

- **How will families find out their bus route and times?**

The communication of bus routes will occur in the same fashion as it has been communicated in the past. On a date later in the summer, the APS system web site will have an “address look-up” link located on the transportation web page. This link will provide your bus route number as well as pick-up and drop-off times. The system web site will have all necessary information for buses to both Sutton campuses.

- **Will both campuses offer students all connections courses (those other than core courses) on a daily basis?**

Yes. Connections courses and World Language courses will be offered on both campuses. To be clear, this includes Physical Education, Health, Band, Orchestra, Chorus, Guitar, Drama, Dance, Visual Arts, Computer Science, Spanish, and French.

- **How will after-school programs work at each campus?**

After-school offerings will be provided as always. Some after-school opportunities will be offered on both campuses and some will combine all grade level students and meet only on the Northside Drive campus. Any student involved in an official after-school activity that meets on the Northside Drive campus only will be provided transportation to that campus on the first run buses from the Powers Ferry campus in the afternoon. Parents will pick up those students from the Northside Drive campus at the end of their activity.

- **How will sports offerings work at each campus?**

All current APS and Sutton student athletics team opportunities will continue next school year. All athletic practices and home events will take place in the sports venues located on the Northside Drive campus. Students who are in-season will be provided transportation on the first run buses from the Powers Ferry campus to the Northside Drive campus.

- **How will students club offerings work at each campus?**

Student club opportunities will exist on both campuses.

- **How will the campus changes affect students attending L'Amistad and Agape?**

At this time, it is too early to confirm transportation details for these two after-school programs. Both programs intend to continue to serve all Sutton MS students who desire to join. The programs will confirm transportation details at a later date.

- **Will the campus split affect the IB program?**

No. Sutton Middle School, while serving students on two campuses, is still one school. The school itself will continue to operate within the guidelines of the International Baccalaureate program.

- **Will there be any interaction between 6th graders and the 7th and 8th graders?**

As we work on our “one school” focus, opportunities for student interaction will develop. There will be events where students from both campuses will be invited to gather together. Those will be planned as the year starts and committees begin to develop those plans.

- How will the two campuses be staffed: teachers, support staff, and administration?**
 Staffing will occur based on protocols developed by the APS Human Resources Department. This is not the first time an APS school in this cluster has split to two campuses. There are protocols that exist and HR will evaluate and update protocols where necessary. We anticipate that faculty and staff assignments will be announced early in the spring semester.
- Will there be a Celebration of Learning at both campuses?**
 Yes. We will hold a Celebration of Learning event at both locations before the first day of school each year. That event will be advertised on the school web site and well as in the summer letter home to all families.
- Will this decision affect class size?**
 The teacher funding formula will be consistent across all middle schools and the teacher to student ratio will be funded for the entire school, regardless of the campus split. However, the opening of the new campus does open up available classroom space in both buildings. This available space on both campuses allows for program growth where needed to individualize for our students.
- How will we work to maintain a “one school” feeling while at two campuses?**
 While we know that this move will bring positives for both campuses, we will maintain a spirit of “one Sutton Middle School” through various means. We will have one Sutton MS Local School Council. We will have one Sutton MS PTA. We will have one Sutton MS administrative team. We will continue to gather students together for concerts, sports, and other selected events. Other opportunities for coming together will develop as we open the new campus and work together vertically.
- What transition events are planned to ensure an effective and smooth transition this fall?**
 Public meetings for parents will be advertised in spring semester 2015 – we will aim for late January meetings at this point, when we will have enough firm answers to share in a meeting setting. All school web sites in our cluster will contain a link on the front page entitled “Sutton Campus Changes.” That link will be a public, living document of all most-recent information on the changes for both Sutton campuses. The normal spring registration and scheduling meetings will still occur at all of our schools, and the standard “home mailing” confirming all student schedules will happen as normal. This process runs from February through May.

A “Celebration of Learning” event will be held on both campuses in the week prior to the start of school. The campus will be open for touring by current students and their parents at that time.
- How will students receive class schedules?**
 Just as we always do, students will complete the scheduling process through their current teachers at their current schools. Course verifications will come home in hard copy to parents after spring break. Student schedules will be distributed to students before they leave for summer break in May. The on-line parent portal will show class schedules once activated later in the summer. Schedules will be available again in hard copy at the Celebration of Learning.
- What is Sutton teacher feedback regarding this decision?**
 Sutton MS faculty and staff are supportive of the Board decision. All involved will make this move result in positive changes for students on both campuses.

- **We're told that a 6th grade academy is a best practice. What data or school systems support this? And do the benefits outweigh the costs and complexities for staff, parents and staff in trying to coordinate two campuses that are several miles apart?**

The rationale for this move is to provide needed classroom space and provide current programs to more students through increased availability of that classroom space. We are opening more classrooms on a second campus for the existing Sutton Middle School. We are not embarking on a brand new delivery model of an "academy" as some research tracks.

- **Does anything need to be done to the Powers Ferry campus to get it ready for 6th grade?**

The campus has been used as an operating school for the 18 months since Sutton MS moved out and E. Rivers ES moved in, so the building will continue to be ready for operation as we move in. APS and Sutton MS personnel will inspect and address any needs prior to occupying the building. Any needed maintenance and cleaning will be completed prior to occupancy.

- **Will the Powers Ferry Campus be available for tours, and if so, when?**

The campus will receive care and cleaning after the E. Rivers E.S. students and faculty leave over this winter break. While we would love to promise earlier tours, the cleaning and maintenance for the Sutton move-in must take first priority. If the building is ready for tours during the late summer, that will be considered and advertised. The only tours we are able to confirm at this time are the tours made available to all enrolled students and their parents at the Celebration of Learning event held during the week prior to the start of school in fall 2015.

- **Will teachers need help packing/unpacking supplies? If so, when and how can parents volunteer to help?**

The school system has an established protocol to make such moves happen effectively and smoothly through APS employees. If volunteers are needed for move assistance, that request will be advertised through this web site at a later date in the summer.