

Answers to 5th Grade Orientation Questions

- 1. Why were Boys Council and Girls Circle given those names? What was the rationale behind “council” for boys and “circle” for girls?**
We are applying the names given through the curriculum that is used. Both are small growth groups that are designed to foster self-esteem, help participants maintain authentic connections with peers, counter trends for self-doubt, and allow for genuine self expression through verbal sharing and creative activity.
- 2. Is there a promotion ceremony for 5th graders going to middle school?**
No there is not.
- 3. Will Sycamore ever consider school uniforms?**
This is not currently being considered.
- 4. My child is not in GATE. Does he/she still have the opportunity to be in Honors?**
Placement in Honors classes is based on STAR scores, academic performance (i.e. grades), and teacher recommendations. There is a petition process if your student does not qualify. Those petitions can be picked up in the middle school office.
- 5. Can you choose your P.E. locker?**
Consideration is given to special needs.
- 6. Will we be doing outdoor school this year? Yes.**
- 7. What time is lunch and what other breaks are there during the day?**
Lunch is from 12:40pm – 1:20pm. There is also a ten minute nutrition break between 2nd and 3rd period.
- 8. Are there casual sports activities during lunch (i.e. basketball, soccer, handball)?**
Yes but they are usually student initiated.
- 9. What is the philosophy Club? Who is qualified to participate? What is the content and format? Who leads it?**

The Philosophy Club is offered to all middle school students. Discussions are mediated by Kylie Slater, GATE facilitator, and Antonio Castro, Assistant Principal. The content is based on classical philosophical dialogues of ethics, individualism, utilitarianism and communitarianism. The format is Socratic and open-ended.
- 10. During lunch can you sit anywhere?**
There are designated eating areas in the middle school quad. These include the covered tables and benches as well as grassy areas and benches on the cement.
- 11. What is the difference between Honors and CP? Are there classes in another category?**

Classes are offered in Standard, CP (College Preparatory), and Honors.

12. Give more details about how classes are formed.

Classes are sorted by a number of factors including level/ability, class size, gender, and special needs.

13. Where do elementary school siblings go while waiting for middle school child to get out of school?

1st through 5th grade students with siblings in middle school may register to wait in the Elementary Library from 2:40pm to 3:05pm except Tuesdays which will be from 1:30pm to 2:00pm. Middle school siblings can pick up their younger siblings at the elementary picnic tables. Additional information will be sent home in the registration packets in mid-April.

14. Is Spanish offered in 6th grade? If not, can my child do independent study in Spanish?

We are in the process of discussing if we have funding to do so. There is no independent study for Spanish at this time.

15. Can my student take an elective at another school? If so, will transportation be provided?

At this time, that is not a possibility.