

CONNECTIONS

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS TRANSITIONING FROM GRADE 6 TO GRADE 7

What is the Connections Program?

The Connections program is a series of free activity sessions for sixth grade students entering the seventh grade at the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. The program consists of three activity sessions each lasting two hours in length, which provide students with exposure to the setting and adults they will be working with next year. Each session is broken down into three thirty-five minute activities which include a tour, locker demonstration, a discussion about the seventh grade schedule, organizational skills for middle school, and an introduction to using Google applications on a Google Chromebook.

How will it be helpful to my child?

The activities within the Connections program will provide an additional layer of transition support on top of existing sixth grade transition visits. Participating students will have substantial exposure to the layout of the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School facility and the opportunity to meet one or more of the teachers they will encounter during the 2015 – 2016 academic year. In addition to developing positive relationships, students will be exposed to using Google applications with Chromebooks, the web-based laptop computers that they will be using as seventh graders. Students will also receive more in-depth knowledge about the seventh grade schedule and tips for a productive year than they might from the traditional transition program on its own.

Who will be involved?

Connections program activities will be run by next year's seventh grade teachers and counselors, as well as familiar staff from their sending schools, including the Petersham Center School, the Dexter Park School, and the Swift River School.

WHY?

The transition from grade six to grade seven presents students with both excitement about the possibilities for the future, apprehension about a new building and adults, and mixed feelings about leaving the comfort zone of their sending school.

The Connections program aims to increase students' comfort levels, engagement, and level of ownership in their learning by providing opportunities to preview the experience and become more familiar with the building and staff.

WHEN?

Dates:

Monday, August 24th
10:00 – 12:00

Thursday, August 27th
3:00 – 5:00