

IF THINGS START HAPPENING,
DON'T WORRY, DON'T STEW,
JUST GO RIGHT ALONG AND
YOU'LL START HAPPENING TOO.



~ DR. SEUSS



Transitions

Successful transitions mean more successful students.

Transitions Set the Tone



Sending and receiving schools are working hard to collaborate and prepare for a student's transition in an effort to help each student make the passage from one school or one grade/program to another seamless and successful.

Transitions for #39

Transition is a natural part of all educational programs.

Students with and without disabilities are expected to adjust to changes in teachers, classmates, schedules, buildings, and routines

EC-K

K-1

4-5

6-7

8- High School

Starting the conversation at home:

- Talk to your children openly and often about upcoming transitions
- Demonstrate a calm and cool demeanor when talking to your child about transitions
 - The more nervous the parent, the more nervous the child
- Provide visual supports such as placing information on the family calendar or creating a back to school countdown
- Model excitement surrounding new opportunities and adventures
- Set routines in advance
- Share your personal experiences
- Validate your child's feelings
- Highlight the positive aspects of the new environment
- Understand that services should not change during a transition
- Trust the process!

Transition Meetings

- What is a transition meeting?
 - Meetings that occur in the spring to discuss the needs of children that are transitioning from one program/building to another.
- What is the purpose of the transition meeting?
 - To provide information to make program and placement decisions
 - To answer specific questions about programs
- Who will attend?
 - Parents
 - Current educational team
 - **Representative(s)** from receiving school



EC to Kindergarten

- Observations and Pre-meetings between current EC teacher and receiving staff
- IEP Transition meeting to discuss Kindergarten Routine and Schedule
- Kindergarten Fly-Up Day
- AM vs PM placement has already been decided by each Elementary building
- Kindergarten Orientation on April 15th from 6:30-7:30 at all schools
- Some exciting differences:
 - Case managers vs. classroom teachers
 - PE, Music, Spanish, Library
 - Busing is not automatically provided (IEP decision)

EC to K: What can parents do to prepare?

- Visit playground over summer
- Read Kindergarten readiness books to your children
- Practice route to school
- Visit school website
- Make contact with other families from the same school
- Contact PTA about getting involved
- Determine if you want to take advantage of Keep39 if your child is not already full day



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Kindergarten to First Grade



Kindergarten to First Grade

- Full day of school
- K case manager is in the building and articulation between staff is ongoing
- Observations are ongoing
- Current IEP determines future supports
- Annual IEP meeting is a good place to discuss/set timelines

K to 1st: What can parents do to prepare?

- Countdown to first day of school
- Exploring fun books, numbers, 1st grade topics during the summer
- Read to your child
- Embed authentic practices for early numeracy skills
- Work on time telling
- Set playdate with grade level peers
- Model or praise prosocial behavior
- Continue already established routines throughout the summer (e.g. keep getting up and getting ready for the day)
- Continue to model and facilitate problem solving skills

HIGHCREST MIDDLE SCHOOL



4th to 5th grade

Helping students transition is at the core of middle school life. Staff members spend part of the first year helping students acclimate to fifth grade.

- New Building- Highcrest Middle School
- Bell Schedule (40 minute periods)
- Core teachers (House/Team approach)== 2 Teachers/Team
- Longer day (8:49-3:35)
- Homeroom component
- Lockers with combination lock
- Lunch/Recess
- Related Arts and PE
- Meeting new friends---all schools represented in Homerooms

4th to 5th: What can parents do to prepare?

- Discuss your concerns/questions with 4th grade case managers
- Attend Parent Night at Highcrest Middle school- scheduled for February or March
- 4th graders tour HMS in the Spring--remind your students to ask questions
- Discuss Academic Strategies and benefits with your child (Video)
- Reassure your child of articulation between current case manager and HMS staff
- IEP meeting with HMS coordinator to articulate HMS Service Delivery Model
- Encourage your student to attend their meetings
- Complete the HMS recommendation form
- Schoology will be part of their Ipad/organization system--Training at Curriculum Night
- Meet and Greet for each House: Scheduled for August
- Ipad pick up will be scheduled/email communication
- Focus on developing their independence throughout the summer (organization, directions, tasks, etc)
- Discuss transportation to and from school with your child (if walking or riding, practice this)

Wilmette Junior High School



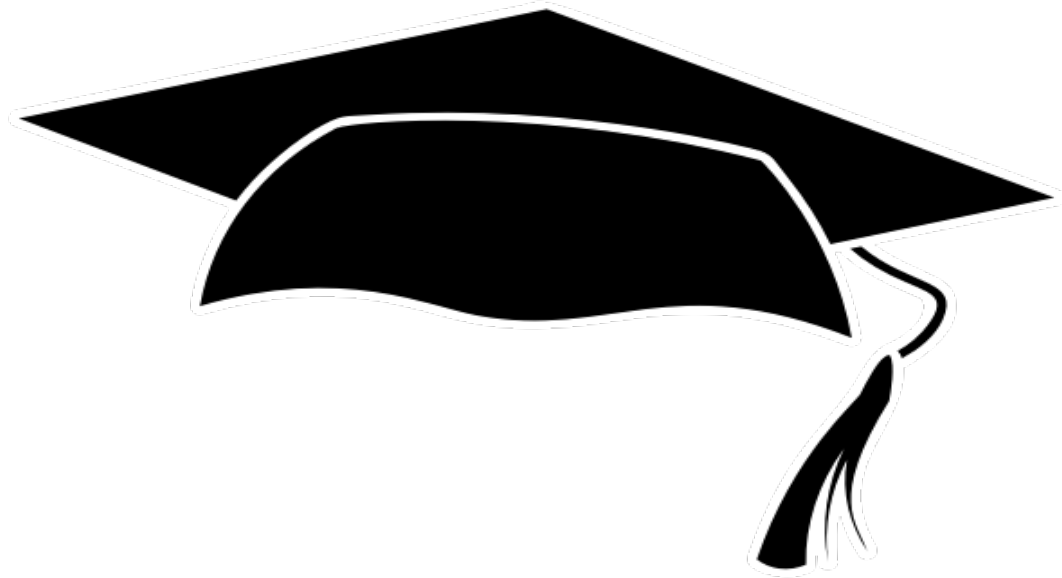
6th to 7th

- Seamless programming
- Current case managers meet with WJHS staff
- Students write an introduction about themselves with current case-manager to future case-manager
- August- open house prior to the first day of school

6th to 7th: What can parents do to prepare?

- Visit the school website with your student
- Conversations about participation in extracurricular activities
- Use PTA website as a resource for after-clubs
- Complete the WJHS recommendation form
- Discuss your concerns/questions with 6th grade case managers to review current services
- Team discussion regarding Academic Strategies vs. Foreign Language
- Focus on building independence skills
- Determine what the morning routine/transportation will look like

High School: Leaving Wilmette #39



8th to High School

- November/December New Trier Testing at WJHS (Saturday)
- December- Parent Night at New Trier
- Early January- Academic Life Meetings at New Trier- highly recommended
- December/January- pre articulation meetings between case-manager and NT staff, IEPs are shared
- January-March articulation meetings with New Trier
- February- Course selection Conferences with New Trier (optional)
- Students are prepared to attend and self-advocate in their IEP meeting with NT

8th-HS: What can parents do to prepare?

- With your child, visit <http://www.newtrier.k12.il.us/incomingfreshmen/>
- Explore all the documents with your child, including but not limited to:
 - FAQ course selection
 - All About Electives
 - Athletics information
 - Navigating New Trier 4 year planning
 - Campus Map
- Contact Booster club if interested
- New Trier Parents' Association (NTPA)
- Any questions regarding New Trier programming, contact your articulator or Pat Savage Williams 847 784-7660 (office), williamp@newtrier.k12.il.us
- For questions regarding private schools, please contact your administrator

Questions

