

Questions and Answers

Hodgson Senior Public School

February 15, 2017

Questions from the Hodgson Middle School Parent Information Night Question Box

(These are the questions that parents left in our Question Box during our Hodgson Middle School Parent Information Night on February 2, 2017.)

Q: Will the grade 6 students know their homeroom teacher prior to September?

A: We post our class lists at the front of the school on August on the Friday before the Labour Day weekend. (We usually have them posted by the end of day.)

Q: In the Extended French program, which subjects are taught in French and which subjects are taught in English?

A: French, History, Geography Dance, Visual Art and Drama are instructed in French. All of the remaining subjects are taught in English.

Q: How much time in homeroom will students in the Extended French program have?

A: Students in the extended French program currently have 17 homeroom periods (Language, History and Geography).

Q: Will my child be taken out of math class to get support in Math?

A: Your child's level of support will depend on the placement that was recommended at her or his most recent Identification, Placement and Review Committee (IPRC). Students with a "Regular Class" IPRC placement will receive support as needed from our Resource Program. The nature of a middle school setting, with rotary timetables and staff teaching several subjects, means the Resource program usually has its own schedule that students can access as needed. Students who have a "Special Education Class" IPRC placement will receive support as needed through our Integrated Home School Program. This setting currently has two teachers instructing the class for Math, Language, History and Geography. This allows for students to be supported in whole class, small group or individual settings as needed.

Q: Will Grade 6 students have specialized teachers in rotary subjects such as Math and Science?

A: All of our teachers are qualified to teach the Kindergarten to Grade 8 Ontario Curriculum. We try to staff our school so that, as much as possible, teachers work in the subject area for which they have a passion. This means that homeroom subjects (Language/History/Geography/Math) as well as rotary subjects work as teams/departments.

Q: Are flexibility, strength/Pilates and yoga part of the fitness program?

A: We currently have a period of Physical Education for each class every day. Our Phys. Ed. Team incorporates fitness (Pilates/Fitness Friday) as part of their programming.

Q: Will you ensure that the Grade 6 students have a friend or classmate in their homeroom to help with the transition?

A: When creating classes, we look at a variety of factors, such as balancing class size, girl to boy ratios, good pairings, separating students who for various reasons need to be separated, the academic levels and the needs of students in each class, feeder schools, etc. It's a complex task, but we try our best. We also consider information offered by parents that is related to a student's profile and/or unique learning needs. We don't, however, consider any request for a specific teacher.



Q: When will you have more information about a Before and After School program for Grade 6 students?

A: The TDSB is committed to offering extended day programs where there is sufficient interest. When we receive or know more information, we will be sure to share it with our parents and families who have children in Grade 5.

Q: Will there be pizza lunch?

A: We will continue to have special events and activity afternoons, which include dances, skating afternoons, hot chocolate sales, pizza lunch, etc.

Q: Is the hockey team going to be made of students in Grades 6, 7 & 8?

A: Our coaches will coach teams at each grade level. Grade 6 students will be able to try-out for any Grade 6 team of their choosing and interest. Grade 6 students may also be invited to tryout and even join teams at other grade levels, depending on ability and numbers.

Q: What is the plan for Grade 6 students not to get bullied from big kids?

A: Hodgson has a well-established inclusive and caring environment that will not change when we become a middle School in September 2017.