

Compass FAQ

WBMS Compass Frequently Asked Questions

What is Compass?

Compass is a dedicated 25-minute class to start school each day and it serves as Period 1. Students are heterogeneously and randomly assigned to their Compass teacher, who serves as the Period 1 teacher. This dedicated time is for the educator to work closely with students on academics, student supports and community building.

Why do we have dedicated Compass time?

Middle School is a time of great transition and change for students: transition to a new school and changes in physical appearance and possibly in social circles. We believe that during these transitional years, it is imperative for students to form healthy relationships with educators. Research supports that students who have a personal connection to school do better academically, have a more positive self-image and make healthier lifestyle choices. Please see this article for more information:

<https://www.amle.org/BrowsebyTopic/WhatsNew/WNDet/TabId/270/ArtMID/888/ArticleID/864/The-Challenge-of-Advisory-and-Why-its-Worth-the-Effort.aspx>

Additional supporting research can be found here:

<http://www.ncmle.org/research%20summaries/ressum9.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying-suicide-translation-final-a.pdf>

At Webb Bridge Middle School, we are committed to helping all students navigate through these transformative years. We continually evaluate and improve upon our Compass goals to ensure that Advisory is meeting the needs of our students.

This upcoming year will see a dedicated focus on our newly re-defined WBMS Values.

Who participates in Compass?

All students and all certified teachers participate in Compass.

What is the role of the teacher in Compass?

The Compass teacher serves as a student's advisor, the student's first connection with WBMS. The teacher will advise students regarding academic and other goals. The teacher is expected

to monitor student grades and attendance, serve as the liaison between core teachers and home, participate in parent/teacher conferences, lead lessons on social-emotional learning and our WBMS Values, and help guide students to live their best life.

What is the daily/weekly structure of Compass?

WEBB BRIDGE MS
2021/2022 Compass Calendar

MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI
		Literacy Advisory	Community	

**subject to changes based on WBMS weekly/monthly schedule of events.*

What happens on each day?

Community

To support students' relationship building skills

The Webb Way, Student Success Skills, CONNECT, WEB Leaders

Advisory

To support students' success inside and outside of the classroom

Check-Ins, Guided Work Period, Compass Calendar, Goal Setting

Literacy

To support students' development of reading

Reading for Fun, Media Center, Schoolwide Reading Activities

What are the expectations of students during Compass?

Students are expected to:

- Bring all necessary materials to class
- Participate in student/teacher check-ins
- Communicate with Advisor regarding coursework and goal-setting
- Participate in lesson and game days
- Be prepared for changes in the daily/weekly Compass schedule.

Students should not expect:

- To be able to play games on devices during Compass
- GWP to be a guaranteed study hall
- To work on academic work on non-Advisory days.

What is CONNECT?

During a normal advisory period, our students are grouped heterogeneously and encouraged to foster relationships with one another. While oftentimes this leads to developing friendships with a variety of students that may have different hobbies, backgrounds, and talents, our students have requested that on occasion they be in an environment created for students of similar interest. Thus, CONNECT was born!

CONNECT is an opportunity for our students to choose classes that they are interested in joining. Our 7th and 8th grade students are presented with a total of 60+ CONNECT classes last year! WBMS teachers offered students classes such as: running club, wall climbing, guitar jam band, college football nation, Euchre, yoga, dance, chess, international foods, Harry Potter Trivia, Star Wars, and so much more.

How often do we have CONNECT?

Students participate in CONNECT classes approximately 9 times throughout the school year (on Fridays). Each CONNECT class lasts 3 sessions before they begin a new class.

How do WEB Leaders support 6th grade Compass?

WEB Leaders are selected 8th graders who are trained throughout the year to connect with the 6th graders; their main purpose is to ease the transition from elementary to middle school. WEB stands for Where Everyone Belongs and our WEB Leaders help bring our vision of community to our building. We believe that by having 8th graders they can ask questions of, say “Hi” to, and learn from, our 6th graders will become better Webb Bridge citizens and leaders themselves. The WEB Leaders lead 6th grade Orientation and actually get the first opportunity to connect the members of each Compass group. WEB Leaders will be joining their assigned 6th grade Compass classes on various occasions throughout the year (about twice a month) to lead activities and build relationships with our 6th graders. They will lead activities about getting to know one another, how to deal with gossip, how to be a good friend, and many more. We ask that our 6th grade Compass leaders welcome the WEB Leaders, help them accomplish the goal of the activities they are presenting, and evaluate their progress throughout the year. If, as a 6th grade Compass leader, you see an area that your Compass could benefit from having a WEB Leader perspective about, please discuss with the WEB Leaders and/or the WEB Coordinators, so that the program can support your needs. We ask that our 8th grade Compass leaders are understanding of when their WEB Leaders will miss Compass and/or Connect for WEB Leader activities.