

# KEARNS NETWORK

## K-5, 6-8

### GRADE RECONFIGURATION INFORMATION PACKET



Dear Kearns Network Parent,

The Kearns Network is currently studying the possibility of reconfiguring grades at the elementary and junior high levels. Under the proposal put forth by school community councils within the network, elementary schools would be reconfigured to a K-5 model and junior high schools would be reconfigured to a 6-8 model.

The concept for grade reconfiguration in the Kearns Network was brought forward as a means of expanding/enhancing academic opportunities for students. It is also intended to address decreased enrollment at the junior high school level.

An informational meeting was held last September to inform patrons about the reconfiguration process and answer other related questions from community members. Community councils in the network are now moving forward with a survey to gather feedback from the community to determine the level of support for reconfiguration. This survey will be administered by a third party vendor to ensure we receive accurate, unbiased data. Please review the information in this packet to familiarize yourself with the reconfiguration process and school visions for the Kearns Network. You may be contacted by the vendor in the coming days regarding your opinion on reconfiguration.

The district does not take a position on grade reconfiguration, but remains supportive if communities wish to study and implement a grade configuration adjustment.

If you have any questions about grade reconfiguration, please contact any member of your school community council or school administration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Martin Bates, Superintendent

# GRADE RECONFIGURATION PROCESS

The Granite Board of Education has empowered school community councils to initiate grade reconfigurations within school networks. This process may take anywhere from a few months to several years depending on scope and community interest.





# JEFFERSON JR HIGH SCHOOL

## Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

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Phone:  
385.646.5194

As the Kearns Network considers the reconfiguration of 6th grade students to Jefferson and Kearns Junior High, the Jefferson Junior High School's Community Council is undecided on the proposal. The council is interested in having the Kearns' network conduct a survey to indicate the community's interest and desires on this possible reconfiguration.

As the possibility of reconfiguration is considered, there are some exciting possibilities and opportunities that could occur at Jefferson to benefit the students. The addition of 6th grade students would allow the school three years to get to know the students and enhance their intellectual and developmental capacities as a junior high student. The comprehensive education offered at the school would allow the students to become their best self.

It is anticipated that with the 6th graders at Jefferson Jr the number of teachers (FTE) would need to increase to accommodate approximately 350 additional students. This FTE increase would allow the school to maintain and possibly increase elective course opportunities. Besides math, science, social studies, and English language arts instruction the average students takes 2-4 elective classes each semester as part of their educational experience in junior high. These classes include: Art, Physical Education, CTE, CCA, World Languages, Choir, Band, Orchestra, etc. In addition, accelerated classes are available for students which are taught by highly qualified teachers who have extensive, specialized training in their specific content.

The 6th graders would be given developmentally appropriate and responsive middle school support. Jefferson Junior has an advisory class each day to support students with the transition to junior high. This advisory class is the first class each day with a focus on tracking the student's academic growth, fostering a relationship with a caring adult, and improving the literacy ability of the students. All teachers work collaboratively to create the emotional safety and security similar to an elementary setting. The school also has two counselors available to support students as they transition through adolescence, encountering new social, emotional, and academic challenges.

All students at Jefferson junior have access to after-school programs such as MESA, core subject tutoring, art club, and intramural and competitive sports.

Jefferson junior is a great school with amazing students who strive to do and become their best self. As a school, we will strive to work with the elementary schools and community to create a school with wonderful opportunities and experiences for our students. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the community council members and/or the school principal for additional information.



# BACCHUS ELEMENTARY

## Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

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Phone:  
385.646.4762

As part of the Kearns Network, Bacchus Elementary is participating in discussions of realigning 6th grade students to a junior high school setting. Bacchus presently has 428 general education students in grades K-6. Reconfiguration will not affect or change the mission of the staff at Bacchus. We strive to be a school where all students grow and learn through purposeful, differentiated instruction, shared ownership of success and a belief that everyone is capable of learning at high levels. We work to provide a safe, caring, and kind environment each day at school.

We currently have two and one-half teachers in 6th grade. If the reconfiguration occurs, we would lose at least two teachers. Those educators would have the option of being re-assigned to another grade in the building or transferring to another setting.

As the Kearns Network considers the reconfiguration of the grade levels in elementary and junior high, the Bacchus Community Council realizes the importance of this decision and the impact the outcome will have on all our students. This is a challenging decision that deserves careful consideration as to what is best for all students. We look forward to the conversation and creating opportunities for all our students within the network.

Our Bacchus Community Council recognizes that there are concerns and potential challenges in reconfiguration. We look forward to working closely with all schools in the network, school community councils, parents, students, teachers, and district administration through this process in doing what is best for students. We believe that through careful discussion and participation of all stakeholders, the school community can make the best decision regarding grade level reconfiguration. Our school Community Council, PT A and school staff will continue to support and strengthen the high expectations and standards we have for student success.