Dear Olympus Network Parent,

The Olympus Network is currently studying the possibility of reconfiguring grades at the elementary, junior high, and high school levels. Under the proposal put forth by school community councils within the network, elementary schools would be reconfigured to a K-5 model, junior high schools would be reconfigured to a 6-8 model, and Olympus High School would become a 9-12 school.

The concept for grade reconfiguration in the Olympus 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.

The informational meeting is intended to inform patrons about the reconfiguration process and answer other related questions from community members. The next step in the reconfiguration process is for school community councils in the network to decide if they want to gather feedback from the community to determine if the community supports an adjustment. Please review the information in this packet to familiarize yourself with the reconfiguration process and school visions for the Olympus Network. Your input to your school community council determines the course of grade reconfiguration in the Olympus Network.

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. We encourage your participation.

Sincerely,
Dr. Martin Bates, Superintendent
The formal recommendation for grade reconfiguration is given to the board of education during the summer. If approved, grade reconfiguration is implemented one year later. This allows schools to prepare and make necessary adjustments.

This process may take anywhere from a few months to several years depending on scope and community interest.

Grade reconfiguration process

Informational meeting held upon request of simple majority of councils in a network

Formal request of simple majority of community councils in a network to gauge community support via third party survey

Notable community interest

Additional input

Formal recommendation from all affected schools community councils to reconfigure

Community discussion on survey results and other pertinent information

Approval and implementation

Board decision

Where we are

Updated by Granite Board of Education April, 2019
Over the past decade most high school networks in Granite School District have moved 9th grade into the high schools through a process that begins with interest at the school community council level and ends with community survey results being presented to the Board of Education, who approve the reconfiguration request. These reconfigurations were done for several reasons, including providing more elective choices, helping students better understand that 9th grade is the first year of high school and the impact of high school credits, increased opportunities for students to participate in athletics, and other reasons specific to the needs of each network. For example, the Skyline network is on a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 configuration in part to ensure enrollment numbers remain steady at every school. As of today six of the eight high schools in Granite serve grades 9-12, with only Olympus and Taylorsville serving grades 10-12.

ENROLLMENT
Olympus High School’s student enrollment has remained steady for the past several years, averaging around 1,560 students. This number includes about 300 students who attend Olympus on open enrollment permits, roughly half of which come from outside Granite School District. A 9–12 configuration at Olympus would place about 2,000 students in the building, which would likely mean the number of out-of-district permits would have to be limited.

JUNIOR HIGH DIFFERENCES
One of the reasons that Olympus High School is in favor of reconfiguration is based on the schedules of the two junior high schools in the network. Evergreen Junior High is on a 5x5 schedule and Olympus Junior High is on a seven-period day. This means students from Evergreen can come to Olympus High School with up to ten high school credits, while students from Olympus Junior High can come with a maximum of seven credits. By having the 9th grade at Olympus High School, students will have more curriculum offerings, all students will have greater access to the Granite Technical Institute, and all can participate high school athletics without having to leave a junior high campus. This access will help students be better prepared for college and career.

CLASSROOM SPACE
Current calculations estimate the number of additional rooms needed to house the increased student population at 13-14 rooms. Even with the increased student population, all students would be able to be housed within the current Olympus High School building.

OUR POSITION
Olympus High is in favor of reconfiguring the network to a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model to help keep numbers balanced in all Olympus network schools and provide students with elective choices. In addition, with Skyline and Cottonwood networks utilizing this same model, reconfiguration will allow better alignment among all networks.

9TH GRADE SUPPORTS
In order to help ninth grade students successfully integrate into Olympus High School there are several supports we can offer:

- Continue to offer Math Fundamental classes to Secondary Math 1, along with a Math Lab class, so that ninth-graders have math courses everyday on the block schedule
- Provide English Fundamentals and Reading classes for students that struggle in those areas
- Freshman Academy class and Honors Freshman Academy
- Provide mentoring to freshman from seniors and juniors
- Continue to offer before and after school tutoring through LAND Trust funding
- BHA and tracker to help with grades and attendance
- Titans Elevated - Positive Behavior Intervention and Supporters (PBIS)
- More access to electives and rigorous courses
Vision Statement for Grade Reconfiguration

For the past several years Evergreen Junior High School’s Community Council, PTSA, Administration, and Parents have discussed the positive and negative impacts of the reconfiguration of the Olympus High School Network. We have worked with parents and students as the high school has added new sophomore and freshman athletic teams that have provided additional opportunities for students in 9th grade to enjoy competition in the high school setting. This has been complicated since parents are forced to find their own transportation to and from the high school for these practices and games.

Additionally, students have had to navigate academic schedule issues between the two schools. To mitigate some of these issues, Evergreen implemented a 5x5 block schedule four years ago that allows 9th grade students to earn up to 10 credits. This schedule has allowed students flexibility to participate in high school activities and not get deficient on graduation credits. We can see that the strain on parents and students grows each year as UHSSA sanctions new sports and activities. We envision as many as 50 to 60 ninth graders needing to transport themselves to practices and games during the 2020-2021 school year. If the network decides to reconfigure, students in 9th grade will not have the transportation issues and will have more access to upper level courses, sports, clubs, and The Granite Technical Institute. As a School Community Council and PTSA, we feel it is time to get feedback from our community as to their desires whether to make these changes or not.

The issue of reconfiguration is very complicated for Evergreen. One third of our students are in the Spanish Dual Language Immersion program. Students in this program have two required courses at each grade level with the focus on taking and passing the AP Spanish Language and Culture test at the end of 9th grade. If the network desires to reconfigure, students in Dual Language Immersion will have less credit opportunities in 9th grade and be forced to take online courses to free up space in their schedule for desired electives such as choir, art, athletics, and GTL. Many of our DU students already choose to do this to maximize AP opportunities at Olympus High. Students in special programs are always forced to make hard choices. Many of our DU students elect not to take the Culture and Media course to free up space in their schedule. Evergreen also has a much more diverse population than the other east side junior high schools. Three years ago, one third of Evergreen’s student body was not on-time for graduation at the end of 9th grade. As a school, we have implemented Eagle Time, a program that allows students an opportunity to remediate grades and get access to teachers twice a week for 30 minutes during the school days as many of the students needing remediation take the bus. We now have less than 10% off line for graduation at the end of 9th grade and have had unprecedented growth on SAGE/RISE. Last year Evergreen had the highest secondary school grade in the Granite School District.

We are especially proud that we had the highest growth scores for our at-risk and English Language Learner student population in 2017-2018. We feel confident we could develop a schedule and supports for 6th grade that would have the same results.

As a Community Council and PTSA, we do not feel confident to say what the exact schedule or courses we will offer if we bring the 6th grade up to Evergreen and move the 9th graders to Olympus High at this time. We will do things the way we always do them. We will look at the data, parent and student wishes, course offerings including required courses, and sit down and create a bell and master schedule that will best serve students. We do feel confident that we can provide an amazing educational opportunity for all students regardless of grade level if the network desires to reconfigure. We feel adamant that our new schedule would provide opportunities for students to remediate grades and get access to teachers to help students master content. This concept aligns with our move toward Proficiency Based Grading and a focus on learning and mastering content rather than a focus on grades. Our current schedule and course offerings has served students well and the results are visible. It has been a three-year process to get to where we are now. We can and will do the same thing if the network desires to reconfigure.

Students first and always!

My Assistant Principal, Emily Grunig and myself will do everything right if we choose to reconfigure. We will work with our elementary school feeder school principals, community councils, parents and our elected groups to make sure we do not get off track with the vision and focus of making our school great! We will send out more specific information and hold specific town hall meetings at Evergreen Junior High if we decide to move the direction of a K-8, 6-8, 9-12 Olympus High School Network model.
As the Olympus Network considers the reconfiguration of the ninth grade to Olympus High and the sixth grade to Evergreen and Olympus Jr., there are some exciting possibilities and opportunities that could occur at Olympus Jr. to benefit all students. First, our ninth-graders would be housed at Olympus High School, where they would have access to a greater variety of academics, sports and technological opportunities that are not currently available on our campus. In addition, this change would eliminate the need for Olympus Jr. to support students working toward high school graduation requirements and therefore, the master schedule lends itself to better teacher teaming and cross-curricular instruction through a “middle school” model and philosophy.

It is envisioned that with the sixth grade at Olympus Jr., funding and the number of teachers (FTE) would remain consistent with current numbers, so that the school would maintain programs, rigor, and the current level of success for all seventh and eighth grade students. In addition, the adoption of a developmentally appropriate and responsive middle school model would provide these enhanced academic, arts and sports opportunities for sixth-graders. There are many benefits of the middle school model for sixth-graders. Currently, the transition from sixth to seventh grade is very abrupt; students must adapt from receiving instruction and assignments from 1-3 teachers a day to 7 teachers each day. This requires them to independently navigate within a system that includes lockers, state required classes, and 7 different grading and homework policies. It doesn't need to be this way.

In a middle school model, an Advisory teacher and a team of teachers would be established to help create the comfort and security of an elementary setting where teachers collaborate on cross-curricular instruction within their team. To help sixth grade teachers prepare high quality and appropriate instruction, teachers would receive a prep period every day during which the students would attend an elective class that will provide opportunities to stretch and grow. In addition, accelerated learning options would be available for students who need them in the middle school, taught by highly qualified teachers who have extended training in their content area. There are also three counselors available to support students as they transition through adolescence, encountering new social and behavioral challenges.

All students at Olympus Jr., including sixth-graders, would have access to after-school programs such as MESA, Debate, Chess Club, Future Cities, Math Lab and intramural/competitive sports (our hybrid intramural program with group play between schools with a playoff). Instrumental and vocal music programs offered during the school day will remain strong and viable, and students will have access to our outstanding theater and art programs. In addition, an intervention/enrichment program and tutoring through Advisory will be offered for all students.

It is important to note that if the reconfiguration plan does not include movement of the sixth grade to Olympus Jr., the current programs will suffer. With about 600 students, it would become very difficult to schedule and offer all current programs, having a potential negative impact on the seventh and eighth grade students. Moving the 6th grade into the middle school is key to maintaining the quality of education that is provided at Olympus Jr. for all students. With consistent enrollment, program offerings can remain constant.

Olympus Jr. is a school with a rich history of Bulldog tradition and excellence. As we, as a community, work together to create the best school with the best options and possibilities for our students, Olympus Jr. will continue to have that Bulldog tradition and excellence. If you have questions, please feel free to contact any of the community council members and/or the school principal for additional information.
Possible Impacts:

1. Movement and hiring of teachers/staff to Olympus High School and from Cottonwood, Crestview, and Driggs Elementary schools.
2. A sixth-grade schedule in a 7-period day would be 2 periods of Math 6, 2 periods of English Language Arts 6, 1 period of World History, 1 period of Science 6, and 1 period of a full year elective class or two semester elective classes.
3. Continued intramural program with an All-Star group play between schools with a playoff. Cross Country, Wrestling, and Track remain the same. The cheerleading program would be discontinued.
4. Some of the classes currently offered will no longer be offered as they are considered by the district and state as ninth-grade level classes. Some of these classes come with specific funding which could be lost.
5. Possible restructuring in traditional 6th, 7th, and 8th grade classes to add flexibility in scheduling for electives opportunities for students.
6. It is anticipated that some of the fine arts programs might suffer in maturity/quality as we lose the ninth-graders and build the capacity of the 6-8 graders.
7. Gifted and Talented will be tested during fifth grade.
As part of the Olympus Network, Cottonwood Elementary is currently considering realigning our 6th grade students to a middle school setting. Cottonwood Elementary presently houses 500 general education students, this number does not reflect our pre-school program. Reconfiguration will not affect the strong academic learning environment that exists at Cottonwood Elementary. The clubs, programs, and extra-curricular activities will continue as usual. Our school Community Council and PTA will continue to support and strengthen the high expectations and standards we have for student success.

With the sixth grade move to middle school, Cottonwood Elementary would lose three teachers. Those educators would have the option of being re-assigned to another grade in the building or transferring to the middle school. Teachers with elementary teaching licenses are qualified to teach first through eighth grades.

Reduced student numbers at Cottonwood Elementary would eliminate the need for two relocatable classrooms which currently sit on the playground. With this additional space we would have more blacktop space for students to play basketball, four-square, jump the rope, hop-scotch etc. Many of these activities were lost when we received the relocatable classrooms. We would be able to accommodate more availability for our PE program, library, and access to the art specialist. It would allow our 5th grade to step into school leadership roles a year sooner than is currently offered.

We believe that a reconfiguration of 6th grade to Olympus Jr. High School would have a positive impact on Cottonwood Elementary.
Crestview Elementary loves being a part of the Olympus Network. As an elementary school that feeds into Olympus Junior High and then Olympus High School, we support this wonderful network of schools, patrons, teachers, faculties, and most importantly, our students. Crestview Elementary currently serves 687 students in grades K-6.

We believe students, teachers, and parents share responsibility for student learning, building character and healthy self-esteem. All students have the opportunity to be successful. We expect them to be responsible for their actions and to accept the consequences of these actions.

We work to be positive and improve the self-esteem of all students, faculty and staff.

We strive to provide programs that ensure a high quality of education for all students.

We have high expectations for all students and remain sensitive to student individuality.

We strive to improve professional relationships between staff members and the community, whereby we may become a more effective team and better assure student success.

We work to ensure a safe and productive working and learning environment for all students and colleagues. We always strive to treat others as we would expect to be treated.

We will consistently do what is best for students.

As the Olympus Network considers the reconfiguration of the grade levels in elementary, junior high, and high school, Crestview realizes the importance of this conversation and the impact the outcome will have on all our students. We look forward to the conversation and creating opportunities for all our students within the network.

Our Crestview Community Council recognizes that there will be challenges of 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.
The discussions of reconfiguration in the Olympus network have been taking place for the past 3 years. This is a decision that should always be in the best interest of our students. Driggs is proud to be an elementary school in the Olympus network as well as the Skyline network. Our students feed into Olympus Junior High School as well as Churchill Junior High School. There is a great deal of history and tradition that is steeped into the strong academic past of our schools, and Driggs is proud to be a part of this wonderful community.

As a Driggs community, we look forward to open and honest discussions at each school level to make the best choice for all our students. Driggs has had advanced ELA and Math classes for our fifth and sixth grade students for a long time. At the Junior High level there is more diverse course work available for all our students in sixth grade as well as a variety of electives.

The reconfiguration of the Olympus network has the possibility of creating increased student learning opportunities and positive growth for all of our students. The reconfiguration would include moving sixth grade students to the junior high school and ninth grade students to the high school. Other networks in our areas, such as Skyline and Cottonwood networks are already seeing the benefits of the reconfiguration of grades in elementary, junior high, and high schools.

The benefits of moving the sixth grade students from Driggs to Olympus Junior High School and Churchill Junior High School include more diverse academic environments as well as increased extracurricular opportunities such as sports and clubs. Olympus Junior High and Churchill Junior High both maintain the same commitment to academic excellence as we do here at Howard R. Driggs Elementary School. If moved, sixth grade students would have further support in their academic, social-emotional, and physical growth.

The entire Howard R. Driggs community would dearly miss our sixth grade students and possibly some of our sixth grade teaching team. However, the remaining team of kindergarten through fifth grade teachers, staff, and administration would be able to concentrate further efforts on a narrowed age gap. This would allow time for further support through our teacher grade level teams, social worker, psychologist, and special education teams. This is a challenging decision, that truly considers what is best for every student here at Howard R. Driggs Elementary school. Howard R. Driggs Elementary truly believes that reconfiguration has the best interest of all students in mind.
Mill Creek Elementary appreciates the opportunity to be a part of the Olympus Network. As an elementary school that feeds into Evergreen Junior High and then Olympus High School, we support the traditions and excellence that are a part of this network. Starting in Preschool and Kindergarten, Mill Creek provides an academic program through sixth grade giving students the foundations needed to be successful in junior high and high schools.

As the Olympus Network considers the reconfiguration of the grade levels in elementary, junior high and high school, Mill Creek realizes the importance of this conversation and the impact the outcome will have on all of our students. We look forward to the conversation and creating opportunities for all of our students within the network.

The reconfiguration of the Olympus Network has the possibility of creating improved and positive opportunities for students. This reconfiguration would include moving sixth graders to junior high and ninth graders to Olympus High. The benefits of making these adjustments can be seen at other Granite School District networks including Skyline and Cottonwood networks.

The benefits of moving Mill Creek's sixth graders to Evergreen Junior High include enhanced academic opportunities as well as increased extracurricular activities such as sports and arts programs. Evergreen Jr. maintains the same high standards as Mill Creek so our sixth graders would be supported and encouraged in all areas including academics, social-emotional, and physical.

As a Dual Language Immersion school, moving sixth grade to Evergreen Junior would create additional opportunities for Spanish classes at the junior high level. The state model for DLI curriculum is built around a K-5th, 6th – 8th, 9th – 12th division. While it can be done successfully in our current design, reconfiguration would benefit the Dual Language Immersion program at both Mill Creek and Evergreen Junior.

While Mill Creek would miss the sixth grade students and our incredible sixth grade teaching team, the remaining students Kindergarten through Fifth grades would be afforded the opportunity to have additional adjunct support within their schedules (i.e. special education, social worker, school psychologist, etc.). Moving sixth grade students into a junior high would decrease the age span between kindergarteners and upper grade students allowing teachers and administration to focus on a more defined age group.

Mill Creek sees the challenges of reconfiguration, but believes all students would benefit from creating a K-5th grade elementary, 6th – 8th junior high and 9th – 12th Olympus High School.
As the Olympus Network considers the reconfiguration of ninth grade to Olympus High and the sixth grade to Evergreen Junior High, there are some exciting possibilities and opportunities that could occur at William Penn Elementary to benefit all students. William Penn is in favor of reconfiguring the network to a K-5, 6-8, 9-12 model. A K-5 model will benefit the students at William Penn and sixth graders who will experience a middle school model. Our sixth graders would have access to a greater variety of academics, sports, and extracurricular activities that are available at Evergreen Junior High.

Currently, our enrollment is 650 students. Having the 6th grade move to Evergreen Junior High, would provide more space in our building to accommodate smaller class sizes and open spaces for large group instruction and possible STEM labs. Currently, we are at capacity in our building, and having 100 less students in the building will allow us to envision more possibilities to meet the needs of our students.

All students at William Penn Elementary have access to our before school morning programs such as Chess Club, Band and Orchestra, Mad Science, Lego-League, and our arts programs. With our emphasis on the arts at William Penn, more students will have access to participating in our school wide play, school choir, and other arts programs sponsored by our Arts Booster Student Support Organization.

Possible Impacts:

1. Movement and hiring of teachers/staff to Evergreen Junior High.
2. Gifted and Talented would be tested during fifth grade.

William Penn Elementary has a history of excellence and tradition. As a community, we will continue to work together to ensure the best educational opportunities are being provided to 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.
Rosecrest Elementary is a thriving section of the Olympus Network. As an elementary school that feeds into Evergreen Junior High and then Olympus High School, Rosecrest loves and supports this wonderful network of schools, patrons, teachers, faculties, and most importantly, our students. Rosecrest Elementary currently serves about 450 students in grades PreK-6.

The Rosecrest School Community Council, faculty, and patrons have had many conversations surrounding the possibility of reconfiguring the grade structure in the Olympus Network. This potential plan would move the 9th grade from Evergreen Jr to Olympus High and the 6th grade from Rosecrest Elementary to Evergreen Jr. Rosecrest believes that we would continue to be a flourishing school with all the same wonderful academic learning, programs, and activities if the 6th grade were to move to the junior high level. We believe that Rosecrest students are ready for a more mature school environment by the time they reach 6th grade. Moving 6th grade students into the junior high setting would decrease the age span between kindergarten and upper grade students allowing teachers and administration to focus on a more defined age group.

The Rosecrest Elementary Community Council has voted to move forward and to formally request information regarding the reconfiguration of the Olympus network. We understand this step to include, but not be limited to, a public meeting and formal survey. A major factor is this decision was the desire to give the community a formal voice through a 3rd party survey. We believe that this is a major decision and that the community should be able to contribute and help make this decision.

Our vision looking to the future is to provide the students in our community access to an education that will provide them the tools needed to be successful throughout college, career, and their lives.