



Bristol Township School District

Neil A. Armstrong Middle School

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Fairless Hills, PA 19030

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Transition from Elementary School to Middle School

In the late spring several different events happen within the district. The first event is a visitation day from department chairs from the middle schools visiting the elementary fifth grades. The second event is a field day held for all 5th graders. It is a time of athletic contests, for one thing, but it is really a time for all the fifth graders to come together to meet each other and celebrate their rite of passage of moving up to middle school. It is a fun day competition.

An orientation day is held in the late summer so that students and their parents can visit the schools, follow a possible schedule so that they get used to moving in the hallways and between classes. The principals are available, as well as many staff members. Counselors from the middle schools visit all of the elementary schools, talk about scheduling and how all of that works. The students are then assigned classes based on their individual results from PSSAs and the LinkIt Tests. The availability of different programs is explained to the students such as Tiger Techs and they are given an opportunity to sign up for these programs. We are implementing a day at the beginning of the school year that brings in the new 6th grade students, a day without the other grades being present. The teachers have planned programming that gives the 6th graders an orientation to middle school expectations, introduces them to the building and gives them an opportunity to move around the building as they follow an abbreviated schedule.

Parents are invited in to visit on Back to School Nights, as well, where they have an opportunity to meet the teachers. Expectations are explained to all. The students and families then follow their schedules to visit each classroom. Separate evenings are held for different grades so that families are able to visit classrooms for more than one student. They are also invited in again for Deployment Night where the one to one devices are deployed to the students. Rules are explained for proper usage of the devices. Consequences are also explained for violations of the district policies.

Parents from both middle schools are invited to join separate private online groups like a google classroom where parents can be in touch with teachers and the principal for announcements, concerns and issues that come up throughout the school year.

A similar pattern is followed for transitioning from 8th grade to the high school. Counselors and department chair people will visit both middle schools, discuss opportunities for scheduling classes. An evening event is also planned for interested parents. Students then have an opportunity to schedule a personal visit.

Secondary New Student Transition

When new students enter our buildings, they are given a tour of the building. They are introduced to their schedule and often assigned someone to help them during their first days at the school. The parents also receive a copy of the Student Handbook. Students are then given academic assessments. Students are placed in the classrooms based on their age. The ESL teacher may be contacted if the student indicates he/she speaks another language in the home.

Transition to High School

The transition to high school is a multi-step process. Middle school guidance counselors do presentations and help with student course selection. High School Guidance counselors and high school teachers and students from the engineering pathway visit the middle schools to present to students. There is a student orientation prior to the start of classes where students meet the administration and staff of the high school attend orientation presentations and receive information regarding clubs, sports and other student activities. Parents and students are also welcome to make an appointment to visit the school. Parents are encouraged to attend Back to School Night and experience their class schedule.

College and Career Ready Transitions

All students have a Naviance Account to explore future careers and pathways and track performance. Guidance counselors and teachers introduce possible pathways and engage students in activities to prepare students for college and career pathways. Students are guided through course selections that allow them to discover their interests and make informed decisions. College and Military information sessions are scheduled during all lunches over the course of the year. A College and Career Fair is offered in the evening for parents to attend with students.

Guidance counselors work with individual students throughout their four years to make informed choices regarding coursework, activities and their future. Counselors direct students and parents to information and preparation for post high school plans.