

# Middle School Transition Informational Meeting

## Webber Middle School

### Fort Collins, CO



COLORADO  
Department of Education

Transitioning from elementary to middle school is often a stressful time for both students and their families. Many parents report not knowing proper channels of communication in middle schools or other policies and procedures. Webber Middle School staff sought to demystify the transition through the Middle School Transition Informational Meeting.

Webber's family liaison partnered with feeder elementary school liaisons to encourage rising 5<sup>th</sup> graders' participation in the meeting. Current 6<sup>th</sup> grade students also attend the meeting, as the most recent experts in surviving the transition to middle school. Sixth-graders welcome parents, provide insights about their experiences, and answer questions from incoming students.



The meeting lasts about an hour and a half. After participating in an icebreaker to introduce everyone in the room, middle school staff provide parents with information about important days to remember and contact information. The meeting ends with a question and answer session.

Since beginning this practice three years ago, Timnath staff have noticed measurable results. The opportunity for rising 6<sup>th</sup> graders to hear experiences from their peers eases anxiety and allows them to focus on academics instead of the angst that accompanies being in a new school. Similarly, parents leave the meeting better equipped with information they need to access educational opportunities and support their children's success.

Webber's family liaison explains: "I have been doing this for 3 years and each year there is something that I added or removed trying to provide the best information possible. It benefits students, parents and the school. Family liaisons benefit from knowing the parents before the next school year starts as a great way to establish good relationships."