

IB Educating for Excellence.

Information for Parents of 5th & 6th Grade Students

Your Family's Transition to Middle School

The challenges of change do not last long and, once they pass, middle school offers great learning, growth and fun for your student.



Off to Middle School

It is hard to believe that your once-small child is now mature enough to be in middle school at CFA or Northside Blodgett, but it is really true! This is an exciting and challenging time for you and your student. You will no doubt experience at least a little bit of anxiety and tension as your student gets used to a bigger school with more students, more rigorous coursework, class-changing during the day and involvement in extracurricular activities. The good news is that the challenges of change do not last long and, once they pass, you will start to see how middle school in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District offers great learning, growth and fun for your student.

Growing Up

For many young people, becoming a middle school student is a sign that they are growing up—they might now have more freedom and independence as well as more responsibility. As they mature, pre-teens are searching for relevance and meaning. Students in this age range also are establishing their self-esteem, their identity and their skill in relating to others. The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Program (MYP) is specifically designed for young people at this stage of development. The program builds on their natural spirit of questioning and finding answers, helps them get a sense

of “who they are” and nurtures in them a healthy respect for themselves and others.

Getting Around the School

A lot of students on their way to middle school worry about simple things like finding their way around a bigger school, following the class-changing schedule, using the lockers, navigating the cafeteria and getting on the right bus to get home at the end of the day. These concerns are understandable and, for most youth, they will fade after a month or two of practical experience with these activities. To ease these fears at home parents could, for example, practice opening a combination lock with their student or help her to make an at-a-glance class schedule to keep handy at school. *(The sample MYP schedule on the reverse gives you a sense of a typical day.)*

Fitting in with Other Kids

Perhaps one of the biggest concerns pre-teens feel on entering middle school surrounds fitting in with a group of friends. This fear can be strongest among students who are going to a new school where they might not know many of their classmates. It is important for youth to understand that they are not alone in these fears. The other kids at school will be worrying about making friends, too, even if they seem cool and confident. The MYP is particularly helpful in

this regard because class projects are common and offer opportunities for students to get to know one another while working together to explore an interesting topic. Plus, middle school extracurricular activities help students find the kids that share their interests. Some new middle-schoolers worry that older students will mistreat them in middle school, mostly because they have believed stories told to them by older siblings. The truth is that instances of bullying are very rare. The older kids can easily recall when they, too, were new to middle school. Plus, their IB experience has developed their ability to empathize with what the new students are feeling and to show compassion.

Rising to the Academic Challenges

Some students may feel unsure that they can handle the more rigorous course work and homework assignments in middle school. This, too, is a natural feeling. When facing new challenges, we all tend to second-guess whether we “have what it takes” to get the job done. Parents can help their students by showing strong trust in their capabilities. While the MYP curriculum is indeed rigorous, and students will learn more than might seem possible, they will be ready to rise to the challenge with poise because exciting, MYP-based school experiences will help them understand how they

(Continued on reverse)

“How” We Teach Vs. “What” We Teach

Some parents have misinterpreted IB to be a new, add-on curriculum and they have wondered how teachers and students can be expected to cover more material than they already do. **To clarify, IB is not an add-on.** In the MYP, *what* we teach is the same; it's the *way* we teach that has changed. As always, C-PP students in grades 6 through 10 will take English, Math, Science, Art, Humanities, Technology, Phys Ed and Spanish or French. (Foreign languages are an IB requirement.) The MYP difference is delivered through the program's five “Areas of Interaction,” which are the tools teachers use to help students see how everything they learn is relevant and interconnected. The MYP experience ends with a Personal Project, which each student must complete in 10th grade. Every student who successfully completes the five-year program will receive an official MYP certificate at the end of 10th grade.



Visit C-PP's IB site to learn more.

www.corningareaschools.com

- ✓ information
- ✓ resources
- ✓ news

Extracurriculars are a great experience for youth, allowing them to work in teams, to form new friendships and to take healthy breaks from their responsibilities.

learn best and will teach them strategies for studying, managing their time, thinking through problems and communicating what they know.

Balancing School and Activities

One of the most exciting aspects of middle school in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District is the opportunity to participate in modified athletics and other school-based extracurricular activities. At this stage in their life, students embrace these opportunities to engage in enriching activities like sports, clubs and community

service. Extracurriculars are a great experience for youth, allowing them to work in teams, to form new friendships and to take healthy breaks from their responsibilities. One of the other benefits of participation in extracurricular activities is that it gives students the chance to learn how to set priorities, manage their time and make tough choices about which activities they can manage and still perform well in school. Parents can help by thinking through decisions about activities together with the student. The MYP prepares students to set priorities by helping them develop a sense

of who they are and what they care most about. Plus, MYP activities teach students strategies for managing their time wisely.

With a little patience and perseverance during the back-to-school weeks, students and parents will soon get used to the new routines and be ready to enjoy all that middle school in the Corning-Painted Post Area School District has to offer!

Sample MYP 6th Grade Schedule at CFA and Northside Blodgett

Time	Period	Course
8:00-8:10	Homeroom	Homeroom
8:13-8:53	Period 1 A Day	Phys. Ed
	Period 1 B Day	Chorus
8:56-9:36	Period 2	Reading
9:39-10:19	Period 3	Math
10:22-11:02	Period 4	Humanities
11:05- 11:45	Period 5A Day	Study hall
	Period 5B Day	Art or Family Consumer Sci.
11:48-12:28	Period 6	Lunch
12:31-1:11	Period 7 Q1	Technology
	Period 7 Q2	Computer Technology
	Period 7 Q3	French
	Period 7 Q4	Spanish
1:14-1:54	Period 8	Language A
1:57-2:45	Period 9	Science

Extracurricular Offerings in Grades Six through Eight*

*Activities are offered to students in grades 6 through 8 except where noted.

Athletics

Intramurals (Grade 6)
 Modified Athletics (Grades 7-8)
 boys' and girls' basketball
 football
 volleyball
 track and cross country
 boys' and girls' soccer
 boys' and girls' swimming
 boys' and girls' lacrosse,
 wrestling

Other Extracurricular Activities

Student Government
 Ski Club
 School Newsletter (NB)
 Yearbook (CFA)
 The Advantage After School Program
 Eighth Grade Farewell Production group (NB, Grade 8)
 Math Counts
 Activity Nights / Dances



Visit C-PP's IB site to learn more.

www.corningareaschools.com

- ✓ information
- ✓ resources
- ✓ news