

**Proposal for Adding Grade 5  
to Daisy Ingraham Elementary School**  
BOE Discussion and Community Input

Westbrook Board of Education Special Meeting  
Tuesday, December 6, 2022

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools?

## Academic Priorities

- Increasing instructional time and improving instructional practices in reading, math, and science in grades PreK-5
- Rethinking team model and elementary cohort approaches in Grades 3-8 to provide highest quality learning experiences that are also developmentally appropriate (Grade 4/5 Team vs Grade 5/6 Team)
- Improving intervention and enrichment model and services PreK-5 in reading and mathematics
- Expanding and coordinating STREAM experiences PreK-5
- College and Career Pathways Grades 6-12 and Student Success Plans Grades 6-12
- Building and strengthening our program offerings for students to support and encourage their personal growth and learning

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools? (continued)

## Academic Programs and Resources

- Core area instructional programs in math (*Bridges*) and reading (*Readers' Workshop*) are K-5 programs and require 80-90 minutes of instruction daily.
- Science program (*Foss*) is a predominantly elementary program and requires more instructional time than we currently allocate.
- Grade 6 programs and textbooks are secondary level focused and require a different schedule and are better aligned as part of Grades 6-8. Grade 6 is a transition year to grades 7 and 8.
- In Grade 6, instructional time in Unified Arts should increase in preparation for greater choice, secondary content, and pathways exploration.
- Unified Arts, Music, Spanish, French, PE/Health, Robotics/Tech Ed staffing will be shared with WHS- Grades 6-8 will travel more and more to the high school for some of these courses due to enrollment trends and staffing.
- WMS and WHS schedules need to align moving forward. Grade 5 needs a different schedule from Grades 6-12 to meet their academic and social/emotional needs.

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools?

## Social and Emotional Priorities and Support

- PreK-12 priority
- Social and Emotional program (Second Step) is built into Daisy schedule and is a PreK-5 program. At Daisy, grade 5 would participate in Second Step program
- At the middle school, Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) instruction is delivered in a variety of ways. WMS promotes SEL in conjunction with the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) priorities to promote valued SEL and PoG skills and attributes through:
  - School-Wide Reads
  - Logic Block
  - Discovery Projects
  - Restorative Practices
- Grade 5 at WMS would continue to participate in this grade 5-8 model.
- Social and emotional needs and support will be continue to be available in all three schools

Considerations: Staffing levels at all three schools to ensure appropriate support level for all students.

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools? (continued)

## Enrollment Trends (NESDEC)

	2017-2018 (actual)	2018-2019 (actual)	2019-2020 (actual)	2020-2021 (actual)	2021-2022 (actual)	2022-2023 (actual)	2023-2024 (projected)	2024-2025 (projected)	2025-2026 (projected)	2026-2027 (projected)
<b>PreK</b>	24	37	47	48	44	39	39	40	40	41
<b>K-4</b>	213	211	208	223	202	215	205	222	216	222
<b>5-8</b>	236	211	185	168	172	159	162	160	152	162
<b>9-12</b>	250	232	221	205	212	199	174	159	159	150
<b>PreK-12</b>	723	691	661	644	630	612	580	581	567	575

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools? (continued)

## Enrollment Trends, Restructuring and Shared Staffing



Westbrook Public Schools  
Westbrook, CT

2022-23 Enrollment Projection Report

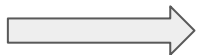
Projected Enrollment in Grade Combinations*									
Year	K-4	PK-4	PK-K	K-8	5-8	PK-8	5-12	7-12	9-12
2022-23	215	254	89	374	159	413	358	278	199
2023-24	205	244	76	367	162	406	336	261	174
2024-25	222	262	94	382	160	422	319	239	159
2025-26	216	256	78	368	152	408	311	234	159
2026-27	222	263	89	384	162	425	312	230	150
2027-28	216	257	85	381	165	422	319	231	154
2028-29	223	265	86	388	165	430	319	236	154
2029-30	215	257	88	390	175	432	319	232	144
2030-31	221	264	87	392	171	435	325	237	154
2031-32	218	261	88	387	169	430	324	242	155
2032-33	219	263	89	395	176	439	332	244	156

# Why are we considering a grade level reconfiguration at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and Westbrook Middle Schools? (continued)



## Future Budget Considerations and Planning

**budget slide  
last year**



As enrollment projections for grades 5-12 continue to indicate a declining trend until 2025-2026, we will need to be strategic, flexible, and creative with staffing and staffing changes to continue to support programs of excellence for all students in Westbrook Public Schools while being fiscally responsive to community expectations in an environment of declining enrollment in our schools.

Over the next several years, we will transition from four grade level teams at Westbrook Middle School to two teams (grades 5/6 and grade 7/8). This transition will allow us to be appropriately responsive to lower enrollment levels in the middle school; maintain high quality programs and course offerings; maintain intervention and support services; and support an effective and high quality middle school model grades 5-8.

We will also improve schedule alignment in grades 7-12 we will be able to utilize shared staffing to continue to support and grow teaching and learning initiatives, including our commitment to college readiness and career pathways. We will evaluate course offerings, secondary staffing levels, and program improvements through the lens of college readiness, career pathways, equity, and access.

# Recent Survey

## School Community Input



# Initial Survey Results- Snapshot of Respondents

- 169 responses
- 62.7% (106) of respondents identified as a parent/guardian of a child currently enrolled at Daisy
- 34.9% (59) of respondents identified as a parent/guardian of a child currently enrolled at WMS and/or WHS
- 17.8% (30) of respondents identified as a staff member at Daisy
- 8.9% (15) of respondents identified as a staff member at WMS
- 29 respondents have a Grade 3 student at Daisy
- 35 respondents have a Grade 4 student at Daisy

# **Survey Question:** What are your thoughts, questions, and perspective on adding grade 5 to Daisy Ingraham Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year (current grade 3 students)? (169 responses)

<b>106 Daisy parents</b>	(next slide)
<b>24 WMS parents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 16 expressed support for moving Grade 5 to Daisy</li><li>● 4 communicated that WMS was a better model for grade 5</li><li>● 4 wanted more information (model, staffing, space, activities)</li></ul>
<b>21 Daisy staff members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 11 expressed support for moving Grade 5 to Daisy</li><li>● 4 communicated that WMS was a better model for grade 5</li><li>● 6 wanted more information (model, staffing, space, activities)</li></ul>
<b>11 WMS or WHS staff members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 4 expressed support for moving Grade 5 to Daisy</li><li>● 3 communicated that WMS was a better model for grade 5</li><li>● 4 wanted more information (budget cuts, model, staffing, space, activities)</li></ul>
<b>7 Other</b> (WHS parents, community members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 6 expressed support for moving Grade 5 to Daisy</li><li>● 0 communicated that WMS was a better model for grade 5</li><li>● 1 wanted more information (model, staffing, space, activities)</li></ul>

# **Survey Question:** What are your thoughts, questions, and perspective on adding grade 5 to Daisy Ingraham Elementary School for the 2024-2025 school year (current grade 3 students)? (169 responses)

## **106 Daisy parents responded to this question**

- 81 respondents expressed support for adding grade 5 to Daisy for 2024-2025 (76.4% of parent respondents)
- 12 respondents did not want to change WMS and Daisy grade level configurations ((11.3%)
- 13 respondents were unsure and wanted more information on why, schedules, timing, space, budget, and offerings (12.3%)

## **29 Grade 3 parents responded to this question**

- 22 respondents expressed support for adding grade 5 for 2024-2025 (75.8%)
- 3 respondents did not think it was the best model for grade 5 (WMS offerings and parking/space at Daisy) (10.3%)
- 4 respondents were unsure and wanted more information (schedule, offerings, space) (13.8%)

## **35 Grade 4 parents responded to this question**

- 27 respondents expressed support for adding grade 5 to Daisy (77.1%)
- 5 respondents want the current model to stay in place(WMS offerings, model works) (14.3%)
- 3 respondents were unsure and wanted more information (why? schedule, offerings, space) (8.6%)

**Survey Question:** If you have a child currently enrolled in grade 4 at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School, what are thoughts, questions, concerns, and/or perspective on allowing grade 4 to remain as 5th graders at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School for the 2023-2024 school year?

- 62 responses
- 23 respondents (Gr 4 parents) expressed support for the current grade 4 to remain at Daisy as 5th graders for the 2023-2024 school year
- 22 respondents (Gr 4 parents) want the current grade 4 to move to WMS for 2023-2024 (concerns regarding timing, loss of opportunities-clubs/sports, and transition messaging/prep for students; older siblings have had positive experiences at WMS; WMS size/emptiness without grade 5; newer facility at WMS)
- 11 respondents wanted more information on what it might look like and if it was possible to phase in the transition (more staffing and more clubs for 2023-2024 and official transition in 2024-2025 for students)
- 6 responses (not Gr 4 parents) asked additional questions or expressed concerns about timing

## **Survey Question:** Is there anything else you would like to share?

- More information needed to inform decision (staffing, budget, clubs, programs, research, etc.)
- Trust in BOE, leadership, and educators to make informed decision in best interest of students and school community
- Open communication and transparency
- Clarify why and focus on student benefits
- Concerns this is only about budget and staff reductions
- Pride in WMS facility and offerings
- Pros and Cons of staying at WMS
- More clubs and sports at Daisy
- How does staff feeling about proposed change?
- Strengthen programs and offerings in all three schools
- Parent voice/perspective is important but BOE decision
- Questions in FAQ
- Early start time for Daisy
- Time to prepare

# **Proposed Changes for 2023-2024**

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School

Grades PreK-4

# Daisy Ingraham Elementary School PreK-4 for 2023-2024

## **Grades PK-2**

- Assign interventionists/specialists in reading and math to PK-2 (2 positions)
- Move Grade 2 to PreK-1 wing

## **Grades 3 and 4**

- Add reading interventionist/specialist for grades 3 and 4 (reassignment)
- Add math interventionist/specialist for grades 3 and 4 (reassignment)
- Add science teacher for grades 3 and 4 (reassignment)
- Restructure Grade 3 (3 classes-14 students each) and Grade 4 (2 classes-18 students each) model to an elementary school team structure within grade (Two teams- Grade 3 Team and Grade 4 Team)
- Increase instructional time in reading, math, and science in all grades K-4
- Science in grades 3 and 4 taught by science teacher shared between grades (special assignment to support younger grades as well- TBD)

## **Grades PreK-4**

- Redesign and rescheduling of Specials Block 1 and 2 for Grades PreK-4 (add robotics, science, coding, and innovation station for a weekly STREAM Block in addition to traditional Specials Block of PE, art, music, library, Spanish)
- Add CTE/Robotics Teacher (shared with WMS)
- Add clubs, activities, and sports/intramurals

# Sample Student Schedule in Grade 3 for 2023-2024

## Elementary Team Model Approach- Grade 3 Team

Three Sections of Grade 3 (class average for 2023-2024: 14 students)

8:25-8:45 a.m. (20 minutes)	Morning Meeting and The Daisy Daily News
8:45-10:10 a.m (85 minutes)	Reading Instructional Block
10:10-10:55 (45 minutes).	STREAM Specials Block (Science x 3, Robotics x 1, and STREAM Innovation Station x1)
10:55-11:35 a.m. (40 minutes)	RECESS/LUNCH
11:35-1:00 p.m. (85 minutes)	Math Instructional Block
1:00-1:45 p.m. (45 minutes)	Specials Block (Special Areas Teachers) (Art-Monday, Music-Tuesday, Spanish-Wednesday, PE-Thursday, and Library/Computer-Friday)
1:45 p.m.-2:20 p.m. (35 minutes)	WIN Block and SEL (Intervention/Enrichment in Math Labx 2 and Reading Lab x2, SEL x1)
2:20-3:00 p.m. (40 minutes)	Social Studies (x2) and Writing (x2) and PoG/Discovery Block (x1)



# Sample Student Schedule in Grade 4 for 2023-2024

## Elementary Team Model Approach- Grade 4 Team

Two Sections of Grade 4 (class average for 2023-2024: 18 students)

8:25-8:45 a.m. (20 minutes)	Morning Meeting and The Daisy Daily News
8:45-10:10 a.m (85 minutes)	Reading Instructional Block
10:10-10:55 (45 minutes).	STREAM Specials Block (Science x 3, Robotics x1, and Innovation Station x1)
10:55-11:35 a.m. (40 minutes)	RECESS/LUNCH
11:35-1:00 p.m. (85 minutes)	Math Instructional Block
1:00-1:45 p.m. (45 minutes)	Specials Block (Special Areas Teachers) (Art-Monday, Music-Tuesday,, Spanish-Wednesday, PE-Thursday, and Library/Computer-Friday)
1:45 p.m.-2:20 p.m. (35 minutes)	WIN Block and SEL (Intervention/Enrichment in Math Lab x 2 and Reading Lab x2, SEL x1)
2:20-3:00 p.m. (40 minutes)	Social Studies (x2) and Writing (x2) and PoG Discovery Block (x1)

# Clubs, Activities, and Sports at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School

## Ideas for 2023-2024

### **Clubs and Activities**

Art Club (Spring 2023)

Homework Club (currently offered)

Theater/Drama (Spring 2023)

Robotics (Spring 2023)

Kids' News (Daisy Daily News)

Book Club

Math League/Continental Math Competition/Math Club (Spring 2023)

World Language Club

Lego Club

Coding Club

Garden Club (Spring 2023)

Chess Club

Board Games

Environmental Club

STREAM Club (Innovation Station at The Pit) (Spring 2023)

### **Sports**

Basketball

Running Club (Daisy Dash Preparation) (Spring 2023)

Wrestling (Winter 2022/2023- run by outside organization- consider as school activity)

# **Proposed Changes for 2023-2024**

Westbrook Middle School

Grades 5-8

# Westbrook Middle School 5-8 for 2023-2024

## **Grades 5 and 6**

- Transition to one team model for grades 5 and 6 (4 core content area teachers)
- Increase instructional time in reading and math
- Increase instructional time in STEM

## **Grades 7 and 8**

- Transition fully to one team model for grades 7 and 8
- Exploratory shared staffing with WHS (Family Consumer Science, Robotics)
- Shared staffing with WHS in other content areas and support based on student need/enrollment/staffing (French, PE/Health, TESOL)

## **Grades 5-8**

- Add math interventionist
- College and Career Pathways experiences expanded from 9-12 to 5-12
- Consider clubs, activities, and sports/intramurals- possible additions/changes best on student interest
- Build in intervention and enrichment time that does not conflict with unified arts and exploratory offerings

# Westbrook Middle School School Grades 5-8 for 2023-2024

Grade Level	Projected Enrollment 2023-2024	New Team Structure 2023-2024
Grades 5 & 6 Team: Elementary Certification Required (grades K-6/K-8) or 4-8 Content Area Certification in English, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies		
5	47	1.0 FTE Reading/Writing 1.0 FTE Social Studies/Writing 1.0 FTE Math 1.0 FTE Science 1.0 FTE Special Education Grade 5: 3 sections of each (class average: 15-16 students) Grade 6: 2 sections (class average: 15 students)
6	30	
Grades 7 & 8 Team: Content Area Certification Required (grades 7-12) in English, Math, Science or Social Studies		
7	49	1.0 FTE English 1.0 FTE Social Studies 1.0 FTE Math 1.0 FTE Science 1.0 FTE Special Education Grade 7: 3 sections of each (class average:16-17 students) Grade 8: 2 sections of each (class average: 18-19 students)
8	37	

# Sample Student Schedule in Grade 5 or Grade 6 for 2023-2024

## Middle School Team Model - Grades 5 and 6 Team

Three Sections of Grade 5 (class average for 2023-2024: 15-16 students)

Two Sections of Grade 6 (class average for 2023-2024: 15 students)

<b>Period 1</b> 7:50-8:45 a.m. (55 minutes)	English Language Arts: Reading Focus
<b>Period 2</b> 8:45-9:30 a.m. (45 minutes)	Unified Arts Block Rotation: S1- PE (A days), Art (B days) S2-Health (A days), Computer Science (B Days)
<b>Period 3</b> 9:30-10:25 a.m. (55 minutes)	Math
<b>Period 4</b> 10:25-11:10 a.m. (45 minutes)	Spanish (A days) and Music (B Days)
<b>Lunch:</b> 11:10- 11:30 and <b>Recess:</b> 11:30-11:50 noon	
<b>Period 5</b> 11:50 noon- 12:30 p.m. (40 minutes)	Enrichment Block Rotation Math Lab (M), Reading/Writing Lab (T), Robotics (W), MakerSpace (Th), and Lessons (F)
<b>Period 6</b> 12:30-1:15 p.m. (45 minutes)	Social Studies (A days) and Writing (B Days)
<b>Period 7</b> 1:15-2:00 p.m. (45 minutes)	Science
<b>Period 8</b> 2:00-2:25 (25 minutes)	Advisory: Intervention, Enrichment, WIN (What I Need), Logic Block, Discovery Projects

# **Clubs, Activities, and Sports at Westbrook Middle School**

## **Current Offerings for Grade 5 (2022-2023)**

### **Clubs and Activities**

Art Club  
Drama Club  
AV Production  
Science Club  
Student Council  
Newspaper Club  
Literary Magazine  
Yearbook Club  
Math Olympiads  
Robotics Club  
Homework Club

### **Sports**

Intramural Tennis  
Intramural Winter Smorgasboard (floor hockey, fitness room, or wiffle ball)  
Intramural Track  
Intramural Fishing

# **Proposed Changes for 2024-2025**

Daisy Ingraham Elementary School

Grades PreK-5



# Daisy Ingraham Elementary School PreK-5 for 2024-2025

## **Grades 3 (40) Team**

- Continue to evaluate and improve Grade 3 departmental model based on student need and 2023-2024 experience
- Three grade 3 teachers plus shared science teacher for grades 3-5

Grade 3 Teacher #1: Reading (including intervention, enrichment, and co-teaching w/ Gr 3-5 Reading Specialist)

Grade 3 Teacher #2: Social Studies and Writing

Grade 3 Teacher #3: Math

Science taught by Grade 3-5 Science Teacher

Class average for Grade 3 in 2024-2025: 13-14 students

## **Grade 4 (42) and Grade 5 (36) Team**

- Transition to Team 4/5 Model
- Reading teacher for grades 4 and 5
- Social Studies/Writing teacher for grades 4 and 5
- Math teacher for grades 4 and 5
- Science teacher for grades 3-5

Class average for Grade 4 in 2024-2025: 14 students (3 sections)

Class average for Grade 5 in 2024-2025: 18 students (2 sections)

# Sample Student Schedule in Grade 3 for 2024-2025

## Elementary Team Model Approach- Grade 3 Team

Three Sections of Grade 3 (class average for 2023-2024: 14 students)

8:25-8:45 a.m.	Morning Meeting and The Daisy Daily News (Grade 3 Teacher)
8:45-10:10 a.m (85 minutes)	Reading Instructional Block
10:10-10:55 a.m. (45 minutes).	STREAM Specials Block (Science x 3, Robotics x 1, and Innovation Station x1)
10:55-11:35 a.m. (40 minutes)	RECESS/LUNCH
11:35-1:05 p.m. (85 minutes)	Math Instructional Block
1:05-1:50 p.m. (45 minutes)	Specials Block (Special Areas Teachers) (Art-Monday, Music-Tuesday,, Spanish-Wednesday, PE-Thursday, and Library-Friday)
1:50 p.m.-2:20 p.m.	WIN Block and SEL (Intervention/Enrichment in Math x 2 and Reading x2, SEL x1)
2:20-3:00 p.m. (40 minutes)	Social Studies (x2) and Writing (x2) and PoG Discovery Block (x1) (Grade 3 Teacher)

# Sample Student Schedule in Grade 4 or 5 for 2024-2025

## Elementary Team Model Approach- Grade 4 and Grade 5 Team

(Math Teacher, Science Teacher, Reading Teacher, Social Studies/Writing Teacher)

8:20-8:40 a.m.	Morning Meeting and The Daisy Daily News
8:40-10:00 (80 minutes)	Reading Instructional Block
10:00-10:10 a.m.	Snack
10:10-11:00 a.m	Specials Block Art (Monday), Music (Tuesday), Band (Wednesday), Spanish (Thursday) and Physical Education (Friday)
11:00-11:30 a.m.	WIN Block and SEL (Intervention/Enrichment in Math x 2 and Reading x2, SEL x1)
11:30 a.m.-12:00 noon	LUNCH/RECESS (Grades 4 and 5)
12:00 noon-1:20 p.m. (80 minutes)	Math Instructional Block
1:20 p.m.-2:10 p.m.	STREAM Block Science (Monday and Tuesday), Robotics (Wednesday), Coding/Computer Science (Thursday) and Innovation Lab Stations (Friday)
2:10-3:00 p.m.	Social Studies (Monday and Tuesday), Writing (Wednesday and Thursday), and PoG Discovery Block (Friday)

# **Proposed Changes for 2024-2025**

Westbrook Middle School

Grades 6-8

# Westbrook Middle School 6-8 for 2024-2025

## **Grade 6 (47) Team**

- Transitional department team model at WMS to prepare students for grade 7 and 8
- Evaluate student need for increased instructional time in reading and math
- Increase time in unified arts/specials compared to grade 5
- Increase/expand exploratory options (including College and Career Pathways experiences)
- 3 sections departmentalized- class average of 15-16 students
- Separate grade 6 wing

## **Grades 7 (30) and 8 (49) Team**

- Continue to evaluate and make adjustments to model and support to meet student needs and interests
- One team model- class average for grade 7 would be 15 students; class average for grade 8 would be 16-17 students
- Grade 7/8 wing

## **Grades 6-8**

- Shared staffing with WHS in other content areas and support based on student need/enrollment/staffing
- Math and reading interventionists support grade 9 as needed
- College and Career Pathways experiences continues to expand (Naviance, goal setting, interest inventory, course offerings)
- WMS/WHS schedule alignment grades 6-12 to support flexibility and shared staffing

# Westbrook Middle School Grades 6-8 for 2024-2025

## **Grade 6 (47) Team**

Three sections of Grade 6 teachers (class average- 15 to 16 students)

- Math teacher- 3 sections of Grade 6 Math and 2 sections of support/enrichment
- Science teacher-3 sections of Grade 6 Science and 2 sections of STEM
- ELA, Social Studies and Writing- 3 sections of Grade 6 Reading and 2 sections of SS/Writing rotation

*or*

Four academic core area teachers for Grade 6 (class average- 15 to 16 students)

*(highly preferred-* allows for additional support structure including ELL/TESOL 6-8 in major academic areas)

- Math teacher- 3 sections of Grade 6 Math and 2 sections of support/enrichment
- Science teacher-3 sections of Grade 6 Science and 2 sections of STEM
- ELA teacher- 3 sections of Grade 6 Reading and 2 sections of support/enrichment
- Social Studies/Writing teacher- 3 sections of Grade 6 SS and Writing (rotation A/B) and 2 sections of support/enrichment

## **Grade 7 (30) and Grade 8 (49) Team**

Continues as combined team model with 4 academic core area teachers

Grade 7- Two sections (class average- 15 students)

Grade 8- Three sections (class average- 16-17 students)

- Math Teacher- 1 section of Grade 7 Math, 1 section of Advanced 7 Math, 2 sections Grade 8 Math, and 1 section of Algebra 1
- Science Teacher- 2 sections of Grade 7 Science and 3 sections of Grade 8 Science
- English Language Arts- 2 sections of Grade 7 ELA and 3 sections of Grade 8 ELA
- Social Studies- 2 sections of Grade 7 SS and 3 sections of Grade 8 SS

# Westbrook Middle School School Grades 6-8 for 2024-2025

Grade Level	Projected Enrollment 2024-2025	Team Structure 2024-2025
Grades 6 Team: Elementary Certification Required (grades K-6/K-8) or 4-8 Content Area Certification in English, Math, Science, and/or Social Studies		
6	47	1.0 FTE English 1.0 FTE Social Studies 1.0 FTE Math 1.0 FTE Science (allows for additional intervention/enrichment/EL support in core content areas) Grade 6: 3 sections (class average 15-16 students)
Grades 7 & 8 Team: Content Area Certification Required (grades 7-12) in English, Math, Science or Social Studies		
7	30	1.0 FTE English 1.0 FTE Social Studies 1.0 FTE Math 1.0 FTE Science Grade 7: 2 sections of each (class average:15 students) Grade 8: 3 sections of each (class average: 16-17 students)
8	49	

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Is there space at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School for Grade 5?**

Yes, a number of classroom spaces are currently being used as storage, office spaces, and resource rooms. The school will be reorganized as a primary/lower elementary wing (Grades PreK-2) and an upper elementary wing (Grades 3-5).

## **What will happen to the empty space at the middle school if Grade 5 is added back to Daisy?**

There are currently no formal plans for that space. Options for this space will be part of a future discussion and in collaboration with the Town. Input will also be solicited from school community. Options will be shared publicly and developed by a committee.

Early ideas shared to date:

- Special education program-possibly regional (autism and therapeutic support or transition academy)
- Early childhood program
- Office space and storage
- Community use

## **How will schedules change for Grade 5 as well as students at Daisy (in terms of specials and unified arts offerings at WMS)?**

Whether or not Grade 5 is housed at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School or Westbrook Middle School, schedules will change next year for grade 5 and 6 as we transition to one team model and increase instructional time in reading and math. Grade 5 at Daisy allows for a more appropriate level of increased instructional time in math and reading (80-90 minutes daily). It is more challenging to offer that level of instructional time at WMS due to current UA schedule and shared team model with grade 6.



## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **What club, sports, and activities will be available to Grade 5 students at Daisy?**

We are in the early stages of planning to reintroduce after school clubs, activities, and sports to Daisy for grades 3 and 4 this year. We will look closely at current grade 5 offerings, student interest, and facilities to determine what else might be added. Student, parent, and staff input will be considered in decision making process.

### **What will the classroom model look like for Grade 5 (self contained? Shared team model?)**

If Grade 5 remains at WMS, students will participate in a shared team model with grade 6. Current enrollment no longer supports a separate middle school team model for each grade level grades 5-8.

If Grade 5 is located at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School, we will have two options to choose from and we will evaluate those options with our grade 4 and grade 5 teachers to determine most effective model for student learning based on current cohorts of students. We will be flexible year to year to be responsive to student learning, social and emotional needs.

Option #1: shared team for grades 4 and 5 with 4 teachers  
(math teacher, science teacher, reading teacher, and writing/social studies teacher)

Option #2: two grade level teams- one for each grade level based on enrollment numbers; content area scheduling approach

For example- 2 teachers for grade 4 and 3 teachers for grade 5 (departmental within grade level team)

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

**How does the district plan to adjust staffing, class sizes, and space concerns if keeping a larger class of students at Daisy?**

**Current 4th grade has 46 students. Will they be split into 2 or 3 sections?**

The location of Grade 5 for 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 does not impact class size plans.

For 2023-2024 (based on current known information of grade cohorts):

Grade 4 (37 students): 2 sections (class average: 18-19 students)

Grade 5 (46 students): 3 sections (class average: 15-16 students)

Grade 6 (30 students): 2 sections (class average: 15 students)

For 2024-2025 (based on current known information of grade cohorts):

Grade 4 (42 students): 3 sections (class average: 14 students)

Grade 5 (37 students): 2 sections (class average: 18-19 students)

Grade 6 (30 students): 3 sections (class average: 15-16 students)

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **Why are parents making this decision?**

The decision will be made by the Westbrook Board of Education. Parent and staff input is valued and appreciated. It helps us to make an informed decision, to consider impact from different perspectives, and to plan the best educational experience possible for all of our students PreK-12. In this case, conversations were already in progress about restructuring and schedule changes due to enrollment changes and need for increased instructional time in reading, math, and science. Concerns were raised last budget season about the appropriateness (developmentally) of a one team model for grades 5 and 6. Parent suggestion to consider grade 5 move was as a possible way to strengthen student experience, a possible grade 4 and 5 team model (more developmentally appropriate), and increase student support was a welcome suggestion as part of overall thinking and planning. Stakeholder input is important.

### **What is driving the desire for this change?**

See slides 2-7

### **What is the plan for the middle school?**

See slides 20-22 and slides 29-31

### **Could staff be involved in the planning?**

Yes. Once the final decision is made whether or not to move Grade 5 to Daisy, there will be time and opportunity for staff to support thinking and planning for transition, student need, and staffing assignments.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

**What are the district's long term goals for these schools? Are they planning to combine them and cut classes and employees due to impending lower enrollment numbers?**

This a great question and we will follow up in January and February during the budget process to articulate long term goals, including recently revised BOE Budget Guidelines [that can be found here](#).

This is a budget discussion and not related directly to the proposal to move Grade 5 to Daisy. As was shared throughout the budget process over the last two years, we are in the process of reducing staff positions at the middle and high school due to declining enrollment. Whether or not Grade 5 is added to Daisy, there will be staff reductions over the next 2-3 years.

At this time, there is no other formal restructuring plan in place or developed. Restructuring and long term goals for our three schools will be discussed throughout the budget process this year and in future years with opportunity for public input.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **Concern of increased responsibility for the principal – Would a lead teacher or Assistant Principal be a possibility?**

Teacher leadership and leadership structure will be evaluated for all three schools and recommendations will be made in the future to the Westbrook Board of Education.

### **What are the financial costs for additional staff, programming and school remodeling?**

At this time, moving grade 5 to Daisy Ingraham Elementary School would be budget neutral. We will re-assign current staff to support changes at the elementary school.

### **Would the format for the 5<sup>th</sup> grader be the same? Separate social studies, science, English, math classes?**

See sample schedule on slide 22 (Gr 5 at WMS-shared team model with grade 5) and slide 27 (Gr 5 at Daisy- shared team model with grade 4)

### **What will happen to the UA teachers at WMS? Will they have a full class load?**

Whether or not Grade 5 is housed at Daisy or WMS, shared staff for UA and elective teachers for WMS and WHS will increase due to decline enrollment. There are no plans for program cuts, but staff levels will be closely evaluated. Staff reductions in these areas are likely based on anticipated enrollment for WMS and WHS for the next ten years.

### **What does the space at Daisy really look like? What is the plan for the vacant classes in the now 4<sup>th</sup> grade hallway?**

Room for grades PreK-2 in one wing and room for grades 3-5 in wing currently housing grades 2-4. Staff will have an opportunity to share ideas and suggestions for room changes, resource rooms, science lab and more.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **What impact will this have on the length of special area classes for 5<sup>th</sup> graders, but also for Daisy students?**

This is still under consideration, but as reading and instructional time is increased for reading, math, and science for grades PreK-5, special area instructional time will be adjusted. See sample schedule slides for possible changes for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025.

### **What thought has been given to the social emotional impact of remaining at the elementary level?**

Developmentally, Grade 5 is more appropriately supported in an upper elementary school setting, especially with the proposed schedule and program changes for 2023-2024 at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School. If the current Grade 4 remains at Daisy as 5th graders for the 2023-2024 school year, Principal Rose will lead a team of teachers and support staff to develop a transition plan to support the social and emotional needs of students. Parent input to help us to identify needs of individual students will be encouraged.

### **Will the increased programs for the PreK-5 instructional model be implemented simultaneously or gradually?**

Most changes will be put in place for the 2023-2024 school year whether or not Grade 5 moves to Daisy.

### **When will a PreK-5 program be fully staffed?**

If the Westbrook Board of Education approves the plan to expand Daisy Ingraham Elementary School from a PreK-4 configuration to a PreK-5 configuration, the school will be fully staff for 2023-2024 and ready to transition grade 5 in either 2023-2024 or 2024-2025 from a staffing perspective.

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

**Transportation issue? As of now all Daisy students must have an adult at their bus stop – Will that be required for 5<sup>th</sup> graders?**

This practice will be reviewed. Currently, grade 4 parents have the option of allowing their child to get dropped off at the bus stop without an adult present. For grade 5 we would follow the current model whether they are at Daisy or WMS.

**Will 5<sup>th</sup> graders miss out on sports opportunities?**

This spring, we will reintroduce intramural sports to Daisy for grades 3 and 4. If grade 5 is added to Daisy, we will continue to explore adding additional offerings based on student interest, facilities, and staffing.

**Will there be ample staffing at the middle school?**

Yes, we are currently in phase 1 of a three year process to appropriately staff both the middle and high school in light of enrollment trends.

**Who provided enrollment predictions and trends, past and current?**

NESDEC provides the district with annual 10 year enrollment projections updated with October 1st snapshot data each year, birth rates in Westbrook. Regional and state trends. [Link to NESDEC.](#)

## Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

### **How would this impact grades prek-2?**

Other than addition of grade 2 to a primary wing for Grades PreK-2, the proposal to move Grade 5 does not directly impact PreK-2. Proposed changes for 2023-2024 that would greatly benefit PreK-2: additional intervention staffing, increased instructional time in reading, math and science; and new STREAM rotation block. Room changes likely to occur for some teachers.

### **Have specials been taken into consideration to be available for all grades?**

Yes, specials and an additional STREAM rotation block are under consideration and initial planning/drafting. We will look closely at what is appropriate in each grade. There will be changes to accommodate need for additional instructional time in reading, math, and science whether or not grade 5 is moved to Daisy.

### **Lunch waves at Daisy?**

Whether or not Grade 5 is moved to Daisy, we will begin reducing lunch waves where appropriate for the 2023-2024 school year (combining grades 3 and 4)

### **Will PreK remain in developmentally appropriate classrooms?**

Yes, there are no plans at this time to relocate the preschool classrooms.



## Frequently Asked Questions (submitted by WEA)

**Is the proposal being driven by budgetary consideration, educational concerns, demographic changes, or some combination of factors?**

The proposal is being made for a variety of reasons.

- As the team structure at the middle school changes due to enrollment decline, consideration to the most effective model for Grade 5 is being considered (Grade 5/6 team and schedule vs. Grade 4/5 team and schedule)
- Grade 5 would greatly benefit from increased instructional time in reading and math. The elementary model and schedule next year will include more instructional time in reading, math, and science.
- Instructional programs are K-5 and are not fully utilized in current grade 5 model due to middle school schedule, including time spent in unified arts vs core area academic subjects.
- Grade 5 is more appropriately place in an elementary school and there is room to accommodate the grade at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School and strong parent interest to consider this change.

**How will this proposal impact class sizes in both the middle school and elementary school?**

Class size will not be impacted by this change. Sections will be determined based on size and need of cohorts for each grade level PreK-8 and reviewed annually.

**How will this proposal impact intramurals in both the middle school and elementary school?**

Intramurals will be reintroduced and offered at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School for grades 3 and 4. Grade 5 will participate in intramurals at Daisy or WMS depending upon future placement.

## Frequently Asked Questions (submitted by WEA)(continued)

### **How will this proposal impact Unified Arts in both the middle school and elementary school?**

Directly, this proposal does not impact Unified Arts or specials at WMS or Daisy. The direct impact on UA and Specials will be the result of increasing much needed time in reading, math and science at Daisy PreK-4 and reading and math at WMS for grade 5.

In future years, whether or not grade 5 is housed at Daisy or WMS will be impacted by declining enrollment in grades 5-12 and movement toward a shared staffing model in Unified Arts and elective areas for WMS and WHS.

### **How will this proposal impact Special Education and Support Services in both the middle school and elementary school?**

Special education staffing at both WMS and Daisy will be closely monitored and evaluated each year as it always is to ensure appropriate staffing and support levels for students. If grade 5 is housed at Daisy, we will look to possibly transfer/reassign additional special education staff from the middle school to Daisy and possible shared staff between WMS and WHS. This will be dependent on student need, and always, has the potential to change year to year. Additional support in reading and math intervention is planned for Daisy whether or not grade 5 is housed at Daisy. Math intervention support will be reintroduced as a dedicated position at the middle school. If grade 5 moves to Daisy, there is an opportunity to expand intervention support coverage from Grades 5-8 to a Grades 6-9/10 model (no formal intervention support via dedicated positions currently at the high school).

### **Is there appropriate space at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School to accommodate the additional grade 5 classrooms, while still allowing sufficient space for instructional support and Special Education services?**

Yes, there is enough space to accommodate a Grades PreK-2 wing and Grades 3-5 wing at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School with space to accommodate special education resource rooms, intervention space, and TESOL support.

## Frequently Asked Questions (submitted by WEA)(continued)

### **What is the plan for open space in the middle school?**

There are currently no formal plans for the space at the middle school, but we will discuss options and possibilities in the coming months at BOE meetings as well as through survey to solicit suggestions. We currently have a need for a possible autism support program, storage, and office space as initial possibilities. Interest in an early childhood center has also been shared as an idea or community use.

### **What is the plan to ensure the educational resources currently available to the 5th grade students will continue to be available after the move (library media resources)?**

Resources appropriate for grade 5 students would be transfer to both classrooms and the library at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School. If grade 5 is added back to Daisy Ingraham, there will be future discussions and opportunities for staff, parents, and students to communicate needs as we plan and transition.

### **How will this proposal impact clubs and groups in both the middle school and elementary school?**

We will begin to offer more after school clubs, activities, and sports at Daisy Ingraham Elementary School this year and next year whether or not Grade 5 is at Daisy or WMS. Decisions regarding offerings will be made with parent, student, and staff input. Initial ideas shared earlier in presentation.

The middle school will continue to offer clubs and activities that interest students and support growth, development, and learning. Whether or not grade 5 is at Daisy or WMS, we will engage students, staff, and parents in discussion this spring about after school offerings for next year and future years.