

Transitioning to the Intermediate School

Welcome Parents of
Third Grade Students

Presented by Tara Cooke, JPLIS school counselor

4th Grade Teachers

- Your child will have two core teachers next year: one for Math & Science and one for English/Language Arts (ELA) & Social Studies
- There are 4 4th grade teams, plus a Spanish Immersion team
- 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 Enrichment & Focus (EF) period each day, where students attend interventions and instrument lessons

Spartan Block

- Every Day E, all EF periods occur from 2:15-2:45pm
- 4th grade orchestra, band, and chorus rehearse at this time
- Students not involved in music have an extra "special", including a library and guidance rotation

Specials

- We have a 6-day cycle, Days A-F
- PE/Health occurs twice in a 6-day cycle, all year
- Art, STEM, Music, & Design 21 are twice in a 6-day cycle for half of the year, or one semester
- Students visit the Library during Social Studies once in a 6-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
- Spartans also exhibit the Attitude R's of Rigorous & Resilient

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 main teachers with different personalities, instead of just one.
- Switching Classes - Your child will move between two classrooms throughout the day. There is a set start and end time for each academic subject, as well.
- New Peers & Friendships - All three elementary schools are coming together, in addition to new students from other 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 schoolwide announcements and information from our Principal. Please provide an e-mail address as well as a phone number(s).
- Remind: Used by some 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 to practice how to organize themselves.
- Help your child learn how to manage longer-term projects by chunking larger assignments and using a monthly calendar to plan ahead.
- Practice math facts, especially multiplication, and read with your child over the summer.

- Check your child's agenda and backpack daily, as well as teacher websites.
- Some students are more independent than others, and some will take longer to adjust. Be patient...your child will get there.
- 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.

Who's Here to Help

- Mrs. Mary Farris - Principal
- Mr. Sean McGinty - Assistant Principal
- Mrs. Brynne Rice - School Psychologist, riceb@slsd.org
- Mrs. Tara Cooke - School Counselor, cooket@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 - Front Office

Important Dates

- May 24th - All 3rd graders visit the IS for a tour, teacher introductions, and Q & A session (they will not be having lunch with us this year)
- August 25th - 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!