6-12 Unified Campus Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: Why are we moving forward with this initiative?

A commitment to student success and responsible fiscal stewardship drives the merger. The unified 6–12 campus aims to achieve the following goals:

- Seamless Academic and Social Experience: Create a smoother, continuous educational path for students from grade 6 through high school graduation
- Strengthen Academic Pathways: Improve the alignment of curriculum and increase student access to advanced and accelerated programming currently housed at the high school
- Reduce Transitions and Increase Consistency: Establish a single, cohesive school culture and consistent set of expectations, reducing the disruption students currently face when moving from middle school to high school
- Improve Supports: Strengthen resources dedicated to ensuring college and career readiness for all students earlier in their educational journey
- Enhance Efficiency: Proactively address financial pressures and enrollment patterns by achieving greater efficiency in staffing, space utilization, and service delivery

Q: Will middle school students be in the same classes as high school students?

In very unique circumstances, advanced middle school students may be placed in a course with high school students with parental permission. Examples include World Language Level I, Advanced Music (Chorus, Band, Orchestra), or Advanced Math (Geometry, Algebra II), etc.

Q: If a high school student is performing on a middle school level, will that high school student be placed in a middle school level course?

No, high school students will be placed in classes that are credit-bearing towards high school graduation.

Q: Will high school and middle school students share the same lunchroom?

No, we will continue to use both cafeterias and separate students by grade bands. In most cases, Grades 6-8 will eat together, and Grades 9-12 will eat together.

Q: Will high school and middle school students share the same Health and Physical Education classes?

No, we will continue to utilize both gymnasiums. Middle school students will have gym together, and high school students will have gym together.

Q: Will there be shared classrooms between middle school and high school courses?

Yes, we will continue to share classrooms in “The Link”, the Library Media Center, World Language classrooms, the Multilingual Learner classroom, and the Auditorium.

Q: Will teachers be shared between the middle school and high school?

Yes, we will continue to share middle school and high school teachers as needed and dependent upon the teachers’ certifications. Current examples include Visual and Performing Arts, Career & Technical Education, Mathematics, English/Language Arts, World Languages, Social Studies/History, and English as a Second Language (ESL).

Q: Will there be opportunities for middle school students to visit/tour the secondary campus before their 6th-grade year?

Yes, we will continue to provide opportunities in the Spring for rising middle school students to tour the building.

Q: Will the bell schedule remain the same next year?

Yes, the start time, bell schedule, and end time will continue to be the same, with all students on the same schedule in grades 6-12.

Q: Will middle school students be permitted to play on high school sports teams?

No, high school sports begin in grade 9. Students are only permitted to participate in high school sports for a maximum of 8 semesters.

Q: Will the cell phone policy be the same for all students?

Yes, the cell phone policy will be consistent across the unified campus. New Jersey has enacted a new statewide law requiring all K-12 public schools to implement "bell-to-bell" phone-free policies starting in the 2026-2027 school year, prohibiting the use of cell phones and personal internet-connected devices during the school day. This initiative aims to reduce distractions, improve mental health, and boost student engagement. (link)

Q: When will any staffing changes be made public?

All staffing changes will be shared with staff members first and then with the public. As per N.J.S.A 18A:22-10, school budgets are presented in March and approved in April, with annual staff being approved in May per N.J.S.A. 18A:27-10.

Should you have additional questions or need further assistance, please feel free to contact, Dr. Dana Walker, Special Assistant School Improvement, dwalker1@collsk12.org.