

# 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

---

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.



## BEEHIVE ELEMENTARY

### Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

---

Phone:  
385.646.4768

Beehive Elementary has been a part of the Kearns network for 33 years! Over the past couple of months we have had many discussions with our Community Council and the Kearns Network concerning the 6th grade reconfiguration. Our council voted unanimously for the parent survey, in order to gain a better understanding on how the rest of the Kearns Network feels about a 6th grade reconfiguration.

Beehive currently houses 577 students. If sixth grade students are moved into the junior high, we would have approximately 477 students. A smaller student body would enhance the resources available for kindergarten through fifth grade students. This would provide additional leadership opportunities for our 5th grade students a little earlier. It would also create space inside the building to allow extended day kindergarten, which would benefit our community's need as well.

Beehive sixth-grade students would also benefit being in a junior high because it would give them more academic opportunities, extra-curricular activities, and support their development. Currently the 6th grade core curriculum is written to be used in a secondary school setting and connects more with the 7th and 8th curriculum. Sixth grade students will have additional supports in the junior high through having at least 2 administrators, 3-4 counselors, a social worker and psychologist versus one part time social worker and psychologist at Beehive for the 570+ students.

We feel that a 6th grade reconfiguration has the potential to have a positive impact on Beehive's students and community.