

Grade 4-5 Transition Frequently Asked Questions:

Thank you to parents who have submitted these questions for information.

Pre-exposure:

- 1) Do students in Grade 4 tour the Mid-High prior to the start of the year?
 - a. Yes, they will visit on June 4th in morning.
- 2) Will there be an opportunity to meet the Grade 5 teachers and specialists prior to the start of the school year?
 - a. Yes, this will occur on the morning of June 4th when we meet.
- 3) Is there an opportunity for a parent information session and/or coffee talks around the move?
 - a. Yes, a Grade 4 Transition Information Evening will be held May 8, 6:00-7:00 pm in the Mid-High Learning Commons. Parents are always invited to our coffee talks.

Grade 5 Logistics:

- 1) How many Grade 5 classrooms are there?
 - a. There are 4 classes now and we anticipate 4 next year.
- 2) How many different teachers and rooms will they have?
 - a. Humanities, Math/Science, PE, Band, Second Languages, (5 teachers)
- 3) Are the Grade 5s on their own floor?
 - a. Yes the Grade 5s are on the same floor.
- 4) Is there a lot of transitions?
 - a. There are 3-5 transitions depending on the day.
- 5) When will I know my child's teacher?
 - a. Classes and teachers will be shared with families in June.
- 6) How much homework can we expect in Grade 5? Is there a no homework policy?
 - a. There is no homework policy at the Mid-High. Sometimes students might need/want more time to complete work, review work or investigate an area of interest.
- 7) Are the teachers looping next year from 5-6?
 - a. Yes, teachers are looping from Grade 5 to 6.
- 8) Do the Grade 5s have lockers and if so, do they have to share?
 - a. Grade 5s have the large lockers, so they are shared, as there is a limited number of lockers.
- 9) Will my child be grouped according to their Math and LA abilities at the elementary level?
 - a. Students will be assessed through a variety of approaches in the fall as they settle in. Regrouping for math will occur after the assessment for second term.
- 10) Will my child still use an agenda? What is the main form of communication from teachers?
 - a. Grade 5s have agendas, as well, teachers use email and secure online applications. These will be communicated directly to parents in the fall.
- 11) Will my child need a computer for Grade 5?
 - a. Students will have access to Chrome books. Personal devices may be used, depending on IPP accommodations. Personal devices are required by Grade 6.
- 12) How is student progress reported?
 - a. Student progress is reported continuously in PowerSchool.
- 13) Will my child still have an IPP?

- a. Yes, all students in Alberta, with an identified learning need are required to have an IPP.
- 14) How often will my child interact with High School kids?
 - a. Elementary students interact with High School students through planned mentoring activities and House activities.
- 15) Is there a chance for the Grade 5 students to be mentored by others older than them who have gone through the experience of moving from elementary to the Mid-High?
 - a. Yes, that will occur through various mentoring activities.
- 16) Is their accessibility to Student Services for small group social emotional support or academic support?
 - a. Yes, this support occurs based on identified need.
- 17) When do vaccinations take place?
 - a. These occur 3 times a year as determined by AHS.
- 18) Can my child use assistive technology and keep their phones with them?
 - a. Students may use assistive technology, including mobile devices for learning, under the supervision of staff, including before school and at lunchtime.

Specialized Classes:

- 1) Is band mandatory? How is my child assigned an instrument for band? How do I get them an instrument?
 - a. Band is part of the mandated program of studies. Instruments are assigned based on a number of factors with the student. Instruments may be rented or purchased.
- 2) How do options work in Grade 5?
 - a. All Grade 5 students are mandated to have Band, Art, PE. We provide exposure to French and Spanish as well.
- 3) Is there LEAD class in Grade 5?
 - a. No there is no LEAD class. At the Mid-High students have a variety of opportunities to engage in passion projects.
- 4) During gym, do kids change? Do they have a gym locker? Do they change in the open? Do they shower or have access to a shower?
 - a. Initially, Grade 5 students do not change for PE. They will need clean, indoor running shoes for PE. Later in the year they will change for PE. Showers are in the change rooms, Grade 5s do not use these.
- 5) When Is Sexuality Education covered in Mid School?
 - a. Please see Alberta Education:
http://www.learnalberta.ca/content/mychildslearning/grade5_healthlifefskills.html

Before and After School and Lunch/Recess:

- 1) Are Grade 5s allowed to leave campus during lunch? Who does get to go?
 - a. Grade 5s are not allowed to leave campus at lunchtime. Grade 7 and older students are allowed to leave campus at lunchtime.
- 2) Where does my child eat lunch?
 - a. We have a cafeteria for students to eat lunch in.
- 3) Does my child get recess? Where do they play and what activities can they do?

- a. Grade 5 students have recess on the south playground. They have access to University Elementary playground intermittently, as well as some equipment for low organizational games.
- 4) How does drop off and pick up work?
 - a. Students are dropped off on the north side of Uxbridge Dr., across from the school. They cross to the school at the crosswalk. There is no student drop off in the parking lot.
- 5) How does school access and security procedures work?
 - a. The doors are open at 8:00 am for students. After classes begin, anyone entering the building must be buzzed in and sign in at the main office.
- 6) Will parents who have security clearance for volunteering need to re-apply for Mid-High?
 - a. Current Police clearance is accepted at both campuses.
- 7) Is there before and after care at the Mid-High?
 - a. The Mid-High does not have before and after school care.
- 8) How will the construction at the mall impact the Mid-High?
 - a. The construction site must be secured to prevent access from non-construction individuals. If there is anything that impacts us as a school, we would expect to be notified.
- 9) What time does school start and end?
 - a. Current school hours are: Monday - Thursday 8:30am-3:20pm; Fridays 8:30am-2:00pm
- 10) Can students enter the school before their day begins? Can they wait inside for pick-up?
 - a. Students must be supervised when they are in the building. Staff is available to supervise 8:00am-4:00pm. Students must not be in the building outside of those hours unless they are under the direct supervision of staff.

Extra-Curricular/Clubs:

- 1) Is there a drama club and choir?
 - a. No there is not at this time.
- 2) How robust is the house system at the Mid-high? Is it similar to the Elementary with house challenges, house colour days, etc?
 - a. The House system is used occasionally throughout the year for various activities, including colour day.
- 3) What kind of clubs/intramurals are available for my child?
 - a. Please see our website for the list of clubs
<https://www.westmountcharter.com/student-life/mhclubs/>

Twice Exceptional:

- 11) How are the 2E students assigned – cluster for more presence of a TLA?
 - a. Students with multiple exceptionalities (2e) are not clustered in one class. TLAs are assigned based on student need. We also have a Learning Strategist assigned to Grade 5 to support programming for students' needs.
- 12) Will we have an opportunity to meet the Student Services Team prior to the first day?
 - a. Yes, families will meet Student Services May 8 and June 4.
- 13) Who is the Student Services contact should my child need assistance?
 - a. The Coordinator of Student Services is Lara Nestman. She will be meeting with the elementary Student Services in April to begin planning for student transitions.

14) Will there still continue to be meetings for my 2E child?

- a. Yes, there are several planned meetings, as well, other times are available as needed/requested.

15) What does TLA support look like for my child?

- a. The TLA takes direction from the classroom teacher and provides the accommodations that have been identified for the particular student(s).

16) Is there a reset space that my child can access?

- a. A new reset space is currently being constructed. Having said that, it is a conversation with a student to determine what space would be best for her/him.