

Frequently Asked Questions for Counselors

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How does Tilden help the fifth graders make the transition to middle school?

There are several means to accomplishing this transition:

1. Tilden administrators and counselors visit the elementary schools to give the fifth graders students an overview of Tilden and to explain the course offerings. Recent graduates from the elementary school offer a student's perspective of Tilden.
2. Fifth grade parents are invited to a parent meeting late in January or early February to learn about the course offerings, the day for a middle school student, etc.
3. Counselors and administrators return to talk with the fifth graders.
4. Parents receive a letter informing them about the particular classes their children will be taking.
5. All incoming sixth graders are invited to attend Tilden's orientation in May and tour the school with sixth graders as their class guides.
6. Before school opens the new sixth graders come to school on a half day to meet their actual teachers and classes and new classmates; this takes place the week before school officially opens. This is the day the children receive their actual schedule of classes.
7. Once school begins, the transition continues with a variety of team-building and networking activities culminating with Outdoor Education.

How do students get placed in the various classes for Math, Reading, and English?

Placement tests, teacher recommendations, student and parent requests are used for placing students in math, English, and reading classes. Obviously, these recommendations are made by the current teacher for the next year's level. If a student is unhappy with her/his placement, an appeal may be initiated by a written request to the principal within 10 days of notification of the placement.

What should I do when my child is absent from school?

Except when ill or excused, all students are required to attend their scheduled classes throughout the school day. In the event of illness:

1. Call the attendance secretary (301-230-5930) on the morning of the absence.
2. The child must bring a note signed by her/his parent to the attendance secretary or first hour teacher when returning to school. The note must contain:
 - student's full name and grade
 - date(s) of absence
 - reason for absence
 - parent's signature
3. Family trips must be approved in advance by the principal in order to be recorded as excused absences. A note for this approval must be sent to the principal in advance. The note should include
 - student's full name
 - student's grade
 - parent's phone number
 - reason for absence
 - date(s) of absence

How can my child find out about missed class work and homework when (s)he is absent?

There are several means to accomplish this:

1. Your child should call her/his "homework buddy" that evening to get the class work and homework assignments. Each child has a homework buddy in each class, selected for this purpose.
2. Check on Edline to see what work is being done in class.
3. Most teachers keep some kind of "Assignment Notebook" which lists all classwork and homework assignments, dates, etc. Children should reference these as needed when they return.
4. If your child knows in advance that (s)he will be absent, (s)he should check with all of her/his teachers during MAP to get advance assignments where they are available.
5. If your child is absent for three days or more, you may call Tilden's counseling secretary at (301)230-5940 on or after the second day of the extended absence. Assignments will be available for pick-up between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM the next school day.
6. When your child returns to school after an absence, (s)he should check in with each of her/his teachers during MAP the first day back. This is not a time to make up missed work, but rather a time to get any missed assignments and/or make arrangements to make up missed tests etc. Your child should see each teacher the first day back during MAP.

What should I do if the school bus is late or never shows up?

Call the MCPS Transportation Office at 301-469-1140. It will help if you know the four digit route number for your child's route as assigned at the beginning of the school year.

How can I set up a conference with my child's teacher(s).

If you have any particular concerns about your child's education at Tilden, you may contact an individual teacher, the team leader, or the grade level counselor. If your child's team has concerns about her/him, the team will notify you of their concerns, and possibly schedule a team conference.

May I contact my child by phone during the school day?

No. Phone calls for students are not accepted during the school day. In the event of an emergency, call the main office (301-230-5930).