

FAQ: Central Family Information Night Questions

January 12, 2021

***The following are answers to questions that were submitted to the Central Family Information Night form.*

Registration

Who at school will be helping my child with registration?

Answer: On January 19, your child's classroom teacher will help him or her to be sure that they have selected the needed courses and have completed the Skyward registration process. Families should review and discuss the options with students at home. In 6th grade, students need to choose what music class they prefer and if they are interested in the AVID elective course. In addition, staff at Central will review the registrations to ensure that everything is completed correctly.

If you are in AVID, what courses do you not take?

Answer: If you take AVID in Grade 6, you will not take classes in one of the two rotations: 1. Literacy/Art/Design and Modeling. OR 2. PE/Music (Band, Choir, Orchestra, Music Enrichment) .

How do we know which math path to register for?

Answer: All students have been pre-registered for Grade 6 Math. Students may be moved to Advanced Math 6 or Algebra in the spring based on data. The goal is for students to be in a math class that is geared toward skills they have mastered so they have strong foundational understanding of pre-algebraic and algebraic skills and concepts.

How do I register my child if he/she receives special education services?

Answer: If your child receives special education services, he/she should register for all of the required grade 6 classes. Teachers from the elementary schools and Central collaborate to transition students to middle school. Individual student schedules will be adjusted in the spring, after IEP meetings, to reflect the needed additional support services.

Course Offerings

As there is no longer an enriched language arts class in 6th grade, how do you plan to challenge academically-advanced students?

Answer: In Language Arts we use a workshop model approach. Teachers use mini-lessons to teach skills and students select books at their reading level to interact with during these lessons. This allows teachers to differentiate instruction in the classroom while providing students with choice and access to reading materials that will challenge them.

Why are World Languages only offered in Grade 8?

Answer: Our current middle school schedule allows students to experience a wide variety of elective courses across grades 6-8. In addition, by offering World Language for a full year in Grade 8, students are able to earn high school credit for the course.

With so much use of Chromebooks, is keyboarding part of the curriculum?

Answer: Keyboarding is not currently a part of the middle school curriculum as our courses follow the MN State Standards. Freely available resources like typingclub.com allow students to practice this skill and track their progress.

Extra-Curricular Information**Are there before school and after school options similar to Extended Day?**

Answer: We do not have before school programming at the middle school, but there are many after school clubs and activities for students.

Is there an extracurricular art club?

Answer: Central does offer an after-school drawing club.

Is there a mountain biking team?

Answer: Yes, there is a mountain biking team - the White Bear Lake Area Schools Mountain Biking Team.

General Attendance/School Questions**What are the busing boundaries? Or how far from Central do you have to be to bus?**

Answer: In general, students who live under 1.5 miles from Central walk to school; however, the crossing of busy roads (such as Hwy 61, etc.) are taken into consideration in determining boundaries. The guidelines for boundaries have been adjusted this year due to COVID.

How many kids are in each grade?

Answer: There are around 400 students per grade at Central.