

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF NEW LONDON

INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL GRADES 5-6

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS—PARENTS

- 1. Why are we doing this?**
 - There are many reasons for this decision. First and foremost, we want to provide a richer and more robust learning experience for our students. The second reason is that we will be better able to use talents and resources in a more efficient manner reducing costs by approximately \$220,000. Finally, this move will provide the space to address the ongoing demand to provide 4-year-old Kindergarten for all families regardless of their socio-economic status.

- 2. What will the 5th grade experience look like?**
 - The 5th grade structure will remain very similar to the current experience. Students will have one homeroom teacher who will teach language arts, math, and either social studies or science. Fifth graders will continue to have separate teachers for encore classes such as music, art, physical education, foreign language, and 21st Century Communication.

- 3. How will instruction differ within the Intermediate School?**
 - The 5th grade experience will be more self-contained than the 6th grade experience. Sixth graders will be taught by subject-specific teachers (i.e. language arts, math, science, social studies). Sixth graders will continue to have separate teachers for encore classes such as music, art, physical education, foreign language, and will be introduced to technology education.

- 4. What will a schedule look like?**
 - Fifth and sixth grade students will have 90 minute language arts and math classes. They will participate in social studies and science classes that will be at least 45 minutes. Encore classes will be 30 minutes in length, and will be offered on an 'every-other-day' schedule.

- 5. How will students be prepared for the move?**
 - Fourth and fifth grade students will continue to participate in a variety of experiences that will aid in transition. School counselors will meet with fourth and fifth grade students yet this spring to discuss the experience they will be offered. A field trip to the facility will continue to be provided and will include both fourth and fifth grade students. All fourth and fifth grade students will take part in building level traditions that encourage successful transition to a new facility. We are investigating the possibility of providing a fifth and sixth grade transition day at the start of the 2010-2011 school year.

- 6. How will recess be handled?**
 - In addition to any time available during the lunch period, there will be 30 minutes of physical education every other day. Recess for grades 5 and 6 will be at the discretion of the teacher.

- 7. How will this affect the school name? Identity issues?**
 - We will have two schools operating under philosophies that will differ slightly within one facility. The differences will be based on the developmental needs of the students. To clearly communicate this, we intend to address the 5-6 experience as the *New London Intermediate School* and the 7-8 experience as the *New London Middle School*.

- 8. How will arrival at school be affected?**
 - Students may arrive no earlier than 7:40 a.m. Classes will begin at 8:10 a.m. There will be designated entry points and segregated gathering areas for each grade. Breakfast will continue to be offered. Fifth and sixth grade students will eat breakfast in an area apart from seventh and eighth grade students.

- 9. How will this affect the lunch program?**
- Each grade level will have a separate 30 minute lunch period.
- 10. How will school dismissal be affected?**
- There will be separate dismissal times for Middle School students (grades 7 and 8) and Intermediate School students (grades 5 and 6) to reduce congestion in the halls and to decrease the likelihood of any negative behaviors on campus.
- 11. How will mixed dismissal impact the bussing schedule?**
- Busses will arrive just as they always have with students boarding or transferring in the east lot. The Middle School students will arrive at the staging area a few minutes apart from their Intermediate School counterparts.
- 12. How will this affect Pupil Services?**
- Special Education services will continue to be determined by the IEP process. We will continue to migrate to more of a “push in” model rather than a “pull out” model. Bilingual Education will continue to operate with programs at Lincoln and Parkview elementary schools, a program serving grades 5-8 at the Middle School facility and a program serving grades 9-12 at the High School. Pupil Services Staff assignments will be determined with an eye to find equity of case load while meeting specific student needs.
- 13. How will field trips be handled?**
- There will be one overnight field trip experience at the Intermediate level. Intermediate and Middle School students will participate in consistent field trip opportunities which are connected to the curriculum.
- 14. How will PTO be handled?**
- Parent Teacher Organizations are welcomed at all levels.
- 15. Will this affect co-curriculars?**
- We are currently looking to offer Intermediate and Middle School students varied and developmentally appropriate co-curriculars as budgets allow.
- 16. What are the effects on encore classes?**
- Fifth and sixth grade encore classes will consist of two 30-minute periods each day.
 - Music: All 5th and 6th grade students will choose to participate in either band or choir. All 7th and 8th grade students will have the opportunity to take either band or choir. We will no longer offer a general music class. Students may choose to take band or choir while participating in any other musical co-curricular (i.e. Jazz Band, Show Choir).
 - Physical Education: All 5th and 6th grade students will participate in physical education classes taught by a certified phy ed teacher. With the proposed schedule, 5th grade students have more phy ed time than they did previously.
 - Conversation and Culture: Fifth grade students will be introduced to various cultures and languages. Sixth graders will concentrate efforts on the Spanish language and culture.
 - 21st Century Communication: Content areas will be reinforced with technology integration.
- 17. How will this affect computer labs?**
- The plan is to keep current labs where they are making a designated lab available to each grade level.