

**LAKE SHORE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Study of A 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Move to the Middle School**  
**Q&A FACT SHEET**

There have been many questions about the District's study of a possible move of 5<sup>th</sup> grades to the Middle School in School Year 2024-25. We appreciate the questions because they allow us insight into concerns that must be addressed as the study moves forward.

**Are we looking at closing a building?**

*NO, the goal is to alleviate space problems at the elementary level. Closing a building would not solve that problem. Moving the 5<sup>th</sup> grades to the Middle School is emerging as the most cost-effective solution with the least impact on the educational program. No decision has been made except to study this option.*

**How would this move affect services and safety?**

*Two Parent Committees are being formed so we can discuss what specific concerns there may be and how they would be addressed.*

**Are all of the current 5th grade teachers and classes being brought to the Middle School or would this move just be a way to combine classes (which would mean larger class sizes)?**

*Class sizes would be balanced, and the average class size would not increase.*

**Would 5th graders be kept completely separate from the upper grades?**

*Yes.*

**Would 5th graders have to share restrooms with 7th and 8th graders?**

*No.*

**How would this move affect staffing? Wouldn't the extra grade require more administrators, guidance counselors, nurses, etc?**

*The Middle School can hold 900 students. At its maximum capacity during the baby boom years, staff was able to handle that student load. Right now, the Middle School is underused. Although committee feedback may identify a need for another counselor, there is actually more support staff than in the past. Today we have Native American Support and a social worker at the school, and an assistant principal position (vs a Teacher On Special Assignment).*

**How would the existing spaces for lunch, physical education, and assemblies operate with an entire other grade in the school?**

*This will be discussed and shared as a result of committee meetings. There is plenty of space in the cafeteria and auditorium to accommodate another grade level.*

**Would the Middle School day still start at the current time, which is earlier than the elementary day?**

*It is projected that they would run the same schedule so we could maximize staffing.*

**Would fifth graders ride the bus with 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders?**

*Yes.*

**Has redistricting at the elementary level been considered as another option to solve space issues?**

*Yes, and it is still an option for consideration. Whether it would solve the issue of needing space is uncertain. Redistributing students among the different elementary schools moves the students around, but it does not provide more space.*

**If larger numbers of elementary classes are the issue, won't those larger numbers become an issue at the Middle School in a few years?**

*It is not class size that is a concern. It is spacing. All rooms in all of our elementary buildings are being used. There is not ample space for special sessions with families, Special Education Committee meetings, breakout rooms for specialized instruction, testing accommodations, and the other specific activities that take place outside the regular classroom.*

*There is ample room at the Middle School to accommodate Academic Intervention Services and other intervention groups, as well as testing accommodations for all 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders during state exams.*

**When was the number for building capacity at the Middle School established?**

*School building capacity calculations are completed by the NYS Education Department each time a building project is completed. The current pupil capacity for the Middle School is 1,315 which is well above the building's current enrollment.*

**Has it been considered that this group of students, who will be 5th graders next year, have already lost a good portion of the elementary experience?**

**Kindergarten was shut down during the COVID pandemic, and they had only a hybrid experience for 1<sup>st</sup> grade.**

*Yes, it has been considered and is still being considered.*

**When can I give my input on this study?**

*A survey will be coming out shortly, and two Parent Committees are being convened to begin meeting in October. Please watch for announcements on how to participate – and we hope you will participate. Our goal is to gather input and information to make the best possible decision for kids.*