



2022 - 2023 Transition Plan

Contents

Kindergarten Transition	3
Fourth-Grade Transition	4
Sixth-Grade Transition	6
Ninth-Grade Transition	7
Titan Cyber Transition.....	12
Contact Information	14

Kindergarten Transition

Objective: To create an elementary transition plan for students to learn, discuss, and utilize skills while promoting family engagement to acclimate to the academic, social, emotional, and structural demands of Homeville and Clara Barton Elementary.

Goal #1 – To create a Kindergarten Transition plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be successful at Homeville and Clara Barton Elementary.

- Strategy 1 – To implement orientation and transition activities for incoming Kindergarten students.
 - Action 1 – Publish Transition Information for parent distribution
 - This will include Kindergarten Registration, Transition Night, Readiness Testing, Kindergarten Orientation, and Little Titan Kinder Camp. (February)
 - Action 2 – Transition Night
 - Parents AND students should attend the event to acclimate to the school environment by exploring the building through a series of events which include interactive activities such as a school scavenger hunt and a welcome book. This event will include teachers, speech and occupational therapy services, and PTA volunteers. (End of April)
 - Action 3 – Readiness Testing
 - Students will be evaluated with a customized assessment to show students' strengths and deficiencies based on data. Resources will be shared and explained to families to foster the development of critical ready to learn skills. It is recommended for each student to bring a photograph to be included in a new student profile. (End of May)
 - Action 4 – Little Titan Kinder Camp
 - A summer program to holistically approach the needs of our incoming students (academic, social-emotional, etc.) at both Homeville and Clara Barton. This experience fosters social-emotional needs as well as establishes rules and routines in a small group setting. (June/July)
 - Action 5 – Parent Workshop
 - This event is parent-centered (preferred adult only). Information will be given concerning the day-to-day logistics and routines of the school, necessary supplies, bussing information, cafeteria information, etc. Parents will also receive their child's laptop/learning device. A brief

tutorial of how to use it will also be given. In addition, parents will be encouraged to immediately download all necessary district apps. District Technology coordinators will be in attendance. (First day of Little Titan Kinder Camp)

- Action 6 - Kindergarten Orientation
 - This event will take place on the morning of the second teacher in-service day. Families and students will ride the bus to and from Orientation. Students will be welcomed by their teachers for a Storytime experience or other classroom activities. Orientation will conclude with a snack in the cafeteria. (End of August)
- Action 7 - Transition Day for additional services provided
 - Conduct a meet and greet with support personnel. Parents will have the option to sign up for their own individualized meeting with support personnel for additional information. (End of August)
- Action 8 - District meeting with local childcare providers
 - The meeting will include building principals, kindergarten teachers, pupil services coordinator and local childcare personnel. (February)

Fourth-Grade Transition

Objective: To create a fourth-grade transition plan for students to learn, discuss, and utilize skills while assisting them to get acclimated to the academic, social, and structural demands of the junior middle school.

Goal #1 - To create a fourth-grade transition academic plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be successful at West Mifflin Area Middle School.

- Strategy 1 – Acclimate the students to what a school day may consist of.
 - Action 1 – Students attend each block period to be introduced to the academic requirements/curriculum. (Late May)
 - Action 2 – Introduction to interventions and enrichments programs (MTSS) that are utilized in the junior middle school. (Late May)
 - Action 3 – Teachers will have access to previous year student performance data to accurately place students. (Late May)

- Action 4 – Resources to be utilized by the students such as sensory room, autistic room, and life skills room. (Late May)
- Action 5 – Preview of the six special classes in junior middle school. (Late May)

Goal #2 - To create a fourth-grade transition social/emotional plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be successful at West Mifflin Area Middle School.

- Strategy 1 – Ensure all students’ well-being needs are met. (Late May)
 - Action 1 – Students are transported by district bussing to engage in the transition activities such as:
 - Action 2 - Students socialize with each other over breakfast
 - Action 3 -Gather for an assembly for introduction of school administration and teachers and what their daily schedule will look like.
 - Action 4 -Transition to homerooms for procedural directions
 - Action 5 -Daily grind/student workers
 - Action 6 - String bags/tangible advertising
 - Action 7 -New activities - Haunted Hallways, trunk or treat, Valentine's activities.
- Strategy 2 – Introduction to PBIS (Late May)
 - Action 1 – Super Star-Respectful, Responsible, Ready to learn
 - Action 2 – Lessons taught on appropriate behavior in all areas of the building. (Classroom, auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, bathrooms, hallways)
 - Action 3 – Student of the month assemblies are held monthly to recognize student achievement and academic success.
 - Action 4 – Introduction to school store procedures.
 - Action 5 – Super Star ticket redemption at school store for positive behaviors.

Goal #3 - To create a fourth-grade transition parent/community involvement plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be successful at West Mifflin Area Middle School.

- Strategy 1 – Orientation day to introduce parents and community members to review the following procedures relating to each student: (Late May)
 - Action 1 -PowerSchool usage/conference scheduling/forms
 - Action 2 -Attendance procedures
 - Action 3 -School breakfast/lunch
 - Action 4- Representatives from different departments speak to parents (cafeteria, IT, PTA etc.)
 - Action 5 -Parent raffle

Sixth-Grade Transition

Objective: To create a sixth-grade transition plan for students to learn, discuss, and utilize skills while assisting them to get acclimated to the academic, social, and structural demands of the middle school.

Goal #1- To create a sixth-grade transition plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be academically successful at West Mifflin Area High School.

- Strategy 1 – Possible transition day during PSSA days (fifth grade to sixth grade)
 - Action 1 – Provide students with next year's schedule (May)
 - Action 2 – Have students follow next year's schedule (May)
 - Action 3 – Teachers will introduce next year's classes (May)
 - Action 4 – Town hall meeting with parents to discuss handbook and academics (May)
 - Action 5 – Activities and extracurricular opportunities that are available (May)

Ninth-Grade Transition

Objective: To create a ninth-grade transition plan for students to learn, discuss, and utilize skills while assisting them to get acclimated to the academic, social, and structural demands of the high school in a routine annual schedule. This plan will include 8th Grade students at West Mifflin Area Middle School and Duquesne City School District, as well as interested students from St. Therese Catholic School, Walnut Grove Christian School, Propel Homestead K-8, and other private/charter schools in the area. The plan is anticipated to be in place for the 2023-2024 school year.

Goal #1- To create a Ninth Grade Transition plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be academically successful at West Mifflin Area High School.

- Strategy 1: Familiarize 8th Grade students with classes available at West Mifflin Area High School
 - Action 1: Elective Step-Up Day (Jan.- Remote Day for HS during Keystones)
 - Students will spend a day going through "mini-lessons" that will introduce 8th Grade students to elective options in the high school.
 - Action 2 – West Mifflin Area School District Resource Fair (Feb.)
 - In future school years, West Mifflin will host a Resource Fair which highlights curriculum in our schools, extracurricular activities, businesses in our communities, and opportunities for employment and career-readiness.
 - Action 3 – Step Up Day with Student Schedules for next year (May)
 - 8th Grade students will follow their schedules around the High School during part of a school day. Students will also receive a West Mifflin Area High School t-shirt to instill excitement for school spirit.
 - Action 4 – Freshmen Orientation (Aug.)
 - Students and parents review the code of conduct, opportunities for extracurricular activities, expectations, and get to tour the building one last time before the school year begins.
 - Action 5- Resources and services available for students who are not succeeding at the start of 9th Grade (Aug-Sept)
 - Students struggling with grades early in the school year will be identified and addressed via the Activity/Resource Period and/or Tutoring Program.

This can benefit new students entering the district in Grades 10-12 as well.

- Strategy 2 – Inform, assess, and recommend students to individualize their own academic experience
 - Action 1 – Create a Transition link on the School District's website for all "Transition Grades" to virtually personalize the experience
 - This link will highlight course catalogs and course descriptions to students and parents.
 - Action 2 – Placement Testing (January-February)
 - High School Departments will be responsible for creating placement tests that will be administered at the Middle School, before next year's scheduling process begins. Online Version.
 - Action 3 – Naviance-directed class recommendations
 - Naviance will be utilized to inform and direct students in selecting applicable classes that align with their career interests.
 - Action 4 – Scheduling sessions with students (small group/1 on 1, Feb.-March)
 - All three High School Counselors and the 8th Grade Counselor will schedule sessions with Middle Schoolers to introduce the scheduling process, explain deadlines, and inform students based on their questions.
 - Action 5 – High School Departmental Presentations (Virtual/Video)
 - Each department at the High School will be responsible for making videos that introduce the content, activities, and benefits of their content area. The videos will be uploaded to Schoology for incoming 8th Grade students, as well as their parents to watch. This can benefit new students entering the district in Grades 10-12 as well.

Goal #2 – To create a Ninth Grade Transition plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary social and emotional knowledge, skills, and resources to be actively engaged at West Mifflin Area High School.

- Strategy 1 – Create a program to introduce and inform Middle School students of expected behavior, school events, information access, and extracurricular activities available at the High School
 - Action 1 – Students will complete Introductory PBIS Lessons that focus on behavior
 - PBIS Teams at the High School and Middle School will collaborate on lessons that show similarities and differences of expected behavior

between the schools. Lessons will be uploaded to the Transition Link and Schoology.

- Action 2 – Students will visit a club & sports fair (May-June, & Aug.-Sept.)
 - Students will have the opportunity to visit a fair highlighting all clubs and extracurricular activities available to them the following year. Videos of the fair and presentations will be shared on Schoology and the Transition Link. Students can spend their first couple of Activity Periods participating in this.
- Action 3 – Parent Outreach Program/FAQ & Flowchart
 - We will develop helpful/informative documents that will be uploaded to the Transition Link on the School District's website. Documents will be based on communication, job responsibilities, useful forms, and FAQs. This can benefit new students entering the district in Grades 10-12 as well.
- Action 4 – 8th Grade Students will engage in a "Boot Camp"-style introduction to High School expectations and opportunities (Jun.-Aug.)
 - This will be run by students from the Titan Leaders in the Community (TLC) Mentoring Program during certain days of summer break.
- Strategy 2 – Create a Mentoring Program of Upper Classmen that will guide Underclassmen to be socially responsible
 - Action 1 – Mentors will be pulled from the Titan Leaders in the Community
 - Mentors will complete training and require three staff recommendations to participate in this program.
 - Action 2 – Mentors will receive .5 credit for participation in this Mentoring Program
 - They will have responsibilities in planning and prepping activities and lessons, in addition to reflecting on their experiences, throughout the school year.
 - Action 3 – 11th Grade Mentors will visit 9th Grade Health and Phys. Ed. Courses
 - 11th Grade Mentors will be with their groups in 6 Health classes and 6 Phys. Ed. Classes throughout each 12-week rotation.
 - Action 4 – Mentors will implement lessons that promote social, emotional, and behavioral growth
 - Gym Classes will involve fun, social activities that ninth grade students get to choose. Health classes will focus on: PBIS Lessons, Clubs,

PowerSchool (tutoring referrals to NHS), Schoology, Career Evidence Review in Naviance, and Class Schedules.

- Action 5 – Mentors will follow their Freshmen Group into the next school year, continuing to guide undergraduates, while recruiting students to be the next team of mentors
 - Senior Mentors and their Sophomore groups will share lunch, complete Naviance lessons during Activity Periods, and Plan/Attend two field trips with their same group from the previous school year.

Goal #3 – To create a Ninth Grade Transition plan that will ensure all incoming students have the necessary career-readiness knowledge, skills, and resources to develop individualized post-secondary academic/career plans.

- Strategy 1 – Students will create an Academic/Career Plan to shape over the course of their High School Career
 - Action 1 – Steel Center Tour for 8th Graders (different than 9th Grade Tour-presentation and student products)
 - The 8th Grade Tour will consist of a general tour of the building, along with each program showing a product, activity, or demonstration (Program Fair-style). The 9th Grade Tour will be more extensive, focusing on student participation in 2-3 lessons within their chosen programs of interest.
 - Action 2 – Students will begin preparing for potential academic/career plans by obtaining money through scholarship programs
 - We will sign up and enroll students in with Raise Me in 8th Grade, among other similar scholarship programs that undergraduates can participate in.
 - Action 3 – Scheduling sessions with students (small group/1 on 1)
 - Follow-up Scheduling Sessions will take place after students have chosen their classes on PowerSchool for the following year to ensure students are on the correct/desired academic path.
 - Action 4 – West Mifflin Area High School Resource Fair (Feb.)
 - We will have local members of the community from an array of workforce backgrounds demonstrating and informing students on their career. The Transition Coordinator will collaborate with the *School to Work* Program.
 - Action 5 – Mentoring Program Sessions

- Mentors will be responsible for assisting students in exploring their academic/career readiness paths for the next two years. Students will utilize Naviance, library resources, and specific academic/career websites to learn more. Mentors will inform them on the Junior Seminar class as well as Senior Project.
- Strategy 2 – Students will meet Career Standards
 - Action 1 – Transition Counselor visits 8th Grade Careers Classes
 - The Transition Counselor will visit the Career Classes in 8th Grade to provide introductory information about the High School and answer initial questions.
 - Action 2– Work Permits (All 9th Grade Apply), Resume, Interview Lesson (March)
 - Hold Career-Readiness Prep Sessions where students will finalize a resume from their Careers class, apply for a work permit, and engage in mock interviews or demonstrations.
 - Action 3 – 14-15 yrs.-old Job Fair (April)
 - Invite all local employers that hire 14–15-year-olds to advertise their opportunities and provide applications/interviews.
 - Action 4 – Implement Career Day(s) throughout the school year
 - Organize Career Days for transitioning Students during school hours, where students will complete a scavenger hunt by interacting with volunteers from a wide array of career fields. Prizes will be awarded to incentivize the students.

Goal #4 – To create a Ninth Grade Transition plan that will ensure all incoming students enrolled in Special Education and/or have 504 accommodations have the necessary knowledge, skills, and resources to be academically, socially, and career-ready successful at West Mifflin Area High School (in addition to the overall 9th Grade Transition Plan's first 3 Goals).

- Strategy 1 – Familiarize students with IEPs and 504 Plans with staff between 8th and 9th Grade, ensuring an efficient transition academically, socially, and for career-readiness
 - Action 1 – Communicate IEPs and 504s (Aug.-June)
 - The transition coordinator and projected case managers for the following year will attend all IEP and 504 meetings at the 8th and 9th grade level.
 - Action 2 – Life Skills transition events (April-May)
 - The HS Life Skills classroom will host two school day activities with the incoming eighth grade Life Skills students and one evening meet-and-greet/tour for students and parents.

- Action 3 – Student-led transition (May)
 - 9th Grade students in Special Education (chosen and with parent permission) and Case Managers will host step-up day activities for incoming 8th Grade students in Special Education.
- Action 4 – 504 Plan updates (July)
 - Counselors will send out 504s in the summer to coordinate necessary meetings with parents for the following year.
- Action 5 – Meet-and-greet (Aug.)
 - High School Special Education Staff will hold an evening Meet-and-Greet for incoming parents and students just prior to the start of the school year for a short tour and Q&A Session. Invitations will be mailed home at the end of the ESY program.
- Action 6 – Personal tours (Aug.)
 - Students/parents will be invited to reserve a spot for a one-on-one 20-minute tour during the beginning of the year in-service days.
- Action 7 – Teacher collaboration time (May)
 - During a full day prior to step up day, ninth grade teachers and case managers will meet with eighth grade teachers and case managers for a brief overview of each incoming student with special needs.
- Action 8 – Ensure correct placement of students with IEPs and 504s in classes
 - After Action 7, ninth grade case managers will create a written schedule with correct pull-out/inclusion/regular education scheduling suggestions to be given to guidance to ensure the best possible scheduling for step up day.

Titan Cyber Transition

Goal #1 – Ensure that all incoming K-12 students/families fully understand how to access and understand all technology resources associated with our cyber program.

- Strategy 1 – Explain all components of Titan Cyber Academy K-12 cyber technology
 - Action 1 – Brochure or Handout listing all resources and how to access and employ
 - Brochure pertains to K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12

- Action 2 – Meeting (Virtual/In-person) to walk-through resources
- Action 3 – Website video demonstrating all technology resources
 - Video designed for K-3, 4-6, 7-8, and 9-12

Goal #2 – Ensure that all incoming K-12 students/families understand the differences between online learning and traditional in-person learning.

- Strategy 1 – Demonstrate unique aspects of online learning
 - Action 1 – Student/Family testimonial videos of the ins and outs of online learning
 - Action 2 – FAQ’s page (online and print) for common questions that arise for the new student/family
 - Action 3 – List of Common Mistakes that the online learner makes (online and print)

Contact Information

District Administration

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