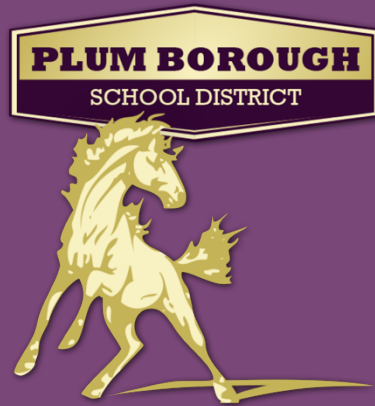


Grade Configuration

Updated April 12, 2016
Original Nov/Dec 2013



+ Literature / Research on
Grade Configurations



Resources

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Combs, H. J. (2008, July 25). Middle School Configuration. *Middle School Organizational Structure: A Summary of the Research*. Retrieved October 7, 2013, from <http://www.edulink.org/msconfig.htm>

+ “No Easy Answers”

“There are no easy answers to these questions nor is there any conclusive evidence that one grade configuration is better than another.”

Howley, C.

The Adolescent Learner



Information Provided by:
Kelly Gibson, School Psychologist
Dana Iera, School Psychologist

+ Adolescent *Biological* Development

- Puberty now occurs earlier.
- Hormonal changes lead to changes in appearance, self-image, reactions of others, and behavior (Steinberg, 2005).
- In 1910, the average age of puberty was about 12-14 years of age.
- As of 2008, most children reach puberty by 11 years of age and it appears to start about 4 months earlier every decade. (Combs, 2008)



Characteristics of Early Adolescents

(Combs, 2008)

- Desire for independence
- Growth in importance of the peer group
- Emotional and social maturation
- Search for values and norms
- Resentment of authority figures
- Fluctuation of emotions
- Development of self-concept

Area Grade Configurations



In reviewing the Pittsburgh Business Times top ranked school districts, the K-5 span is the most prevalent, representing 7 of the 14 schools. In regard to the middle level span, 7 districts employ a 6-8 span while 5 employ the 7-8 model.

Data from 2013



Area Grade Configurations

District	Grade Spans			
Upper St. Clair	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Mount Lebanon	K-5	6-8	9-12	
North Allegheny	K-5	6-8	9-10	11-12
Hampton	K-5	6-8	9-12	
South Fayette	K-2	3-5	6-8	9-12
Fox Chapel	K-5	6-8	9-12	
Peters	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12
Quaker Valley	K-5	6-8	9-12	
Franklin Regional	K-5	6-8	9-12	
Pine-Richland	K-3	4-6	7-8	9-12
Seneca Valley	K-4	5-6	9-10	11-12
Penn Trafford	K-5	6-8	9-12	
Bethel Park	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12
Norwin	K-4	5-6	7-8	9-12

Span	Number of Schools
K-2	1
K-3	2
K-4	4
K-5	7
K-6	0

+ 6th Grade at Elementary Schools

Pros

- No change from how it is now
- Opportunities for instructional support including more tier time
- Social skill instruction with elementary counselors
- Immature sixth graders have additional year of elementary

Cons

- Limited rotation options for 6th grade students
- Departmentalization
- Fewer Extracurricular Activities
- Hinders independence (lines, school rules for young students)
- Quick transition in/out of Jr. High doesn't allow students to identify with school

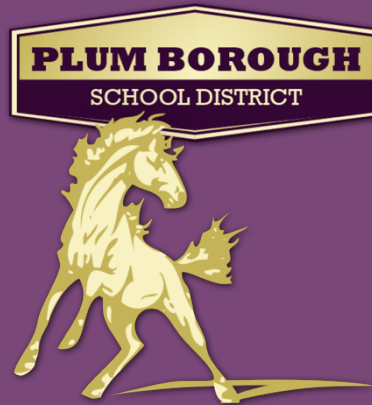
+ 6th Grade at Oblock

Pros

- Greater transition period (3 years vs. 2 years)
- More space at elementary schools
- Better fit developmentally
- Opportunity for specialization for teachers
- 5th graders have greater opportunities for leadership

Cons

- Requires a change by the district/community
- In some circumstances, an elementary environment might be beneficial for some students (social, instructional, etc.)



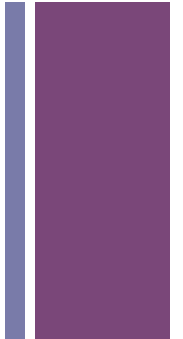
Enrollment Scenario

Note:

Information on the following slides are for the purpose of discussion. A comprehensive plan will need to be developed to ensure a smooth transition for any of the possible grade configuration scenarios.



Kindergarten Enrollment for 16-17



2016-17 As of April 1	2015-16 As of April 1
196	174

Draft

School	K-enrolled
Center	33
HP	63
Pivik	80
Regency	20
Total as of 4/1/16	196



Estimate 255-270

Current Enrollment 2015-16

Option: Move Regency to Center and Pivik
 For the purpose of this example: Everyone North of Unity
 Trestle Road goes to Pivik, South goes to Center

2015-16 Enrollment

	K	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL
Center	60	70	75	72	65	62	72			476
HP	80	83	101	92	105	77	111			649
Pivik	77	92	94	96	84	92	78			613
Regency	27	40	45	30	33	31	26			<u>232</u>
Oblock								306	291	597

Draft

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Oblock								306	291	597

Draft

Matriculated Enrollment K-5

As of April 1, 2016
Moving from 4 to 3 Elementary Schools

2016-17 Enrollment

	K*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	TOTAL Bldg.
Center	50	76	93	100	84	79				482*
HP	64	81	82	98	92	103				520*
Pivik	85	89	110	115	112	104				615*
Oblock							261	290	307	858
	199*	246	285	313	288	286				

* Not Final

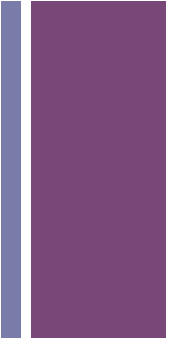
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Classrooms Differences

	This Year # Classrooms	K-5 Year # Classrooms
Center	21	21
Holiday Park	28	24
Pivik	28	27

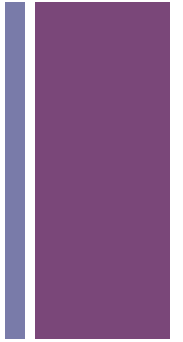
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[Link to Enrollment Spreadsheet by building](#)



Considerations



1. Academic Program Planning
2. Building Level Planning at Oblock (schedules, common spaces, etc.)
3. Sending Zones
4. Student & Parent Transition Planning
5. Transportation
6. Staffing
7. Professional Development
8. Economic Considerations
9. _____

Student / Teacher Teaming
Common Planning Time
Flexible Scheduling Options
Structured Academic Support
Expanded Academic Opportunities