

February 26, 2026

6th Grade Transition

Elective Planning

Kent Bania, Superintendent

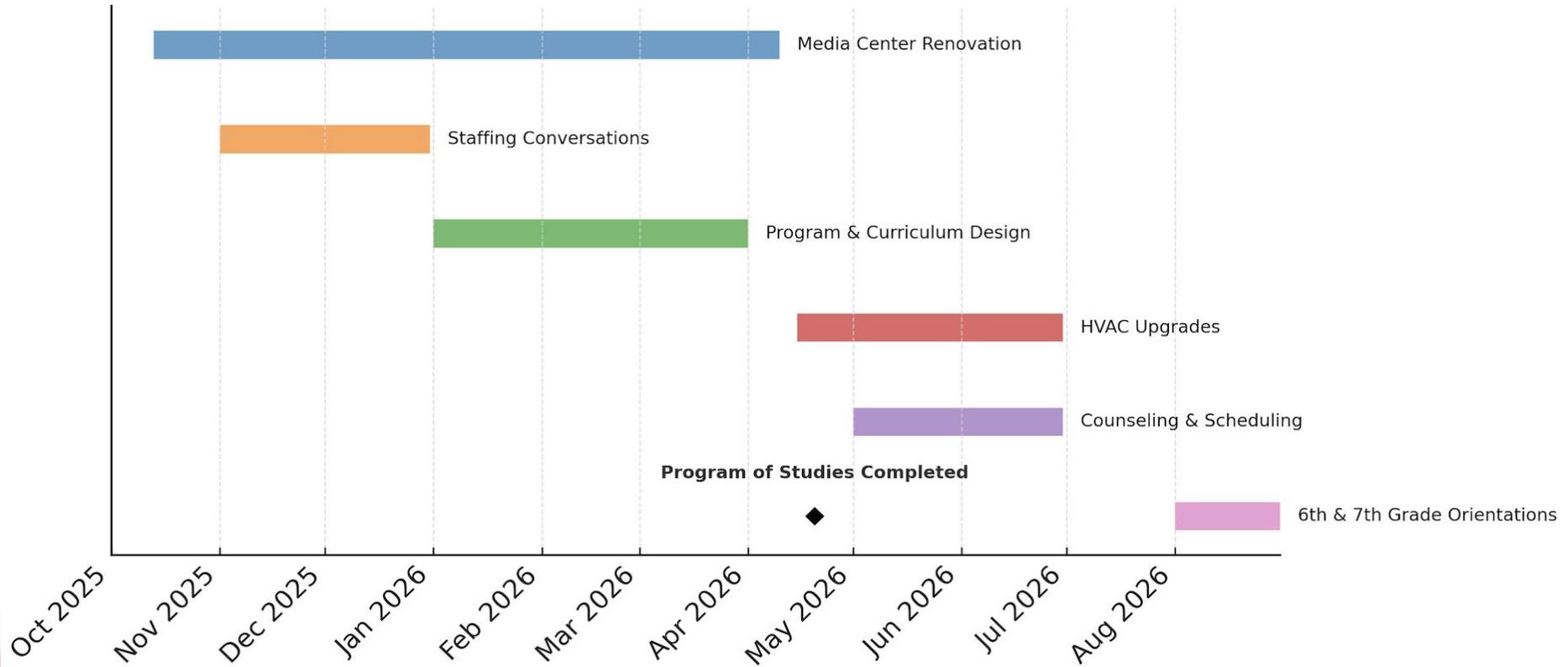
Janine Loconsolo, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Joe Materia, JHWMS Principal

Vincent Vicchiariello, Supervisor of FPA/CTE



Key Steps Timeline



6th Grade Music Instruction: Elementary vs. Middle School (6–8 Model)

	Elementary School Model (Current)	6th Grade Transition Framework
Whole Ensemble Scheduling	Occurs during the academic instructional time on rotation (band). 40 min/week	Scheduled during Zero Period; A/B Schedule 80-120 minutes week
Instrumental Lesson Scheduling	Small-group lessons occur weekly during academic instructional time on rotation.(40 min)	Lessons occur during the school day but pull from Physical Education/Health (when possible) (46min/week)
Weekly Full Ensemble Time	Approximately 40 minutes per week	Approximately 80–120 minutes per week
Access to Other Courses	Music participation reduces time in academics	Students fully participate in a 6-8 music program AND have exposure to all elective cycles

6th Grade Elective Cycle

Exposure to Develop Skills and Standards

- Seminar** (Organization & executive functioning, Digital citizenship/Appropriate AI use, Cybersecurity awareness, Professional communication (email writing), Collaboration tools (Google Workspace), Study skills & Metacognition)
- Engineering** (Design process, Problem-solving, Prototyping, Data analysis, Systems thinking, Collaboration in teams)
- Entrepreneurship** (Financial literacy, Innovation & design thinking, Market research, Public speaking & pitching, Budgeting and cost analysis, Ethical decision-making)
- Art** (Creative expression, Visual literacy, Critique & reflection, Design principles Cultural analysis)



Language Exploration

Purposeful Exposure Before Commitment

Students participate in exploratory studies in Spanish, Italian, and Latin before selecting a long-term pathway, replacing the current model in which Grade 6 students take Spanish 1–2 times per week and then choose another language with limited exposure.

Cultural Literacy as a Core Component

Each rotation embeds authentic cultural learning — traditions, geography, food, history, music, and contemporary life — building global awareness aligned to NJSL Career Readiness, Life Literacies & Key Skills (9.4 Global & Cultural Awareness).

Language Foundations Across Three Pathways

Students develop introductory vocabulary, pronunciation, conversational phrases, and linguistic structures in Spanish, Italian, and Latin, allowing them to make an informed and confident selection for Grade 7 and beyond.

Comparative Language & Root Study

The cycle highlights connections among Romance languages and Latin roots, strengthening English vocabulary, grammar awareness, and reading comprehension across disciplines.

Readiness & Sequencing Alignment

A structured exposure model creates clearer pathways into sustained study at Nutley High School, supporting stronger placement, retention, and potential advancement toward upper-level coursework.

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