



PRINCIPAL - P. FIGUERA

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Harbor Middle School at PS676 - Frequently Asked Questions:

- **When did PS 676 begin its middle school transition?** Our Middle School transition began in September 2022 when we welcomed our first 6th Grade students. Next year, our school will support grades 2-7.
- **How will the reconfiguration happen as you become a middle school?** Beginning in September 2022, we added one new middle school grade and no longer accepted Pre-K and Kindergarten students. We will add another middle school grade each year until we reach 8th Grade. As our current kindergarten class moves up each year, the grade they leave behind will be eliminated until we only have grades 6 to 8.
- **Will the students currently attending PS 676 be given priority to attend the Harbor Middle School?** Yes, they will. All existing PS 676 students will be guaranteed placement in the Harbor Middle School if they wish to attend, although they will be expected to complete a middle school application. However, we have a VERY small 5th grade class this year.
- **What Middle School curriculum will there be?** The Harbor Middle School uses approved digital standards-based core curriculum that will support the infusion of harbor studies. Currently, those curricula include Expeditionary Learning for ELA, Envisions for math, Passport for SS, and Amplify for science.
- **Will students take frequent trips? Will this interfere with standards based learning?** Trips and community visits are strongly encouraged, as they are an important part of the place-based and project-based learning process. Students will explore the



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harbor and other waterfront environments frequently to gain the experience they need as they apply what they learn in class to real life. This type of learning will actually support and enhance standards based learning.

- **Are the students currently being exposed to Harbor Studies?** Yes, we are currently infusing harbor studies in our existing curriculum for Pre-K through Grade 6, along with place-based, project-based learning opportunities.
- **What will a typical day look like?** A typical school day will consist of learning experiences that infuse harbor themes into standards based curriculum. Students will have exposure to hands-on projects and field trips that supplement our curriculum.
- **Are teachers experienced middle school teachers?** Yes, we hire content certified middle school staff. Many of our current teachers are already middle school certified. Teachers will also have community based expert support to infuse harbor themes into all aspects of learning.
- **What will the middle school programs be?** The elective programs will be harbor related, career oriented programs in addition to other middle school required programs such as core subjects, language, and physical education.
- **Will the middle school programs and curriculum be the same as what is currently offered to the elementary school students?** The program we are running now incorporates harbor, trips, electives, core curriculum, and physical education. We plan to keep the same programs and add the required middle school programs.



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- **Will you have an athletics program?** Yes, we plan to have swimming when we move into our new building in addition to the general middle school physical education program and after school programs.
- **Will you have an arts program?** We will provide STEAM and infuse art within the project based learning experiences. We will also offer a harbor art elective. We aim to give students a learning experience that they can apply to real world interactions. Currently, students are involved in projects that build our community, such as our work ensuring that our nearby footbridge is repaired and creating a mural that reflects the beauty and diversity of our community. We also provide arts experiences after school, such as a photography club and a theatre club.
- **What language programs will you offer?** We will offer Spanish as a foreign language.
- **Will you offer Regents classes in 8th Grade?** Once we have an 8th Grade in place we expect to provide Regents classes in Algebra 1 and science.
- **Will you offer SHSAT prep?** If there is a need and interest among students and parents once we have our 8th grade class in place, it will be considered.
- **What will the total middle school enrollment be?** The total number of students has yet to be determined by DOE enrollment.
- **Will the students be offered after-school programs that relate to their Harbor Studies?** Yes. We are currently offering after school programs with harbor infused activities and are planning to continue that next year as well.



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- **What will the facilities look like?** In our current location, the Harbor Middle School will include science labs, a STEAM room, a new auditorium, an aquarium, a media lab, and an announcement room. In our new building we will also have a swimming pool!
- **What year will the school move into the new building?** Our school will physically move to a new building on Delavan Street in a few years, once construction is complete. Parents are invited to join our design team and contribute ideas about what is important to their children when it comes to our new building.
- **What happens when the new building is complete?** All students and staff will move to that building at that time.
- **What will the class sizes be?** The class size for middle school caps at 30. We plan to support students through personalized learning and one on one support throughout their learning experiences as often as we can.
- **What are the hours of the school day?** Currently, our school day begins at 8:20 AM and ends at 2:40 PM. Our current after school program runs from 2:45 P.M. and ends at either 4:00 P.M., or 5:00 PM, depending on the program. Our after school partner programs are the YMCA and LeAp through DYCD, a federally funded program. We expect to extend after school to include more harbor based programs in the future.
- **Will the elementary and middle school be together or will they be two separate schools?** We will slowly reconfigure from an elementary school into a middle school, but until we have only Grades 6 to 8, all of our students will be together as one school.



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- **Will you have ICT classes?** Yes, currently all of our current classes are ICT and we will continue to have ICT classes in every grade.
- **Is your school appropriate for ASD students?** While we do not have plans at the moment for a formal ASD NEST program, we are planning to keep all of our classes as ICT classes and would be happy to speak with parents individually about their child's specific needs and how we can meet them.
- **How many seats will be reserved for 676 students and how many will be available for additional District 15 students?** All PS 676 5th Graders will have admissions priority if they choose to stay. Remaining open seats will be offered to District 15 students. Currently we do not know the exact number of seats that will be available, but we are advocating for as many seats as possible through conversations with enrollment.
- **Will the Harbor Middle School be a feeder school for the Harbor High School?** Harbor Middle School will not officially be a feeder school for the Harbor High School, however students will have prerequisite experiences that will help them to prepare for continued learning in the harbor field, giving them the skills they need to be prepared for success in higher education focused on harbor and maritime education.
- **Is the Middle School going to be an Urban Assembly School?** No. The Harbor Middle School will not be an Urban Assembly school.
- **What types of students would be most interested in this type of school?** We aspire to engage all students, not just students who already have an interest in harbor and



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marine studies. We will encourage curiosity and offer many opportunities to engage children through project-based learning and hands-on field trips that we believe will engage all learners.

- **Are there any plans for bus transportation to/from school for 6th graders?**

Transportation is provided for 6th graders per the District 15 Diversity Plan, however, the bussing can be delayed and often does not start right away in September. Typically, in this form of bussing, students are given “meeting points” where they can be picked up with a group of other students who live nearby.

- Of course, all students who have Special Education bussing on their IEPs will have bussing starting in September.
- We are also close to many forms of public transportation including the B61 and B57 buses and the F and G trains at Smith-9th Street. A pedestrian bridge over Hamilton Avenue, currently undergoing renovation but open to pedestrians, connects Red Hook and Carroll Gardens and is just a block away from our school.
- **Can I enroll my child in the elementary school to give them admissions priority for middle school?** All PS 676 students will receive admissions priority to our middle school once they reach 5th Grade. Parents may enroll their children in a lower grade in anticipation of continuing on to our middle school.
- **What are the dates for the parent coffees?** Parent coffees at PS 676 happen every Friday at 8:30AM in person in our schoolyard and at 9:00AM on zoom and they are a great way to meet school staff and other parents. Prospective parents are always welcome! Email our parent coordinator, Marie Hueston, with any questions:

mhueston@ps676bk.org



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- **What special programs do you offer ?** We offer a variety of programming, such as boating, hydroponics, coding, lunch clubs etc.
- **What modes of transportation are close to the school?** We have the option of taking the ferry which is a few blocks away from the school. There is also a footbridge that is located less than two blocks away from the school that leads into Carroll Gardens where there is bus and train service. There are also local citi bike rentals and the train station across the Hamilton Ave which allows accessibility to the train and local busses.