

Hello all,

Here is a compiled list of the questions from today that our 6th grade parent community asked. If you have a question not answered below, you can always fill out the google form with your question and I'll add it to the list, time permitting.

Q: Do we need **school supplies** for first day or we should wait for the teachers lists? Will students be told what items to bring to class in their backpack? Or should I put some things together for day 1? My daughter would like to know what does she needs to Bring to school on the first day?

A: No, you don't need any school supplies for the first day of school. Definitely wait for teacher lists for suggested supplies. I would suggest a backpack (to store any information we give them) with maybe a pencil and paper, just in case they want to take any notes (they won't need to though).

Q: Is there information online about **school lunch**? Can money be put into an account for hot lunch like elementary school? Is there hot lunch? I did try to look at UMS website first :) Thank you!!

A: Thank you for checking the UMS Website first. It's actually on the USD website (<https://www.unionsd.org/>) on the right side of the front page. That link will take you to USD Food Service page where you can do everything just like food service was handled in elementary school. And yes, there is hot lunch and also brunch items (for brunch time!)

Q: What are the best extra curricula (e.g. **school clubs**) at UMS to prepare my child who is interested in science and technology? I understand there are a few options, but we would like to know which for the best use of time and efforts.

A: As previously shared, please pay attention to the daily announcements for club info. Additionally, I'll be sending home some information in mid to late September on various clubs. This was also covered at the 5th grade Parent Night - You can review those slides [here](#) - your question is partially answered on Slide 42.

Q: How do the **Advanced Math** entry and pathways work?

A: A short summary is covered on the slides from 5th grade parent night (again linked [here](#)), specifically slides 44-45. Don't forget - we retest all of our 6th graders during week 1 and yes, some students will move from Math 6 to Math 6+ and some Math 6+ students will move to Math 6. We contact parents via email by 8/20 with this information if your student qualified for a switch to Math 6+.

Q: Hi! Could you please tell me where **homeroom** is? Is it just first period?

A: Homeroom is 1st period for all grades. No worries.

Q: Today there was a person that would **sell back up books** at our house.(6 in total) He is a Exchange student and works for southwesternadvantage. Does my 6th grade daughter needs these books for her homework and to prepare herself for tests at school?? What would you do?

A: This is a scam. You do not need to purchase these items. Avoid.

Q: Does she have to bring her **shoes for P.E.** This upcoming Wednesday? And how long does each class take? First she has language arts and then soc sci will follow. From 8:30 till And when is **recess**?

A: While students will take the first 2-3 days of PE to get their uniforms, learn the in's and out's of the locker room and getting to their number, students are expected to have tennis shoes for every single day of PE. They should be ok without them for day 1 or day 2, but they should have them thereafter each day.

The bell schedule is on our [website](#).

Q: The schedule that I picked up is for one day, does that mean she will have the **same schedule** everyday?

A: Yes. We don't give the students a new schedule every day. They have the same one for the first nine weeks. At that point, if they are in the elective wheel, their elective will change. Their academic and PE classes won't change all year. I can't imagine the chaos that would occur if we gave the kids a new schedule every day. I can barely follow the current 1-6 schedule. :)

Q: What is the protocol for **bicycle parking**?

A: As shared at the 6th grade parent orientation, students are expected to walk their bike on campus at all times. They must have a helmet -- and that helmet must be strapped on if they have their hands/feet on a bike at any point. We have bike cages and bike racks toward the Safeway end of campus. Students need to walk their bike to and from the bike cages. Yes, I'm saying that twice. We lock the bike cage at 9 am and we lock the gate to get into the bike area at that time as well. Always lock up your bike. Always.

Q: Why are **skateboards and scooters** not allowed on campus?

A: Students who ride skateboards and scooters often do not wear a helmet, are harder to see when traveling to and from school, do not have any secure location to lock them up during the school day, and will often ride them on campus before and after school. For all of these reasons (and probably a few more), we do not permit skateboards and scooters as a mode of transportation to and from UMS. These items will be confiscated and only returned to a parent. The student will receive a Friday School (3pm-5pm detention on Friday) as a consequence.

Q: Did something bad happen at **Safeway**, is that why it's not recommended for drop offs and pick ups?

A: Regarding Safeway, there are a few students from each grade level as well as students from the high school who hang out at the Safeway shopping center after school. There is no supervision at this time. These students sometimes/often make bad choices during these hours spent after school at the Safeway shopping center. I have nothing against Safeway nor Starbucks. I visit these stores often. However, given that some parents allow their children to hang out unsupervised from 3pm to 6pm each afternoon at Safeway and that these students' choices at the shopping center eventually prompt my involvement, it is my recommendation that parents just find alternate supervision arrangements for their child.

Q: Will **parents will be allowed on campus** to help our kids get to their class? My daughter has concerns because she doesn't know where her classroom is for her first class. Thank you!

A: While parents are welcome to escort their student on campus the first day of school, I would **strongly** recommend against it. Middle school is a great time to give your child a chance to grow on their own. Instead, perhaps check out the school map (available on our website [here](#)) and map out a pathway for your student. They will be ok. Promise.

Q: **Combo locks** can we use our own? My son has tons of locks

A: Sadly, we need to be able to access every student's lock with our master key. Thus, the lock used must be a school-purchased lock. You are welcome to use a former sibling's lock, as long as it was issued by UMS. If we see a lock that is not school purchased, we cut it off. :(

Q: My child was assigned to **Writer's workshop/Math intervention**, if they do well, will they be able to have any of the actual electives or will they have this for the whole school year?

A: Based on a variety of data, some students are placed into intervention classes as their elective. These classes are quarter long and we re-evaluate each quarter what students are eligible to graduate out to the elective wheel. If they work hard, they'll graduate with ease.

Q: Can the **parents pick up the items** that were purchased on UMS website? Do the need to use their lock on their locker the first day?

A: As previously shared, items will be distributed to the students in their classes over the first few days/weeks of school. Students are not assigned school lockers until 2-3 weeks into the school year. We distribute lockers based on first period and we need to handle any schedule changes first before assigning lockers. For PE however, students will receive their purchased PE lock during the first week of school from their PE teacher during PE.

Q: Do **band students** bring their instrument the first day of school? For those who walk/bike to school, would they be able to leave it there Mo-Th? Thanks!

A: This is a good question. You stumped me. I'm going to ask Mr. Kay and add the answer to this question by Wednesday. Also, as an aside, Mr. Kay (kayc@unionsd.org) handles everything music related. He's the guru there. I'm tone deaf. **UPDATE:** Mr. Kay shared that Beginning Band Players (Band I) won't need their instruments for at least a week, maybe longer. Intermediate 6th grade Band Players don't need an instrument on the 1st day but will most likely need the instrument on Thursday. Mr. Kay will provide more information on the first day of school directly to your student.

Q: Would the **back gate** be open to get to school at the first day of school?

A: All external UMS gates, including the back gate by the brand new, beautiful, glorious track, will be open by 7:15 am and closed at sundown during school days. The gates that lead to our campus quad are often closed after students leave from sports practice / homework center / etc.

Q: Since **Wednesday is an early dismissal day**, do 6th graders have PE as the last period? If so, do they need to bring **extra clothes for PE**?

A: The bell schedule is linked above. Once students have PE activity, they will need to change into their PE clothes daily and then change back into the "normal" clothes after PE. Students should not be wearing their PE clothes to, from, or during school.

Q: New 6th graders will be instructed how to log in, using **powerschool**, checking assignments, etc?

A: Your student will receive a few pieces of paper on the first day of school, one of which is your PowerSchool information log-in sheet. If you have questions **after** Wednesday, contact Janette Adams (adamsj@unionsd.org) for assistance.

Q: What are the UMS **office hours**?

A: Our office is open at 7:30 am every morning and closes at 4 pm each day.

Q: Can **parents come inside classrooms** on the first day of school?

A: Sorry, this is a disruption of school activities. Parents should be off campus during the school day. You're welcome to stop by for lunch (sign in at the main office, bring an extra slice of pizza for me) during the school year, but we can't have any disruption to our instructional minutes. This includes parents visiting classrooms, even on the first day of school. As shared above, middle school is a great time to give your soon-to-be teenager a bit more space and allow them to grow into their future self. We have back to school night on Thursday, August 23rd. Parents are able to visit the classrooms that evening.

Q: We missed Web day and am unavailable all day Monday/Tuesday to stop by the UMS office. Can I **send another family member or friend to pick up my student's schedule**? Thank you!

A: As long as the person you're sending is on the emergency contact list, sure.

Q: My (student) missed the orientation last week. Without disturbing teachers, can we **walk around campus on Monday or Tuesday** to see where the classes are?

A: The campus is CLOSED Monday and Tuesday until 3:10 pm. If you would like to stop by and see the campus after teacher work hours on Monday or Tuesday, you should be able to do so. However, some teachers will still be on campus. It will be very tempting to interrupt their work as they prepare for the start of school on Wednesday. I do ask that you give our staff space during these times. Please do not enter the classrooms. Thanks for your understand.

Q: Is there a **campus map available**, or someone that can help the new students on the first day of school find their classrooms? We have room numbers, but don't know where the rooms are located on campus.

A: Answered above... There is a school map on our website. Easy to locate. And yes, there are staff members and web leaders out all day during the first few days of school to help your students find their classrooms. This is a soft transition for our 6th graders with the first three days of the school year being a Smart Start period. It's going to be ok.

Q: Are there any **food allergy restrictions** for snacks and lunches?

A: Nope.

Q: Is there still a program or lesson for children which **English is not their first language** but their second? Thank you.

A: For students who are English Language Learners, we have a intensive ELA program that quickly catches them up to speed. We've had great results and these students have quickly graduated through the program.

Q: My daughter wishes to **change their 6th grade elective** to/from band to/from the elective wheel. Would this be possible? Thanks!

A: As shared at 6th grade orientation last Thursday, we have schedule change request forms in the main office that you can pick up, fill out, and then leave for our admin team.

Q: My question is about after school. Does the **homework center** start the first week? Also the after school programs offered would they be updated on the website as well so we can register or do they start later? I see the permission slip for homework center is for previous year.

A: As shared at the 6th grade parent orientation, homework center does not start until mid september. The permission is not updated yet because we are not ready to accept permission slips. It will be updated prior to the first day of homework center. Ditto for the other programs as well. You have plenty of time. There is no rush. Let's savor the first few days of the middle school year and then worry about stuff down the road.

Q: You mentioned about **Homework help in the library** starting in mid September. Is that for the whole school year or just sporadic periods? If so, how many 'tutors' are there? and what are the procedures if my daughter needs help on her homework? Does she need to sign up a few days in advance? If it is a first come first served basis, how can we ensure that every student who goes there for help actually get the help on that day itself? Also, what is the duration of the homework help session and which days? Thank you.

A: Thanks for remembering that we discussed Homework Center at the 6th grade parent meeting! Most of your questions can be found on the UMS website [here](#). It starts in mid-september and lasts until mid-late May. Every M/T/Th. Sometimes there are 2 tutors, sometimes more. There is one credentialed teacher throughout. If a student needs help on homework, they ask a tutor. You need a permission slip on file. You don't sign up; it is drop in. In the history of homework center, we haven't had to turn anyone away due to space issues. It's usually full the first three weeks that it's open and then settles down to 30-40 students thereafter. As a reminder, Homework Center is not after school care, babysitting, or group project time. Students are expected to work quietly on academic topics. Students will be asked to leave if they are disruptive or not following the rules.

Q: My student says his **PE** is "PE 6/7" while his friends got "PE 6". Could you tell me what the difference is?

A: PE 6 is just 6th graders. PE 6/7 is mostly 6th graders with a few scattered 7th graders. PE 7/8 is 7th and 8th graders.

Q: What does the **section #** mean on the schedule? Also, I didn't realize we needed to buy **locks** from the school. On the web store, it shows a combo master lock so I went to Target and bought my own! The locks from the school has a key or will they be combination locks?

A: Ignore the section number. And yes, per the summer mailing and presentations, locks need to be school-issued. Our locks are combination locks with a key in the back of the lock that allow UMS personnel to open the lock in emergencies without hunting down the combination.

Q: May I ask you where to register for **math AMC8** ?

A: Per clubs, see above please. Regarding registering your own student for the AMC8, that's a good question and not something we're going to be able to help you with. Unless it is part of a UMS Math Club here, we are not affiliated with individual students taking the AMC8.

Q: We filled the **change request form** (switch from band to elective wheel). When do we know the result? And what course and session is his first elective course? Since Wednesday will be his first day. Thanks!

A: If we are able to make a schedule change for your student, you will see the change in PowerSchool (if you already have access) or from communication from our front office. If you don't hear from us, it means that we likely were unable to make the change. Regarding your student's elective, it's the non math/english/social studies/science/pe class that's listed on their schedule. Example: Art.

Q:?

A: !