

October 27, 2025

6th Grade Transition Planning

Kent Bania, Superintendent

Janine Loconsolo, Director of Curriculum and
Instruction

Joe Materia, JHWMS Principal

Mike Kearney, Radcliffe Elementary School Principal



Additional Space...



Purpose/Team Members

Designed to gather information from a diverse group of stakeholders to ensure the framework of a transition plan that prioritizes our students' needs in the areas of:

Student Transition, Academics, and School Day Operations.

- Learn about options and “best practices”
- Develop a common language
- Encourage thinking through different lenses
- Develop priorities/non-negotiables
- Identify Framework for Next Steps
- Compositions of Committee (47):
 - Parents: 17
 - Board Members: 4
 - Administration: 11
 - Teachers/Faculty: 17
 - Community Member: 1



Meeting Times

February 19 - Benefits and Challenges

March 12 - The Nature of Collaboration

April 2 - Gathering Information

School Visits:

Wayne: April 23rd

Little Falls: April 30th

Bergenfield: May 19th

West Milford: May 27th

June 2 - Identifying Progress



Student Transition Group

Concern #1: Communication

Suggestions:

- Provide **FAQ or survival guide** with information for both parents and students
- As we get closer to transition, a **staff liaison** can direct questions from parents to provide consistent messaging
- As we get closer, 5th and 6th grade students will visit JHWMS during school hours

Suggestions:

- **Graduation** - The district would need to plan for and communicate for 4 single-session days for the 2025-2026 SY. Kindergarten graduation on Mon. June 15th, 5th grade graduation on Tues. June 16th, 6th grade graduation on Wed. June 17th, and the last day of school on Thurs. June 18th (everything backs up based on snow days)
- **Patrol Posts** - positions will be offered to both 5th and 6th graders during 2025-2026 SY.

Suggestions that may vary by building:

- **Yearbook** - create 5th grade yearbook and 6th grade yearbook
- **Graduation Promotion Dance** - hold separate 5th and 6th grade committees and coordinate dates for dances
- **Talent Show/Variety Show** - opening act assigned to 5th or 6th grade and closing act assigned to 5th or 6th grade
- **Car Wash** - one fall car wash, one spring car wash – allows both grades to host a car wash fundraiser
- **Clap Out** - continue as normal, just extend the time to include both 5th and 6th graders



Operations Group

Goal 1: Identify how physical space and facilities will be used or need to be modified/implemented differently in order to accommodate the schedule and student population.

Goal 2: Identify a schedule, that moves students into and out of the building.

Goal 3: Create an initial blueprint/framework that will help “map” out the day-to-day operations of JHWMS.



Highlights

- No major changes
 - With an open mind for changes in the subsequent years
- Keeping flow in mind
- Keeping student learning and interventions at the forefront
 - Grade level lunch
 - Team/Department Meetings
 - Other opportunities



John H Walker Middle School Bell Schedule							
			2026	2027			
Period	Regular		Single		Delayed		
Period	7:24	8:10	7:24	8:10	No Zero Period		
Grade 6 ONLY Special Homeroom	8:00/8:05	8:15	8:00/8:05	8:15	9:40	9:50	
1	8:16	9:02	8:16	8:46	9:50	10:17	
2	9:05	9:51	8:49	9:19	10:20	10:47	
3	9:54	10:40	9:22	9:52	10:50	11:17	
4a*	10:43	11:06	9:55	10:25	11:20	11:43	Grade Level Lunches/
4b*	11:06	11:29			11:43	12:06	Team Meetings/Other
5a*	11:32	11:55	10:27	10:57	12:09	12:32	Grade Level Lunches/
5b*	11:55	12:18			12:32	12:55	Team Meetings/Other
6a*	12:21	12:44	10:59	11:29	12:58	1:21	Grade Level Lunches/
6b*	12:44	1:07			1:21	1:44	Team Meetings/Other
7	1:10	1:56	11:32	12:02	1:47	2:14	
8	1:59	2:45	12:05	12:35	2:17	2:45	

*Grade level lunch periods will be split. The "a" cohort will report to the cafeteria for the first portion of the period and then report to the auditorium for the second portion for self directed learning/study hall. The "b" cohort will report to the auditorium first and then to the cafeteria for the second portion. On single session days, when lunch is not served, students will remain in their initial locations.

Lunch

Now:

- Occurring in Cafe
 - Grade 8 and 7 (220)
 - 15-20 minutes
 - Eating
 - Balance of period
 - 20-26 minutes
 - Playing
 - Socializing
 - Homework
 - Studying
 - Guidance

Next year:

- One Grade (150)
 - 23 Minutes (cafe)
 - Eating/Socializing
 - 23 minutes (aud)
 - Homework/Study
 - Guidance
 - Teacher Meetings
 - Extra Help
 - Other

Rooms and Distribution

- Current open rooms (per period)
 - Plus 10 additional classroom
- Physical Education
 - Reimagination with regard to space
- Cafeteria Space
- Auditorium and Stage
- Outside Spaces



Academic Group

Goal 1 - Ensure curriculum and instructional resources are aligned to NJSLs, best practices, and conducive to instructional minutes in schedule

- Grade 6/7 vertical articulation
- Grade 6 curriculum rewriting for ELA/Math/ SS/Science
- Create curriculum for new elective courses

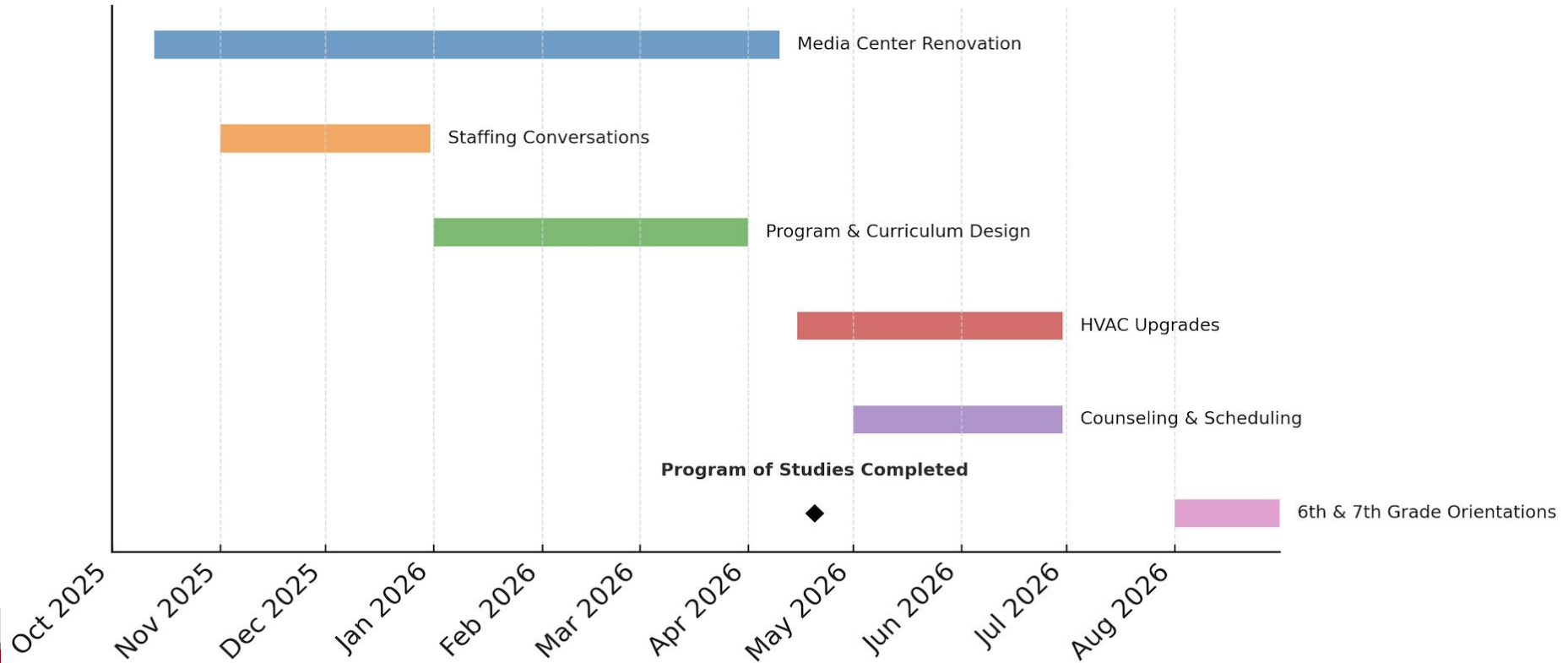


Academic Group

Goal 2 - Expose 6th grade students to a variety of academic experiences and pathways that support the whole child

- Develop cycle classes for exposure for variety of world language/ cycle elective courses.
- Develop possible seminar elective curriculum
- Devise strategy for integrating social emotional learning into Advisory structure
- Explore approaches to Instrumental Music (band, orchestra, chorus)
- Explore option of GT/ Strategies as a possible “cycle” course

Key Steps Timeline



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