

The Panther Press



Haines 6th Grade Center Newsletter

Vol. 1 | Issue 2 • Week of: August 17, 2026

It's almost time!

Welcome back, Panther families!

The countdown to the first day of school (September 2nd) is officially on, and our excitement is growing by the day. We know that transitioning to 6th grade brings a mix of eager anticipation and those normal first-day jitters.

Our highest priority right now is making sure every single student feels warmly welcomed from the moment they walk through our doors. Our team has spent the summer preparing to support your child through every step of this transition. From navigating new hallways and mastering lockers to building connections with teachers and peers, we are committed to creating a learning environment where students are safe, seen, and supported.

Here is what to expect during the first few weeks:

- **Dedicated Transition Support:** Teachers and staff will spend extra time guiding students through daily routines, schedules, and school expectations to build confidence and competence.

- **Community-Building Activities:** Guided opportunities during extended homeroom and exploratory periods designed to help students build new friendships and navigate what it means to be a Panther.
- **Consistent Communication:** To ensure families stay connected and informed throughout this new journey, we will be sharing information regularly through weekly newsletters and emails.

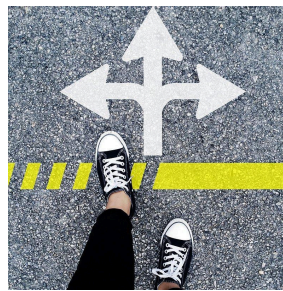
We are ready to walk this path together, guided by our Panther PRIDE every step of the way. Enjoy these final days of summer—we cannot wait to open our doors and welcome our Haines 6th Grade Panthers!

Arrival Time



Getting to school

The bus will drop you off at the back entrance of Haines, which is the Memorial School parking lot. There will be banners hanging in the walkway and lawn signs in the grass pointing you to Haines. Also, plenty of staff will be around to greet and direct you. If you are a walker, you will be dropped off in front of Haines (off Stokes Rd.) and enter through the main entrance. Walkers/car riders arrive no earlier than 7:15 am.



Entering Haines

Be sure to know your team before leaving home in the morning. If you are on **Team 6-1**, you go to the cafeteria. If you are on **Teams 6-2 and 6-3** you go to the gym. Teachers will have signs telling you where to go and direct you to your “homeroom line”. Once all the buses have arrived, your homeroom teachers will walk you to your classroom.

New This Year at Haines!

Breakfast Program

Our school will begin serving breakfast this year as part of the Medford Township Public Schools "Breakfast Before the Bell" program.

- 7:15–7:35 in the cafeteria
- Breakfast comes with a GRAIN, PROTEIN/GRAIN, FRUIT, & MILK.
- Menus will be posted online through [SchoolCafe](#).



Nurse's Nook



Sports Participation Forms

Is your child interested in playing sports at Haines? Haines offers 6th graders the opportunity to participate in Track and Wrestling. Please be sure to hand in a [Participation Evaluation Form](#) asap so your child can participate.

What do I need for the 1st Day?



Day 1

You do not go to your locker until the 2nd day of school, so you don't need to bring all of your supplies on the first day. Here's what we suggest to make the load a little lighter.

- Bring your binder
- Put the pencil pouch in the binder
- Load up the pencil pouch with 3 sharpened pencils, 2 blue pens, 2 black pens, 1 red pen, 1 eraser, 1 highlighter, 1 dry-erase marker, pencil sharpener, and 1 pack of post-its.
- In your backpack, bring the composition books, colored pencils, and 2 boxes of tissues. Tissues will be collected when you get to homeroom.



Day 2

You will be assigned a locker. After you have practiced getting your locker open, you will now be able to store everything! Bring the rest of your supplies on Day 2 and keep them in your locker until your teacher asks you to bring them to class. As a reminder, all internet-enabled devices are to be kept in your lockers during the school day. And be sure to lock your lockers!

Clubs & Intramurals



Online registration for clubs and activities will open September 4th. There are a variety of clubs and intramurals available for 6th graders. Parents and guardians will receive an email with instructions on how to register for a club and how to set up your My School Bucks account. Directions can be found on our [website](#) as well.

Registration will be open until Friday, September 18th.

Activities will begin the week of September 27th. That is also when late buses will begin running.

Clubs and intramurals are scheduled on various days, Tuesdays through Thursdays, from 2:15–3:05 pm. Late buses will be available for transportation home for those opting to purchase a late bus pass. This is also available on My School Bucks. Please note that late buses are good for the entire school year.

Note: All club and intramural registration will be done online via [MySchoolBucks](#), which can also be accessed via the [Online Payments](#) icon (aka the piggy bank) on the Haines website.

Detailed descriptions of club and intramural offerings to 6th graders can be found under the “Student” tab on the Haines website.

Here is a snapshot of a few.

- Anime Club
- Cross Country Running Club
- Games-O-Strategy
- Student Council
- Yearbook Club
- Marvel Club
- Out and About
- Sending Hope

Trimester 1

- Week of 9/27 through the week of 12/13

Trimester 2

- Week of 1/3 through the week of 3/14
- Registration opens in November

Note: Students must be registered to participate for each trimester.

Late Bus Passes

- Late bus passes will go on sale soon in [My School Bucks](#).
- More information will be emailed home when passes become available.
- You can also check our [website](#)!



Counselor's Corner



Navigating the New Social Scene

With students joining us from different elementary schools, 6th grade opens the door to meeting new people and finding a place to belong. As your student navigates this expanding social scene, here are a few simple ways to help them build strong connections and feel confident in their new community:

- **Our "Connect with a Panther" Challenge:** During these first two weeks, we encourage students to find a seat next to a classmate they haven't met before during lunch or exploratory periods. Easy conversation starters like *"Which elementary school are you from?"* or *"Who do you have for your next period?"* are fantastic ways to begin building new friendships.
- **Get Involved Beyond the Classroom:** Join at least **one club or activity** in the fall. Extracurriculars are the absolute fastest way to find peers who share your specific interests.
- **Expect Friendships to Shift:** It is normal for old friendships to evolve or change as everyone grows. Help your student focus on surrounding themselves with people who make them feel good!



What's Coming Up...

Keep these important events & dates on your radar.

Date	Event	Notes
9/2	First day of 6th Grade!	Full day of school
9/3	Second day of 6th Grade! Summer Math Packets Due	Full day of school Learn more about summer math work here !
9/4	Third day of 6th Grade!	Early Dismissal (11:50 end time)
9/7	Labor Day	Schools & Offices Closed
9/11	Summer Reading Logs Due	Get all the details for summer reading here !
9/17	Haines Back to School Night 6pm	Parents and Guardians are cordially invited to attend! More information to follow.
9/21	Yom Kippur	Schools & Offices Closed
9/24	PD for Teachers	2 Hr. Delayed Opening (9:40 start time for students)

Check Your Inboxes!

Emails have a funny way of making their way to "spam" or "trash" sometimes.

As you get acclimated to receiving communication from the Haines school community, be on the lookout for emails coming from Mrs. Barnett

(mbarnett@medfordschools.net) or Ms. Armbruster

(earmbruster@medfordschools.net).

Haines Main Office Crew



Melissa Barnett
Principal



Kyra Desjardins
School Counselor



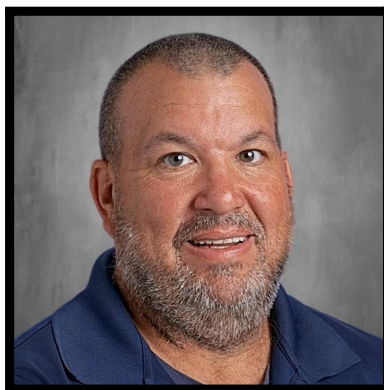
Alessandra Gambino
School Nurse



Elissa Armbruster
Administrative Assistant



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Administrative Assistant



Matt Chance
Head Custodian



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