

Cantiague PTA

# PTA MEETING 5/8/23

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**8 May 2023 / 7:00PM / In Auditorium and streamed on Facebook Live**

## ATTENDEES

PTA Executive Committee, Dr.Sapienza, Central Office and Board of Education members, Mr. Gleason, Sara Ballute, 6th grade panel, parents (sign in sheet on file)

## AGENDA

PTA Updates- Jennifer Cohen

- Welcomed all in attendance
- Updates:
  - May 30th Class of 2016 Seniors will be welcomed back to Cantiague
  - Incoming Kindergarten Parents Orientation is May 11th
  - June 9th : Picnic Around The World and End of the Year Picnic
  - Amendment to the bylaws to increase the number of VPs on the Executive Committee to 7 from 6 are on memberhub to view. Vote will be at our final PTA meeting in June.
  - Slate was voted on for next year's Executive Committee. Passed unanimously

SEPTA updates- Marisa Amato

- May 22nd: There will be a parent panel of representatives of all grade levels through the district to talk about their family's journey with a child in special education. This will be at 10am in the Middle School library.
- May 31st: Cookies and Canvas under the tents at the Middle School. Art Honor Society members will be working with participants to create a painting.

Topic of discussion: "Transition into 6th Grade" led by Chad Gleason and Sara Ballute

Highlights of discussion:

Panel consisted of 4 former Cantiague students who are now in 6th grade. Various topics were discussed and questions answered from the audience.

Sixth Grade Schedule- what to expect

- 9 periods each day
- All week it is either a Day1 or Day2
- 2 teachers are assigned throughout the day for 2 periods
- Switching between classes
- Core 6-last period of the day used for community building, extra help, project based learning
- 1st bell is at 7:26 AM, lunch is at 10:27AM, last bell is at 2:03PM. 2:07 PM-3:30 PM is after school extra help. All 6th graders need to leave school by 3:30PM
- There are two schedule decisions to make- language and music.

Sixth grade classes are on the lower level and contained to "6th grade Hallway"

Schedules go out in August and there are JMS visits and Unity Day where kids can get familiar with the school. Parents are welcome to walk the schedule through the school to help their kid transition to the new building and ease anxiety about getting lost.

Nervous vs Excited- very similar physical responses, try to reframe the physical signs of fear to that of excitement.

Things 6th graders love about JMS:

- Mini Olympics
- OLWEUS kickoff
- Cupcake Wars
- Personal Best Awards
- Kid Led Learning
- Literacy Learners
- Diversity Day and food exchange

- Swag Store
- Spelling Bee, Geography Bee
- Author visits and Field Trips (United Skates)

Favorite Part of the Day:

- Lunch, sitting with friends
- Walking around to each classroom
- clubs

What's the biggest difference between elementary school and Middle School?

- How classes are spread out
- More freedom
- Vending machines
- Staying afterschool for clubs

What clubs are you involved in?

- Art, extra help, student council

How do you manage academics and activities?

- Extra help
- Study guides from teachers

What advice would you give your 5th grade self?

- Be yourself, be confident
- Don't be afraid there will be too much homework
- Don't worry about getting lost
- Don't worry about finding your bus- there are aides to help and they all have numbers

Do all 6th graders have cell phones?

- Your child does not need a phone in 6th grade. They will not be the only ones without one. There are phones throughout the building that your child can use if they need to call you.
- Cell Phone Policy- students must keep them off during instruction. They can use them at lunch.

- 60-75% of 6th graders have a cell phone.

Any other fears you had going into 6th grade?

- One student was afraid teachers would get mad if they were late to class. It turns out teachers are very understanding.
- One student was scared of getting lost. She then said after a week or two you figure out where you are going.

How much time do you spend on homework at night?

- About an hour, sometimes less. Roughly 10 minutes a class.

Besides lunch, what is your favorite class?

- Various responses were: Gym, math, math and art, all classes because the teachers make them interesting

What do you do in Core?

- Study packets
- Finish big projects

Are all textbooks digital?

- They are moving in that direction

When is gym class?

- Everyday in 6th grade, every other day in 7th and 8th grades, swimming is part of gym in 6th grade