

**Communication Merit Badge (requirement 3):
Five Minute Speech (to present at Student Government Meeting/Peer Leaders) -
HKMS Spirit Day (or extended Advisory) for Incoming 5th Graders**

I would like to propose a spirit day (or extended Advisory) for incoming 5th grade students visiting Helen Keller in June. Every year, the Samuel Staples fifth grade class visits Helen Keller to see what the school looks like on the inside and where their future classes and lockers will be. It can be a fun and stressful experience as students are filled with all kinds of emotions. I remember my first visit. I was happy to be at Keller, sad to leave Staples, nervous about the workload and locker situation, and worried about my future in middle school in academic and social ways. I'm sure many 5th grade students feel the same way and more. It's our job as student leaders in Student Government and Peer Leaders to put these students at ease. That is why I suggest we have a school wide spirit day (or extended Advisory)! Students and staff can wear Keller clothing and school colors. This will show the incoming fifth graders that our school works together and is fun. I also suggest that we continue to play music in the hallways during transition time to make them feel welcome. Each homeroom can decorate their doors and Advisory groups can put up posters in the hallways showing that we all work together here and that they will fit in just fine like I did and my classmates this year.

We could give a survey to the fifth grade class ahead of time asking about their interests and worries so that we can address them before they arrive in some way and make them feel better about coming. We can also give each student a raffle ticket and raffle off Keller clothing for them. I'm sure the PTO would donate those things. I think that would be fun for everyone. 6th Graders in the student government like homeroom reps and peer leaders can work as tour guides for the students and teachers too. Kids definitely like to learn from other kids because we relate to one another. Helen Keller students can also share quotes and give advice to incoming fifth graders in their slideshow presentation that they share at SSES or they can be read on the loudspeaker here at HKMS. This can be our way to give back to students so that they can learn from our struggles. I know this would have helped me last year.

Helen Keller Middle School is a great place to learn and the incoming fifth grade class needs to know this. They will learn by us showing them, telling facts, giving advice, and seeing it first hand. I also think an assembly with the teacher band would be encouraging and motivating for them to see. We can also give them a demonstration about chromebooks and how important it is to check their google classrooms everyday and turn in assignments on time by keeping an agenda planner. Time management is one of the biggest differences between elementary and middle school. We can help them prepare for this and we don't want to see any students fail.

I believe that having a school wide HKMS Spirit Day (or extended Advisory) led by the Student Government and Peer Leaders would help the incoming fifth grade class to be prepared for middle school and enjoy their experience before they begin. They need to feel happy about this change from elementary to middle school in order to do well and feel confident to ask friends and teachers for help if they are struggling. They also need to know that if they let their troubles

pile up it will only get worse and there are people around to help. HKMS is the best. Let's help the incoming fifth grade class to realize this!