

4th to 5th Grade Step Up Presentation for Parents

June 3, 2019

Kent Library

5th Grade Student Panel: Panel of current 5th graders to share the 5th grade experience:

Ben Vaughn
Jackie Tavernetti
Rohan Nagashetti
Evelyn Harper

Students spoke about what they like about 5th grade at Kent:

Evelyn: Multiple teaches in the day. Eureka math and doing projects that relate to what we are learning about. Book groups for historical fiction and fantasy fiction. Favorite project in science was making biodomes. In history we learned about the 8 acts leading up to the American Revolution.

Jackie: The best thing about being a 5th grader is how independent you get to be, and able to do so many different things at Kent. Homework is given for the week, and usually spend no more than 1 hour a night. Likes using the Kent agenda to keep organized.

Rohan: Likes taking Band/recess/lunch and all of the different clubs like game room and book club.

Ben: Having a 7 period day with different teachers for enrichments like PE, Band & Ms. Stephens classes. Likes the block days on Wednesday and Thursday,

Mr. Althouse asked the students, if they had to pick one thing as their favorite, what would it be? Field trips and biodomes.

Mr. Althouse asked what advice they would give to incoming 5th graders:

There is not as much homework as you might expect, and to not get nervous, after the 1st week things are so much easier. It's easy to find your way around the campus. Teachers were very helpful.

What about mixing with the older kids: The students explained about sharing lunch time with 6 graders, (5th & 6th grade eats together and 7th & 8th grade eats together at different times/different days). Mr. Gatti plays football on the field at lunch, called "Gatti games, like Schaefer games at Bacich). 6th grade classrooms are near 5th grade rooms, and share the playground with 6th grade. 7th and 8th graders have a different quad,(South Quad if for 5th & 6th grades, and North Quad is for 7th & 8th grades). So, there is not much interaction with the older kids. In PE sometimes activities will include 6th graders. 7th & 8th graders are not scary.

What do 5th graders do at recess: Play in the Back 50, south quad play area...Gatti games on the field. Can go to the library at lunch and play games, or come to read. 4 square and ball wall games in the south quad. The Back 50, due to parent donations, is being re-done this summer. Majority of kids play games and move around, which helps to get some energy out.

How often is homework assigned?: Monday - Thursday and *sometimes* over the weekend. 5th graders have weekly packets due on Friday, so it's all about time management.

Mike Martinez/Band Teacher: Reminded parents to fill out the survey that was sent from the KSD/Aeries Communication, to select a band instrument for next year. There is a new string class being offered too. If you can not find the email, please email Mike [@mmartinez@kentfieldschools.org](mailto:mmartinez@kentfieldschools.org) to let him know.

Warren Beales, 5th grade teacher & Summary of the 5th grade day:

The 5th grade model is currently five, 5th grade teachers, and the plan is the same for next year, with 2 pairs and 1 single teacher. There is a "Nest teacher" assigned to every student, which is like a homeroom. It's divided up with a Science/ Math teacher and a Language Arts/History teacher for 2 periods + Advisory and Opportunities. Afternoons they are with their enrichment teachers. No lockers - cubbies and hooks like Bacich. Nest class is 5th period, or a pull out class if needed, such as Extended Reading, Extended Math, Special Education, ELD, a type of intervention class. 5th graders have PE and music 2 days/week with 7th period being an enrichment wheel; ie: woodshop, makers, art, drama, or keyboarding for a 6 week rotation. 5th grade has block periods. 5th grade has "Opportunities" to help with time management, get extra help, or get ahead of assignments. Homework can be done in Opportunities class. Students can ask a teacher to come to them for Opportunities, or a teacher will sign or stamp their agenda, to initiate the student to come to Opportunities.

Heidi Longo, Counselor: Heidi let Parents know about the new student orientation on Thursday, August 29th at 9am. The WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) Leaders are trained 8th graders, to make 5th graders feel comfortable at Kent. The orientation day is lead by WEB leaders, where they will have fun learning about Kent.

There are 3 counselors at Kent. They will go into 5th grade classrooms to explain about counseling services and self advocacy. Students are shown how to fill out counseling slips in order to see a counselor. It's a positive way to seek support. Parents can reach out to counselors too. Counselors arrange ALL CALL meetings, if there is a need to bring all teachers together to help with a problem. Counseling is here to help with stress management, academic concerns, social emotional issues, friendship issues, family changes, and to help with communication at Kent. Parents may always reach out to a counselor. Next year, counselors will be covering the grades as such:

Corey Shaw and Diana Bokaie for 5th & 6th grade:
cshaw@kentfieldschools.org & dbokaie@kentfieldschools.org

Heidi Longo for 7th & 8th grade:
hlongo@kentfieldschools.org

Heidi and Grant reminded parents that this Friday, is Step Up Day for 4th graders, who will come to Kent to start with the transition into 5th grade.

Pere Wait: PTA president:

Pere let parents know that there are ways of volunteering at Kent. Please go their website @ KSPTA.org to volunteer, or there are flyers in the Kent office to fill out. One of the best ways to volunteer is to help with the Lunch Bar program. There are no visitor parking spots at Kent, so best to park at College of Marin across the street in the pay lots, or the lot next to the COM gym is free. Can always park during NON PICK UP/DROP OFF times, in the white zone. Please do not ever take a staff parking spot. You may also park next door at the District Office.

Lisa Sandberg's Helpful Hints:

If your child is going to be absent, call the Attendance Hot Line: 415-458-5972, or email Jeanne Sellers @ jsellers@kentfieldschools.org.

Look over the Kent Agenda with your child the first week of school to see the Student Handbook Go to the Kent website at kent.kentfieldschools.org, click on the DAILY BULLETIN to see what is happening each day at Kent

Read the Thursday afternoon Weekly Newsletter from the District.

Please drop off any forgotten items in the office. There is a bucket for lunches and a bucket for misc items. Do not ever go to the classroom.

Grant discussed cell phone use on campus. There is a 8:15am "Cell phone bell" that reminds students that all cell phones must be put away until 3:28. Grant has partnered with Pere and the PTA for "Wait till 8th", a program that supports not having a cell phone until 8th grade. Look for more information from the KSPTA on this topic.

Q&A:

When is there supervision on campus?

Supervision starts at 8:15, the library opens at 8. 0 period at 7:45. There is 0 period band and chorus.

When does Spanish start at Kent: Spanish starts in 7th grade. Viva el Espanol is offered for 5th & 6th graders starting September 24th, in the North Quad (room TBD), from 7:40am - 8:20am. There is a flyer in the Kent office for more information.

Are there Intake Conferences?

5th grade only for next year.

Is there Extra writing help?

Extended Reading does include a writing component, but the 5th grade Language Arts classes have a heavy writing component.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Grant Althouse @ galthouse@kentfieldschools.org.