

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.





KEARNS JR HIGH SCHOOL

Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

Phone:
385.646.5204

Kearns Junior High School takes pride in our student-centered approach to ensure that every student grows academically. We are focused on providing quality instruction and providing strong classroom structure to ensure a safe, rigorous learning environment. Below are a few of our recognitions and accomplishments:

- Kearns Junior High School is nationally recognized as a “Schools to Watch” for our innovative and student-centered middle school interventions. We are the only Title I school in the state with this distinction.
- We have the top growth in the state in Language Arts and Science as measured by SAGE in comparison to the 20 schools most similar to KJH in Utah.
- We are among the highest reading growth as measured by Reading Inventory (RI) scores.

We are proud partners with several organizations, affording our students many opportunities they would not get at other schools:

- A United Way School, allowing us to better integrate and access supports for students and families.
- A GEAR UP school, providing students with added resources to prepare them for college.
- AVID, Providing supports and strategies to help students successfully improve academic skills and prepare for college.
- A Salt Lake County partnership in After School and Summer School programs that offer a variety of programs:
- Granite Education Foundation and the Utah Food Bank, providing a community school pantry and clothing closet on-site.

Our school offers various opportunities for socialization and enrichment for students, including:

- Well-structured and supervised activities,
- After school intramural sports,
- As well as competitive sport opportunities in: archery, basketball, cross-country, soccer, track and field, volleyball, and wrestling.
- Latinos in Action
- MESA
- Service-based learning clubs and opportunities to benefit their community.
- Reward activities, field trips, and recognition parties.
- Hosting community events, school tours, and cultural exchanges with other schools.

We believe that moving 6th grade students onto our campus would provide benefit to the students:

- Having core instruction taught by content-specialists will allow for more rigor and depth of knowledge than what students may experience while elementary students.
- Having students for three years allows our school to build more integrated elective programs, including Art, Choir, Band, Orchestra, Drama, and Foreign Language.
- Students are taught by caring staff members who are cognizant of the needs unique to middle school students.

Our building has the physical capacity, the caring staff, and the inclusive environment to welcome 6th graders onto our campus. We hope to see 6th graders at KJH soon!



FOX HILLS ELEMENTARY

Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

Phone:
385.646.4828

Fox Hills Elementary is proud to be a part of the Kearns network. Over the past two years we have had many discussions with our Community Council and the Kearns Network concerning the reconfiguration for 6th grade students.

Our council voted unanimously for the reconfiguration and recognizes the reconfiguration will be in the best interest for ALL of our students. Fox Hills currently houses 700 students. If 6th grade students are moved into the junior high, we would have approximately 600 students. A smaller student body would enhance the resources available for kindergarten through 5th grade students. It would also create space inside the building for three 3rd grade classes who are each currently located in a relocatable classroom. This would create a safer environment for students and faculty.

Fox Hills 6th grade students would also benefit being in a junior high because it would give them more academic opportunities and extra-curricular activities. Currently the 6th grade core curriculum is written to be used in a secondary school setting. This change will have an impact on our 6th grade ALC students who do not feed into Kearns Junior High School, our community council and the superintendent will work rigorously to ensure the needs of these students are met as well. The reconfiguration would also create a need for four 6th grade teachers to change their current position within the school or move to a different location.

Our school's mission statement is: "Fox Hills Elementary is dedicated to high academic achievement through the active engagement of our students, parents, and staff. Together we empower students to become creative, self-directed learners who respect themselves and others in a safe and caring environment." As a Community Council, we are confident this mission statement will continue to serve our kindergarten through 5th grade students. The 6th grade students will carry the values learned into their junior high school experience and throughout their lives.

With a reconfiguration, Fox Hills will continue to support the following vision:

- Sustain high expectations with a rich and rigorous curriculum
- Instill personal accountability
- Cultivate responsible and productive citizens
- Build a community of leaders
- Develop critical thinkers and problem solvers
- Create an inclusive and equitable environment

Our Fox Hills Community Council is excited and looks forward to the new changes a 6th grade reconfiguration could bring to enhance and invigorate learning environments at all levels.