

Sixth Grade Placement Exploration in AISD Meeting #2
February 12, 2026
5:30 - 7:00 PM
Gunn Junior High School

Welcome

Review of Previous Work (5 min)

Student Panel Q & A (30 min)

Dr. Matt Varnell, Principal Gunn Junior High School

Career & Technology, Fine Arts, Athletics Presentation Followed by Q&A Discussion (30 mins)

Dr. Cadence McGowan, Director of Career and Technology
 Dr. Christopher Anderson, Director of Fine Arts
 Eric White, Director of Athletics

Reflection & Discussion (20 min)

Considerations Update

What is needed for next time? (5 min)

Important Dates

Date	Meeting	Location
Jan 15	Meeting #1	@ Central
Feb 12	Meeting #2	@ Gunn
March 4	Meeting #3	@ Young
April 15	Meeting #4	@ Workman
May 13	Meeting #5	TBD
May 28	Meeting #6	TBD
June 4	Board Recommendation/Update	



Arlington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISTRICT PRIORITIES

ACADEMIC GROWTH 
 Ensure positive, engaging experiences for every student that promote academic growth and ignite a passion for learning.

CULTURE 
 Establish an inclusive culture of respect, support and continuous improvement for all students, staff and families.

SAFETY & DISCIPLINE 
 Create safe and productive learning environments in which every student and staff member can thrive.

MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT 
 Involve families and community stakeholders as valued partners in student learning.

TALENT & RESOURCES 
 Maximize our resources and people to promote a thriving district while maintaining sound fiscal management.

Student Panel Questions:

1. Tell us about the transition from 5th grade to 6th grade. What was the difference between 5th grade and 6th grade? (*Probes: Independence in the hallways, homework, switching teachers, safety*)
2. What was the best part of 6th grade? What was the most challenging part of 6th grade?
3. When you had challenges in 6th grade, who did you go to for help? How were you able to work through the problems?
4. School Spirit is important. Did you feel like you were a part of the school community? What things made you feel that way? (*Probes: counseling, teachers support, admin support, school culture opportunities, parent involvement*)
5. If you could make any changes to your 6th grade experience to make it better, what would the changes be?

ARLINGTON ISD 2025-2026 PRIORITIES

The image displays five priority cards arranged in two rows. Each card has a white header with an icon, a dark blue body with the priority name in white, and a white footer with a descriptive sentence. The icons are: a graduation cap for Academic Growth, hands holding a heart for Culture, a shield for Safety & Discipline, three people for Marketing & Engagement, and a dollar sign with radiating lines for Talent & Resources.

Priority	Icon	Description
ACADEMIC GROWTH	Graduation cap	Ensure positive, engaging experiences for every student that promote academic growth and ignite a passion for learning.
CULTURE	Hands holding a heart	Establish an inclusive culture of respect, support and continuous improvement for all students, staff and families.
SAFETY & DISCIPLINE	Shield	Create safe and productive learning environments in which every student and staff member can thrive.
MARKETING & ENGAGEMENT	Three people	Involve families and community stakeholders as valued partners in student learning.
TALENT & RESOURCES	Dollar sign with radiating lines	Maximize our resources and people to promote a thriving district while maintaining sound fiscal management.

VALUES AND BELIEFS

EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

We believe we should strive, on a daily basis, to create exceptional learning experiences for our students.

INCLUSIVE CULTURE

We value our diversity and believe that our students and staff deserve an inclusive culture where they feel valued, supported, and challenged to grow.

THRIVING STAFF

We believe that a thriving staff continuously learns and strives for excellence in order to positively impact our students.

STRONG PARTNERSHIPS

We believe that strong partnerships with families and the community provide a foundation for student success.

MAXIMIZED RESOURCES

We believe that district talent and financial resources must be maximized to promote student learning while also maintaining effective fiscal management.

LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

We believe that our learning environments must be safe, productive spaces that are well designed and maintained.