



MAHTOMEDI
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Update on Sixth and Ninth Grade Transition Day

9/14/2026

Experience Excellence



Past Board Action: Calendar Change

Monday, August 31, 2026

- School Day for sixth grade and ninth grade.
- No School for (Grades 7,8,10, 11, and 12)



Today: Update on Transition Day

- Attendance
- Overview of Students' Day
- Feedback from the Staff
- Feedback from Families
- Feedback from Students
- Growth Areas



Attendance



MMS Attendance

**256 Out of 256 6th-grade
students attended**

**46 WEB Leaders-8th
Graders**



MHS Attendance

Two student absences for all
students in ninth grade. (Vacation
and illness)

**288 out of 290 9th-grade students
attended**

60 Link Leaders present
(Class of 2028 and 2027)

Overview of Students' Day

MMS Schedule 8/31/26

Time	Activity
7:45 am	Arrival (music, photo booth, teachers greeting, and breakfast station)
8:00 am	Assembly & School Tours
10:00 am	Middle School Success classrooms (team building, locker practice, interpreting schedules, setting up binders)
11:35 am	Lunch (Eat and ensure all students have Lunch pins)
12:20 pm	A Day Schedule Walk Through (Hour 1-7) 15 minutes per class (practiced logging into Chromebooks, setting up planners, technology expectations, and hallway and bathroom expectations)
2:30	Dismissal (know bus number, where parent pick up is located)



MHS Schedule 8/31/26

Time	Activity
7:45 am	Drop-off / arrival
8:05 am	Welcome Link Crew Assembly
8:30am	Small group sessions with Link Crew Leaders and School Tours
10:am-2pm	Schedule (Adjusted P1-7) Lunch
2:05-2:35 pm	Pepfest



Feedback from Staff

40 Mahtomedi Middle School staff responses

44 Mahtomedi High School staff responses

Survey was emailed to staff

Middle School Staff Survey

Strengths	Practicing lockers, navigating the building, running through the class schedule (locate classrooms, meet teachers, and practice passing time), sixth grade only (reduced pressure, more individual attention), additional staff support, welcoming activities, and WEB support.
Suggestions for Improvement	Increased time in Middle School Success to do binder organization, tighten schedule of WEB time with clearer expectations, and examine breakfast offering (only 9 students participated)
Comparison to Past	Most noted the day was better than the past. <i>Fewer students needed locker assistance Tuesday morning, students knew where their classes were, transitions were smoother, and sixth graders appeared more relaxed and confident.</i>
Additional Feedback	Staff repeatedly praised the collaborative effort, planning, administrative preparation, and supportive environment. Several specifically connected the Soft Start to what they observed afterward: fewer tears, fewer locker problems, smoother transitions, and greater student confidence.

High School Staff Survey

Strengths	A lower-stress transition to high school, time to learn the building and practice schedules, individualized attention and connection, Link crew and positive school culture, and noticed 9th graders navigating more confidently once 10-12 arrived.
Suggestions for Improvement	Evaluate the class period schedule for mixed-grade courses, improve arrival and welcome logistics, refine technology logistics, fine tune Pep Fest and Link Crew activities.
Comparison to Past	Nearly every staff selected “better.”
Additional Feedback	Staff viewed the model as highly beneficial for students and worth continuing.

Feedback from Families

80 sixth-grade family responses

70 ninth-grade family responses

Survey was emailed to families the first week of school.

Sixth-Grade Family Survey	All Sixth-Grade Families	New to District Sixth-Grade Families
Agreed/strongly agreed Transition Day helped child have a successful first week	100%	100%
Child knew where to go and what to do by the end of the first day.	93%	95%
Child knew who to ask for help.	93%	100%
Child felt welcomed by school staff.	96%	100%
Child felt welcomed by student leaders.	88%	100%
Received clear communication about the new start date.	95%	95%
Helped their child feel more confident returning for the rest of the week.	98%	100%
Would recommend the transition model for future sixth- and ninth-grade students.	98%	100%

Ninth-Grade Family Survey	All Ninth-Grade Families	New to District Ninth-Grade Families
Agreed/strongly agreed Transition Day helped child have a successful first week	93%	89%
Child knew where to go and what to do by the end of the first day.	94%	94%
Child knew who to ask for help.	89%	83%
Child felt welcomed by school staff.	97%	100%
Child felt welcomed by student leaders.	94%	94%
Received clear communication about the new start date.	95%	100%
Helped their child feel more confident returning for the rest of the week.	91%	94%
Would recommend the transition model for future sixth- and ninth-grade students.	94%	94%

Feedback from Students

244 sixth-grade student responses

248 ninth-grade student responses

Survey was emailed to students the first week of school. Students were given time to complete the survey during Middle School Success and Advisory

Sixth-Grade Student Survey	All Sixth-Grade Students	New to District Sixth-Grade Students
Agreed/strongly agreed Transition Day helped them have a successful first week	94%	93%
Knew where to go and what to do by the end of the first day.	90%	93%
Knew who to ask for help.	89%	93%
Felt welcomed by school staff.	97%	100%
Felt welcomed by student leaders.	94%	97%
Received clear communication about the new start date.	86%	93%
Said the day helped them feel more confident returning for the rest of the week.	93%	89%
Would recommend the transition model for future sixth- and ninth-grade students.	93%	97%

Ninth-Grade Student Survey	All Ninth-Grade Students	New to District Ninth-Grade Students
Agreed/strongly agreed Transition Day helped them have a successful first week	91%	91%
Knew where to go and what to do by the end of the first day.	90%	88%
Knew who to ask for help.	90%	91%
Felt welcomed by school staff.	98%	97%
Felt welcomed by student leaders.	94%	88%
Received clear communication about the new start date.	90%	91%
Said the day helped them feel more confident returning for the rest of the week.	87%	82%
Would recommend the transition model for future sixth- and ninth-grade students.	90%	94%

Areas of Growth



Opportunities for Growth

- Increased support for new-to-district students
- Reduce repetition of activities done at open house
- Increased communication to students and families about what to expect
- Some students enjoyed the amount of ice breaker/get to know you activities and some would like less
- For sixth grade: locker issues (incorrect combinations, locks that didn't work, more locker practice needed)



Feedback for District Leaders & School Board when evaluating this calendar change

Feedback for District Leaders and School Board

- **Strong support for continuing the Transition Day model.**
- Across all surveys, Transition Day helped students feel more confident, prepared, welcomed, and supported as they transitioned into middle and high school.
- New-to-district families emphasized the value for students entering an unfamiliar school system.

