
- Some students are more independent than others, and some will take longer to adjust. Be patient...your child will get there with your help & support!
- Relax & Don't Panic! The 4th grade teachers will help to make this transition as smooth and painless as possible.
- Stay involved in your child's education. We welcome parent volunteers through our PTG. *Must have all clearances to volunteer in the classroom or attend field trips. Please go to the volunteer tab under JPLIS on the district website for information and direct links. Clearances submitted to elementary schools will automatically transfer to us.

Who's Here to Help

- Mrs. Mary Farris - Principal, farrism@slsd.org
- Mr. Sean McGinty - Assistant Principal, mcgintys@slsd.org
- Mr. Nick Weaver - Dean of Students, weavern@slsd.org
- Mrs. Brynne Rice - School Psychologist, riceb@slsd.org
- Mrs. Tara Cooke - School Counselor, cookek@slsd.org
- Mrs. Lori Kern - School Nurse, kernl@slsd.org
- Mrs. Cheryl Heurich - RtII/IST Teacher
- Mrs. Erika Filbert - Reading Specialist
- Mrs. Colleen West-Slotter - Title I Teacher
- Mrs. Debbie Brader, Mrs. Susan Natiello, Miss Stephanie Nichols - Front Office

Important Dates

- May - ALL 3rd graders visit the IS for a tour, teacher introductions, and Q & A session
- August - Student Orientation: Come meet your child's teachers, practice the locker, and find your way around the building

Thank you for
coming and have a
nice evening!