

Jefferson Township Public Schools
Grades 4-8
Restructuring Plan
2025-2026 School Year

Peggy Widgren, Principal
Board of Education Presentation
May 12, 2025





Stakeholder Feedback

Visit to Orange Avenue School Cranford, NJ

(Monday, November 25, 2024)

- Jeanne Howe, Superintendent
- Roger Jinks, Assistant Superintendent
- Kevin Lipton, JTHS Principal
- Peggy Widgren, JTMS Principal
- Emily Incledon, Grade 4 Stanlick
- Ralph Argondizzo, Grade 5 White Rock
- Sharon Thomas, Grade 8 ELA JTMS and JTEA Representative

What we learned:

- Use of facilities
- Managing two models (middle school and elementary school) under one roof
- Managing two different start times
- Master Schedule Development



Stakeholder Feedback

Facilities Walkthrough (Tuesday, December 3, 2024)

What we learned/discussed:

- Jeanne Howe, Superintendent
- Rita Giacchi, Business Administrator
- Roger Jinks, Assistant Superintendent
- Kevin Lipton, JTHS Principal
- Peggy Widgren, JTMS Principal
- Nicholas Serganese, Facilities Supervisor
- Jared Marquard, Facilities Assistant Supervisor
- Michelle Ziobro, Grade 4 Stanlick
- Lynn Scognamiglio, Grade 5 Stanlick
- Kim Holler, Special Education White Rock
- James Rowe, Grade 4 White Rock
- Kristin Scholz, Grade 5 White Rock
- Robert Tiedeman, Elementary Instrumental Music
- Sectioning of grade levels
- Utilization of Large Spaces
- Shared spaces for electives
- Media Center usage
- Playground equipment and space
- Suitable rooms and placement of Special Education classrooms and related services
- Furniture needs
- Grade level restroom allocation
- Pick-Up and Drop-off
- Bells and Announcements
- Hallway traffic
- Technology needs



Stakeholder Feedback

Scheduling and Programming

(Friday, January 3, 2025 and Tuesday, January 7, 2025)

- Peggy Widgren, JTMS Principal
- Josephine Ramirez, Supervisor of Student Personnel Services
- Emily Incledon, Grade 4 Stanlick
- Kristin Scholz, Grade 5 White Rock
- Kim Hollar, Grade 4 and 5 Special Education
- Rachel Decker, Grade 6 JTMS
- Alyssa Guagenti, Gateways and Special Education JTMS
- Danielle Haucke, Vocal Music JTMS
- Sharon Thomas, Grade 8 ELA JTMS

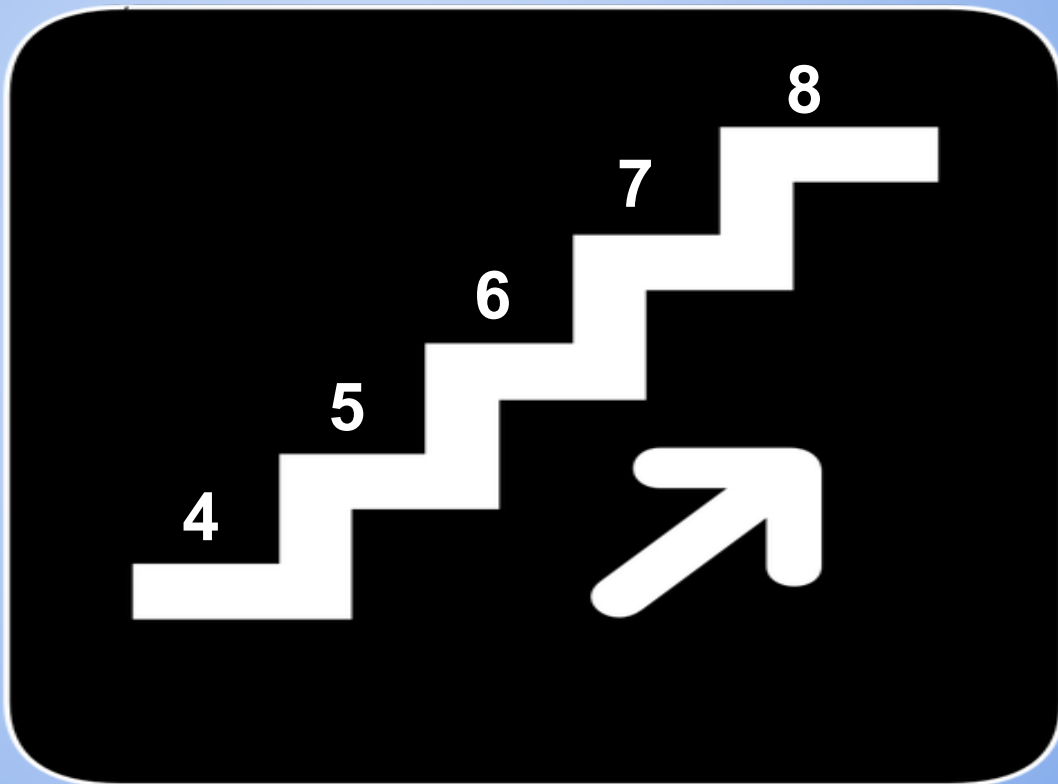
What we learned/discussed:

- A shared vision of a sequential education model that is responsive to the academic, social, emotional, and developmental needs of students in grades 4 through 8.

Our Vision

**Release of
Responsibility**

**Ease of Transitions
Purposeful
Meaningful
Sequential
Responsive
Readiness**





A map of the school was shared during the presentation which showed where each grade level will be located and what common spaces would be shared by all grades, such as the cafeteria.

- Grade 4 will be located in the C-wing of the building**
- Grades 5 & 6 will be located in the Upper B-wing**
- Grades 7 & 8 will be located in the Lower B-wing and the G-wing connector with the high school**

The map will be shared with parents at the August Orientation and Open House Meetings

School Day Times



	Grades 7 and 8	Grades 4 - 6
AM Staff Report	7:00 am	7:45 pm
AM Staff Duty	7:05 am	7:50 am
Parent Drop Off	7:05 am - 7:15 am	7:50 am - 8:00 am
Projected Bus Arrival Times	7:05 am - 7:15 am	7:50 am - 8:00 am
Homeroom Official Start	7:20 am	8:05 am
School Day Dismissal	2:00 pm	2:45 pm
Bus Pick Up Time	2:00 pm - 2:15 pm	2:45 pm - 3:00 pm
Parent Pick Up	2:00 pm	2:45 pm
Teacher End	2:15 pm	3:00 pm

Grades 4 and 5

Structure

41 Minute Academic
Blocks

Gr. 4 - 1 Teacher
Gr. 5 - 2 Teacher
Teams



Recess - 22 mins
W.I.N. - 30 mins
Lunch - 25 mins

Academics

Word Work
Readers' Workshop
Writers' Workshop
Math Skills
Math Workshop
Science
Social Studies



Curriculum and
Resources will
remain the same

Specials

1 Day per Week

- Music
- Art
- Spanish

2 Days per Week

- Physical
Education



Band
Chorus

Special Education

Pull-out resource
Math and ELA

ICR Science and
Social Studies

Self-Contained
combined gr 4-6



Exploring
Inclusion Model
in Grade 5

Grade 6

Structure

2 Academic Teams

- 6 Blue
- 6 Gold

4-Day Rotating
Schedule - Double
Period of Each Core
Class



Recess

W.I.N. - 33 mins

Lunch - 25 mins

Academics

Language Arts
Math
Science
Social Studies



Curriculum and
Resources will
remain the same

Specials

Related Arts Cycle:

- Art
- STEM
- Music
- Financial Lit.

9 Week Rotation

PE-4 days per week
Spanish-1 day per wk



Band
Chorus
During W.I.N.

Special Education

SCP - ELA and Math
ICR - All Core
Subjects

Self-Contained
combined gr 4-6



Will follow
Elementary Code
Requirements

Grades 7 and 8

Structure

De-Teamed
Departmentalized
Program

7 - 52 Minute Periods

1 - 25 Minute Lunch



Class Size
Increase

Academics

Language Arts

- Gr. 8 1 period
- Gr. 7 2 periods

Mathematics

Science

Social Studies

World Language Gr. 8



Curriculum and
Resources will
remain the same

Specials

Half Year Electives:

- Art
- Forensics
- STEM
- Robotics
- Computer Apps

Full Year:

- Band
- Chorus



Physical Education:
8th: Daily

7th: PE-4 days per week
Spanish-1 day per wk

Special Education

SCP Math and ELA

ICR - ELA, Math,
Science and Social
Studies



Self-Contained
Combined
Grades 7&8

Jefferson Township Parent Organization

Thank you to the leadership:

Milton Tri-School PTA:

- Kim Heiner, President
- Kelly Redling, Vice President

Jefferson Consolidated PTA:

- Sharon Forrester, President
- Angie Abbassi, Vice President

**Jefferson Township Education
Foundation**

- Jordana VanWolde, President
- Tracy Fitzsimmons, VP (MS/HS)
- Arlene Coleman. Past VP MS



Transition/Next Steps



3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade Student Visits

- June 6, 2025 - During the School Day
 - Q/A with our student leaders
 - Tour of the School

Parent Orientation Meeting

- August 19, 2025
 - 6:00 - 7:00 7th and 8th Grade
 - 7:30 - 8:30 4th thru 6th Grade

Summer Orientation (Open House)

- August 21, 2025
 - 9:00-10:30 Grades 4 through 6
 - 11:00-12:00 Grades 7 and 8