**Swanson Virtual Information Night – Rising 6th Grade Session Q & A**

**Question:** "What are the lunches like?"

**Answer:** We have hot lunch choices as well as a snack bar and cold choices

**Question:** Are there after hours extended day-like programs?

**Answer:** Hi Patrick, we have clubs and activities as well as sports offerings after school

**Question:** what is the main difference between Math 6 and pre-algebra?

**Answer:** Math 6 will cover the 6th grade Virginia math standards with extension opportunities available. Pre-Algebra covers the 6th grade Virginia standards along with a push into some 7th and 8th grade standards which is intertwined into the curriculum instead of as extension options

**Question:** What is the difference between Spanish and traditional Spanish?

**Answer:** The course options for Spanish are: Introduction to Spanish (no prior exposure to Spanish language), Transitional Spanish (students who have participated in FLES programs and/or prior exposure to the language) and Spanish for Fluent Speakers for 6th Grade (native Spanish language speaker or several years of FLES program participation)

**Question:** How do we determine which math to take?

**Answer:** Your 5th grade teacher will work to collect data to provide an informed placement recommendation. This information will be shared with you and your parents. Please take a moment to review the Mathematics presentation which will be posted on our website.

**Question:** why only one elective?

**Answer:** Students take 7 courses through the school day including reading and Health/PE.

**Question:** Can you have admiral wheel and band at the same time?

**Answer:** Unfortunately, because of the 6th grade schedule, you will need to choose either band or Admirals Wheel. Your other elective will be PE.

**Question:** Similar question - how do you know with reading - whether to take half/full or with language?

**Answer:** Students can choose to take either full year or half year. We ask that students who participate in half year reading are reading on grade level as students will not be exposed to the whole year reading curriculum

**Question:** When will the form be emailed to us for reading/language & elective selection? Thanks!

**Answer:** Information for course selection will come from elementary counselors.

**Question:** Does the student narrow down the options in admiral's wheel, or is signing up for the wheel just signing up for whatever is offered?

**Answer:** When students enroll in the wheel they will be exposed to multiple electives that are offered for shorter periods of time to see what may spark their interest for 7th and 8th grade

**Question:** Are there clubs? (Drama club, science club etc.) and are they after school?

**Answer:** Yes, Swanson offers many different clubs that are after school. You can find the list of the current offerings (subject to change each year) here: <https://swanson.apsva.us/swanson-clubs/>

**Question:** How many students are you expecting to be in the 6th grade class next year?

**Answer:** About 330 students

**Question:** How many students will be in each class?

**Answer:** Itdepends on the class but typically about 23-26 students. PE and electives may be a little more

**Question:** What is the difference between transitional Spanish and introductory Spanish?

**Answer:** The course options for Spanish are: Introduction to Spanish (no prior exposure to Spanish language), Transitional Spanish (students who have participated in FLES programs and/or prior exposure to the language) and Spanish for Fluent Speakers for 6th Grade (native Spanish language speaker or several years of FLES program participation)

**Question:** Is there an option for sixth graders who are advanced on their instruments other than beginner orchestra?

**Answer:** We will place 6th grade students in Beginning Orchestra. If families are interested in the Advanced Course please contact our Orchestra teacher, Tom Hartman and he will assess your student for the Advanced course.

**Question:** Can you do multiple clubs?

**Answer:** Of course! You will just have to check which days they meet and when you can attend each club

**Question:** Are clubs optional?

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** what does TAB stand for?

**Answer:** Teen Advisory Board- this group read and recommend books for our library to offer for our students

**Question:** is there an ultimate frisbee team?

**Answer:** Yes, in the beginning of the year. Be sure to be on the lookout for the information on the morning announcements

**Question:** What's the difference between a club and an Act 2 class?

**Answer:** Students can come and go from clubs however Act II classes require permission from parents. The Act II classes meet once a week, take attendance and students receive a grade.

**Question:** Do you have to do after school clubs?

**Answer:** No, these are optional

**Question:** How does Act 2 differ from ASP?

**Answer:** Act 2 happens during ASP 1

**Question:** Will there be any Coding or Technology Act II classes offered?

**Answer:** We will determine the elective teachers who will be teaching an Act II class. We may offer coding and/or Technology.

**Question:** What Teen Living means?

**Answer:** Teen Living is a course which supports students in healthy food preparation, sewing, beginning financial literacy. Pretty cool class!!

**Question:** what is the sisterhood club?

**Answer:** An afterschool group for girls focused on self-esteem and leadership

**Question:** Is swimming a club or a competitive team

**Answer:** Swanson's swim team is a competitive team and competes against other Arlington middle schools

**Question:** Are act 2 optional

**Answer:** Yes

**Question:** Are Act 2 in APS1? And once/week?

**Answer:** Yes, they are held once a week. It depends on the class, some are ASP 1 and some go into ASP 2. This information will be given before registering

**Question:** Do we expect there to be an Art for Act 2? I was told for my older daughter this was an option but it never actually existed while she was at Swanson.

**Answer:** Act II classes really depend on staffing and the ability for the teacher to teach a course outside of the school day.

**Question:** When do clubs start? i.e. second week of school or October

**Answer:** Activities fair is the second week of school. Typically, late September/early October. Keep an eye on announcements for more information.

**Question:** How with admiral be like? One-day drama? There other day art? And so on, or is it all in one day?

**Answer:** The courses will be for a set amount of time during the quarter, so you will have one class for a few weeks. After that, it will change to the next class in the wheel. The days will depend on an A or B day

**Question:** Can you please remind us what time school begins?

**Answer:** 7:50 AM.

**Question:** Will you have space for neighborhood transfers?

**Answer:** At this time, we do not have the space for transfer students.

**Question:** my child is currently receiving gifted services in elementary school - how does that translate in middle school?

**Answer:** We work to incorporate our gifted services into our curriculum. We also have a resource teacher for gifted and she will work with teachers to implement and develop those activities into the curriculum

**Question:** Are the students allowed to leave school premises to get lunch from outside?

**Answer:** No, students cannot leave campus

**Question:** We are homeschooling this year. How can we make sure our child is assessed for math?

**Answer:** We do provide an assessment opportunity in August prior to school start.

**Question:** What time does middle school start and end?

**Answer:** 7:50 am-2:24 pm

**Question:** Do you think school will be virtual next year or in-person?

**Answer:** Let’s hope for in-person!

**Question:** Will you all post these slides anywhere?

**Answer:** Yes, we will post this presentation on the Swanson website

**Question:** My child is scared to make new friends, is it easy to make friends there.

**Answer:** Students will have lots of opportunities to make friends in classes, lunch, electives, and during STAR. Clubs, sports, and after school activities are another great way to make friends at Swanson!

**Question:** how will new students find their way around?

**Answer:** We work REALLY hard to help students get acquainted with the building. Student classes are in general locations and staff are waiting to help!

**Question:** Can you explain a bit about how kids are assigned to STAR/homeroom? Do you seek feedback from elementary principals to cluster kids with at least a few friends or is it totally random?

**Answer:** STAR placement is random based on computer generation.

**Question:** What is earliest time students can arrive?

**Answer:** Our doors open at 7:20. Students are sent to locations based on grade level or to the cafeteria for breakfast

**Question:** How can I find out if my child is a walker or is eligible for bus service

**Answer:** This information is typically posted in ParentVue in late August

**Question:** You mentioned that Instructional Studies is for students with an IEP. Do students with a 504 also qualify?

**Answer:** No, only IEP students. can take Instructional Studies

**Question:** Is there morning Extended Day?

**Answer:** No, only after school extended day. We call Extended Day in middle school, Check-In.

**Question:** Does the whole 6th grade eat together?

**Answer:** Yes.

**Question:** Sorry if this was already covered, what is the homework expectation for 6th grade.

**Answer:** These guidelines will be set based on the course/teacher in the beginning of the year. You should expect to have homework within each class, but expectations may vary depending on the course.

**Question:** are the gifted services a "pull out" model?

**Answer:** Students who are identified as gifted in specific core area (English, math, science, social studies) are clustered together.

**Question:** When does the schedule form come in?

**Answer:** Elementary schools should receive it mid-February

**Question:** Will students be issued an iPad or other electronic device at Swanson?

**Answer:** Yes, all 6th grade student will be issued an iPad.

**Question:** Is there a maximum number of sports you can do and how and when do try outs happen?

**Answer:** You can play one sport per season, announcements will be made to let students know when try outs are.

**Question:** I'm not sure if my question showed up, how will I know whether my child is eligible for bus service?

**Answer:** This is posted in ParentVue in late August, typically. There you will be able to find the information for the walk zone or bus qualifications. This will come from the transportation department.

**Question:** Will there be any remedial work done for kids who may have fallen behind because of challenges with distance learning and not because of their ability?

**Answer:** Yes. We do interventions as we assess students using testing like math inventory or reading inventory. If we see gaps, we will work to focus on those concept areas and offer interventions that are intertwined in the instruction as much as possible.

**Question:** What kind of testing can we expect in MS?

**Answer:** Math and Reading Inventory testing at each grade level and the Virginia SOL

**Question:** Is there study hall?

**Answer:** No, we do not have study hall during the day however students who would like extra support in learning how to prioritize assignment and basic organization they can sign up for Core Plus

**Question:** will they have to wear masks

**Answer:** We are uncertain of future CDC guidelines

**Question:** Is there a fee for sports, clubs or act 2?

**Answer:** Right now, no, but it depends on budgets

**Question:** Will the kids get to learn about this programs and opportunities before school starts?

**Answer:** For Act II classes we post the permission slip the first week of school. There will be an Activities Fair within the first month of school.

**Question:** Where would you do swimming?

**Answer:** Swimming typically takes place at Washington Liberty High School's pool

**Question:** Are sports and clubs at the same time?

**Answer:** Some could have overlap depending on the sports season and time the club is being held after school.

**Question:** Is there a skating club?

**Answer:** You can see all clubs currently offered here: <https://swanson.apsva.us/swanson-clubs/> If it is not available and you'd like to start one, you can see if a sponsor is available at the start of the year.

**Question:** how will students get their iPad

**Answer:** There is a process for roll out in the beginning of the school year.

**Question:** Can my child attend school virtually?

**Answer:** We are uncertain what options will be available in the fall

**Question:** Do I need to enroll or register for middle school? I am in the zone for Swanson

**Answer:** No, if you are currently in an elementary school that feeds to Swanson your child's file will be sent to the middle school. You just need make sure that you complete the course request form.

**Question:** Are there opportunities for parents to be involved besides academic support with child at home?

**Answer:** We have our PTA which is a great opportunity to get involved with Swanson. We also have a volunteer liaison to help get parents more involved in what we do here at Swanson.

**Question:** Can you please give some info on what subject tests will take place and more info on testing?

**Answer:** Each grade level students are tested yearly on the SOL in math and reading. In 8th grade there is also science and world geography. Each content/subject area will depend on the course, it may not always be tests and depends on the course. There may be other opportunities to assess content knowledge in classes.

**Question:** Math and ELA instruction: are reading and math workshop teaching model? If so, how many years have teachers been implementing this model

**Answer:** We are in our third year of implementing math workshop at Swanson. ELA workshop looks different in each class, but use workshop strategies within their instruction.

**Question:** Does math inventory have an effect on which math you are in

**Answer:** That is only one data point. We review several data points in determining math placement for 6th grade.

**Question:** We are in an option elementary school now, I am assuming the file will automatically be sent to Swanson, as well?

**Answer:** If your address is in the Swanson boundary your student's information will be sent to Swanson.

**Question:** Will children be tested for gifted services again or does it come with the file from the 5th grade

**Answer:** It comes with the file from 5th grade

**Question:** Have all the faculty members received their covid vaccination? if not what's the current status on that?

**Answer:** We unfortunately do not have specific numbers of how many have been received from our staff at this time.

**Question:** Will there be assembly’s/plays? And if so, when/what days?

**Answer:** That will be determined during the school year.

**Question:** My daughter would like to know when she will get here PE uniform?

**Answer:** At the beginning of the year, the Health/PE teachers will sell the uniform

**Question:** I don't know if this question was asked but are electives mandatory?

**Answer:** every 6th grader must take one elective - either the admirals wheel or music

**Question:** Can 6th graders take a foreign language, other than Spanish?

**Answer:** Intro to Latin or Intro to French are also options