



Welcome to 6th Grade at Polaris!

2022/23

Dear Future Graduating Class of 2029 and Families -

Welcome to the Secondary Program at Polaris K-12 School! Whether you are just joining our school or transitioning from our Elementary Program, we are so happy that you are here! We understand that you may have many questions about this transition. We have an experienced 6th Grade Transition Team ready to help both students and families start this next chapter equipped with knowledge and confidence. We look forward to working with you as you begin your journey!

WHAT IS THE 6TH GRADE INTENSIVE?

Our Secondary students start the school year taking Intensives; a focused course on a specialized topic, for two weeks. All 6th Graders are automatically enrolled in the 6th Grade Intensive. This is such a gift of time! Two teachers in our 6th Grade Team work exclusively with students to build community, register for electives, learn the ropes, and have fun. Students also engage in a book study to help improve self-image, build friendships, resist peer pressure, set and achieve their goals, and be successful in a variety of settings. 6th Grade Intensive teachers will begin communicating prior to the first day of school.

IS THERE A PARENT ORIENTATION?

Yes! We recognize that this is a big transition for parents too. You are invited to join us for an orientation and meet and greet with our 6th Grade Team on Thursday, August 25 at 5:30PM at Polaris.

WHAT IS ADVISORY?

Secondary students are placed in a 6-12 Advisory Group with one facilitating teacher referred to as their Advisor. Advisory placements for 6th graders are based on enrollment numbers in current advisories. Effort is made to balance the gender, age, and overall make-up of the Advisory groups. Advisors strive to cultivate long-term relationships that support each student and their family as they move from 6th grade to graduation. Advisory serves as a home base for secondary students. It is where we look at scheduling, community building, service learning, leadership, conferences, portfolios, and much more. Additional information about Advisory is found in our [Advisory Framework](#) under the SECONDARY tab on the website.

HOW DO GRADES WORK?

The ASD Parent/StudentConnect System is where grades, schedules, and attendance is reported. If you need parent login information for ParentConnect, please see the front office staff. Students will be getting their StudentConnect login information during the intensive. Grades are a significant change for 6th graders. We will cover this extensively during the 6th Grade Intensive and continue working with students and families through the year. Parents should be available early on to provide support while their child practices taking increased responsibility.

WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED?

6th Grade students should be ready to start their classes, after intensives, with the basic supplies listed below. Advanced notice will be provided for any additional supplies that may be required for special projects throughout the year.

Academic Planner (self-selected or a basic planner is provided by the school)

Pens/pencils (pencils only for Math)

Highlighters

Colored pencils

Math: Pocket folder to keep work in-progress and returned assignments

Science: Graph paper composition book, pocket folder, black and red pen

Language Arts: pocket folder, composition notebook, independent reading selection/book

Social Studies: composition notebook

HOW DO I BEST COMMUNICATE WITH TEACHERS?

Parent/Student Connect serves only as one tool and is a limited window into the classroom. It does not replace effective communication between student, teacher, and parents. Self-advocacy is a life skill.

Please encourage your child to have an open dialogue with their teachers and use StudentConnect. As a parent, if you have any further questions or concerns throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher either through email or setting up a time to meet in person.

ASD Email: lastname_firstname@asdk12.org

Language Arts	Mindi Vogel	Social Studies	Allie Burris
Math	Heidi Postishek	Science	Jeffery Bevier
Band	Dean Shannon	Orchestra/Guitar	Adam Stewart
Art	Kelly Hebert	Physical Education	Jessica Winn, Rachel Gregory
Hispanic Culture	Mira Starr	Introductory Drama	Mira Starr

How can I stay informed about what is happening in the school?

As a school community, we make every effort to communicate efficiently while reducing paper waste. The best source for current information and upcoming events is the school's website (polaris.asdk12.org). You are encouraged to bookmark this site and check it regularly. Every Thursday, families will also receive a Wolf Weekly update via email. If you are not receiving these emails, please contact the front office.

What does the 6th Grade Schedule look like?

The 6th Grade Schedule was designed with the specific developmental needs of 6th graders in mind. The schedule also allows for flexibility within the blocks for the Language Arts and Social Studies and the Math and Science teachers to collaborate and integrate learning.

6TH GRADE SAMPLE SCHEDULE		
Time	GRAY Blocks 1/3/5 Advisory & MS Learning Lab	GREEN Blocks 2/4/6 Advisory & MS Learning Lab
8:15 - 9:45	1: Beginning Band or Orchestra	2: Elective
9:50 - 11:20	3: Core Class	4: Core Class
11:20 - 12:00	Lunch	Lunch
12:00 - 1:30	5: Core Class	6: Core Class
1:35 - 2:05*	Advisory	Advisory
2:10 - 3:00	Middle School Learning Lab	Middle School Learning Lab

- High School students are dismissed daily at 2:05 PM
- Middle School students remain on-campus for lunch; 6th Graders eat in the MPR
- Hot lunch is available through Student Nutrition

WHAT ARE CORE CLASSES?

English/Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, and Science are referred to as the core classes. 6th Graders will automatically be enrolled in their core classes and schedules will be distributed and reviewed during the 6th Grade Intensive.

WHAT MATH CLASS WILL I TAKE?

6th Graders are enrolled in Math 6. The Polaris Math Department works collaboratively to assess and meet the needs of every secondary student following the learning disruptions caused by COVID. Our intent is to provide opportunities for recovery and support, while also allowing a path for advanced students to accelerate. The ultimate goal is to ensure confidence in mathematics and that our students are both supported and challenged at each level.

WHAT MUSIC CLASS WILL I TAKE?

During the 6th Grade Intensive you will meet our music directors. They will play a variety of instruments for you to both see and hear. It is a wonderful time to ask questions and learn about the instrument options available for 6th graders. You will then have some time to think about your choice and register for beginning band, beginning orchestra or beginning guitar & ukulele by the end of the 6th Grade Intensive. You will not need an instrument before classes begin.

HOW DO I MAKE MY ELECTIVE CHOICE?

During the 6th Grade Intensive, students will be able to prioritize their elective choices: physical education, art, Hispanic geography and culture, yoga and introductory drama.

WILL I HAVE HOMEWORK?

There will occasionally be assignments and tasks to be completed outside of class time. Homework may include work that was not completed during class time, projects, and studying. The intent is to help students develop strong study habits, practice time management, and gain independence. Homework should not regularly exceed one hour per evening.