

WILLIAM ANNIN MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Dear Parents of Incoming 6th Graders:

As the current school year comes to a close, I felt that it was important for me to reach out to incoming 6th grade families to share some important facts and information about William Annin Middle School that will help you prepare for your child's transition into sixth grade.

We are in full swing with the transition process for the next academic school year. We have hosted the elementary tours of WAMS, articulation meetings between individual 5th grade teachers and the WAMS transition team has begun and the articulation meetings with the WAMS and elementary Child Study Team and Intervention and Referral Services/504 Committee have also started.

I have listed some important information that I wanted to share with you prior to your child's arrival to WAMS in September. Some of the information is general and others are more specific to certain student populations.

- Incoming 6th grade students who currently receive Instructional Support for Math or Language Arts in 5th grade will automatically be placed into the Instructional Support Classes at the Middle School. At WAMS, the Instructional Support Classes are not a push in program or pull out. Therefore, students who are placed in these classes will have them scheduled in lieu of their cycle classes in 6th grade (Art I, Music, Enrichment, Computers, Writing Cycle, and Art II). NJASK results will arrive to the district in late August and will determine final placement or removal from these classes based upon your child's level of proficiency. WAMS will communicate via email to those families who are impacted by NJASK results placement changes or modifications.
- A Friday Folder blast will notify parents when student schedules become available. Student schedules are projected to be completed on September 3, 2010.
- Incoming 6th Grade students will be permitted to tour WAMS on August 26, 2010, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The unguided tour is an opportunity for students and families to familiarize themselves with the different areas throughout the building. Unfortunately, teachers, administration, or guidance counselors will not be available to answer questions since we will be deep in the final scheduling process. This is the only date available for this open building tour.
- Due to budgetary cuts, the REACH program at the middle school has been eliminated for 6th and 7th grade students. Last year, the REACH program had been eliminated at the 8th grade level. The COGAT scores for the incoming 6th graders will still be used as a diagnostic tool during Team meetings at Annin, if a student is referred to Intervention and Referral Services Committee, and by counselors and teachers, if a student is struggling in math or language arts.
- WAMS Back to School Night is September 22, 2010 from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Bus shuttles from Ridge High School will be made available since parking is limited on school grounds.
- Please sign-up to receive the WAMS Friday Folder as soon as possible. This is my main source of communication to WAMS families.

I look forward to working collaboratively with you to provide your child with a smooth transition into middle school as they begin their journey into adolescence. Have a restful and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,
Karen A. Hudock