

6th Grade

Welcome to Miller!

When is 6th Grade moving to Miller?

Starting with the 2019-2020 school year – this fall – Miller Junior High School will be a home to 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. This was a carefully made decision by the School Board that included a study by a task force and input from principals, teachers, staff and parents.

Why is 6th Grade moving to Miller?

There are a number of good reasons for a 6-8 configuration and our district has discussed it for several years.

The discussions became more focused when the state adopted reduced class sizes for grades K-3. This means the elementary schools need more classrooms.

Moving 6th Grade frees up needed classroom space at the elementary schools.

When it comes to the social, emotional, physical and academic development of 6th graders, they are more like 7th and 8th graders than they are like K-5 students.

Being at Miller will give our 6th graders more opportunities for music, other electives and activities.

Spending more time at Miller creates the ability to forge better relationships with students and families, which leads to a more positive school culture, while giving staff more time to work with students and prepare them for high school.

Where will the 6th Grade classrooms be?

6th graders will be an important part of Miller, just like 7th and 8th graders. To add classroom space, a new modular building is being installed in the back of the school and should be in place before the end of this school year.

Sixth graders will access the main building for classes such as P.E., music, academic support and lunch.

What will be in the new building?

The building will connect to Miller Junior High by a covered walkway. Ten classrooms with an inside hallway, student bathrooms and student lockers will be included.

The building will be secured with a perimeter fence.

Will 6th graders will be able to attend The Nutcracker?

Yes.

What about Outdoor School?

Our Outdoor School was developed for 6th graders and it will continue to be part of our instructional program.

What classes will 6th graders take?

6th graders will not be changing classes and teachers every period. Instead, they will have a “block” schedule. A 6th Grade schedule / day will resemble Miller’s current 7th Grade schedule and will include: Advisory class, a math/science block with a math/science teacher; an English-Language Arts/Social Studies block with an ELA/Social Studies teacher; P.E. and Health, and an elective such as choir, band or other offering.

Where will 6th graders eat lunch?

Miller will have three lunch periods starting in 2019-2020 so that each grade level can continue to have its own lunch period.

What about sports and activities?

We want our 6th graders involved! More information will become available as we complete these plans. The District follows the WIAA (Washington Interscholastic Activities Association) rules about sports, and we are still learning about potential opportunities. In addition, we need a fiscally responsible plan in lieu of our current budget restraints.

6th graders can purchase ASB (Associated Student Body) cards, attend Miller dances and participate in field trips. The After School Program will be open to 6th graders, as well.

Does it cost more to be at middle school?

There are some costs associated with sports and activities such as purchasing an ASB card or for the cost to attend a dance, or travel on some field trips.

How are 6th graders preparing for middle school?

In April, there will be parent/guardian nights at the grade schools and at Miller. In May, the Miller counselors will visit the 5th Grade classrooms to provide information to students and begin the transition process.

Our 7th and 8th Grade student teams are looking forward to assisting with orientation and welcoming the new 6th and 7th Grade classes to Miller.

How will I find out about transition activities?

We will make every effort to communicate dates and times for these opportunities. Please watch the web site for the latest information. Please watch for web postings and messages from school.

First day of school for 6th & 7th graders: Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2019

We're here to help pave the way. Call us at Miller with any questions -- (360) 538-2100