



COLUMBIA SIXTH GRADE ACADEMY

1300 NORTH THIRD STREET • LOGANSPORT, INDIANA 46947

Phone: (574) 753-3797 • Fax: (574) 753-6159 • <http://c6ga.lcsc.k12.in.us>

There is a great deal of excitement surrounding the re-organization of the middle level here at LCSC this summer as Lincoln Middle School becomes Logansport Junior High (gr. 7-8) and Columbia Middle School gears up to become the Columbia Sixth Grade Academy. Beginning on August 9th, all of Logansport's sixth grade students will have the opportunity to come together in a completely student-centered learning environment that will focus not only on academic success, but also on important soft skills so coveted by employers. We sum it up with the slogan Living – Learning – Leading.

We have spent the last school year designing a structure and schedule that lends itself well to small-group, individualized instruction and guidance. Our approximately 320 sixth grade students have been divided into two "houses", the Voyagers and the Explorers, and are supported by a team of expressive arts teachers called the Navigators. Each house is further divided into two teams of three academic teachers, a math teacher, an English Language Arts teacher, and a Science/Social Studies teacher. These teams will serve approximately 80 students, a number that lends itself well to the kind of personalized attention we will show our students. Further, the schedule is built with students in mind, but it also gives teachers a daily opportunity to meet to discuss their students' progress, as well as time for professional development and coaching. High ability learners, special education students, and English language learners are also supported on each team. Class periods are a generous 70 minutes in length both in the academic classes and the expressive arts, which include computer applications, art, band, choir, and physical education.

We have also designed an innovative program called WIN (What I Need). For 40 minutes each day on a rotating weekly schedule, students will receive leadership and life skills instruction in the Living, Learning, Leading program, enrichment and remediation of academic skills, a day of independent reading, as well as one for clubs and activities. After WIN time, students will have the opportunity to take a Brain Break, where they will enjoy fifteen minutes of structured and unstructured play. Each student will also participate in the Minds in Motion program, a physical and mental activity unveiled in certain LCSC elementary schools last year with great success. Focusing on the body's vestibular system, Minds in Motion puts kids through a series of "maze" activities designed to improve balance and concentration resulting in improved academic performance. Each student will also be assigned a teacher advisor in the daily Focus class, a twenty-minute start to the day in which they will have time to interact one on one with a teacher advisor who will help them plan their day and assist them in meeting their academic goals. We are very proud to be able to offer such an extensive program of academic and social activities to Logansport's sixth graders.

We should also mention our belief that families are an integral part of the educational process. We invite the parents of all our children to visit school frequently and to communicate with us often.

On behalf of Ms. Faulkenberg, our Assistant Principal for Curriculum and Instruction, and the entire C6GA staff, we look forward to creating the school that will have impact not just on the here and now, but the future, as well.

Greg Grostefon, Principal