



GCPS Grade Band Update

May 9, 2023

Objective

By the end of this presentation, GCPS will have:

- Provided an update specific to grade banding for the Northern and Southern Areas
- Shared information specific to the current forecast for GCPS
- Discussed immediate priorities

Northern Area Grade Band Status Update

- Jan. 12, 2023 Northern Area Community Meeting # 1
 - [Northern Area Grade Band Presentation G+P - Community 011223](#)
- February-March 2023
 - Grimm + Parker and GCPS work
 - Cost Estimate for Renovations
 - Addressing items raised in 1/12/2023 Meeting
- March 30, 2023 Northern Area Community Meeting #2
 - [Northern Area Grade Band Community Meeting 033023 - Slideshow Presentation](#)
- April, 2023
 - Provided elected board with Renovation Cost Estimate
- April 11, 2023
 - [Memo to Elected Board on Next Steps](#)

Southern Area Grade Band Status Update

- March 14, 2023- Southern High Limited Renovation and HVAC Award
 - [Daikin LNTP](#)
- April-May 2023 Southern High Architecture and Design Work
- April 11, 2023 SES Bid Award
 - [Bushey Feight Morin \(BFM\) Architects](#)
- IAC Update

Student Access to Opportunities

There are many implications that must be considered when determining future grade bands within our county along with weighted student funding especially as it relates to student access to instructional opportunities. Below are areas to consider specific to the current forecast for GCPS for FY25:

- Computer science for upper elementary in the South
- Certified Media Specialist support for elementary in the South
- Sustaining talented and gifted teachers will likely not be possible (especially in the North)
- Increased access to daily support staff (counselors, social workers, behavior coaches, etc.) for the South
- Greater variances in class size in the North (larger on the North and with multi-grade classrooms increasing)
- Less opportunity for departmentalization as well as collaborative team planning at the elementary level in the North

Student Access to Opportunities (Cont.)

There are many implications that must be considered when determining future grade bands within our county along with weighted student funding especially as it relates to student access to instructional opportunities. Below are areas to consider specific to the current forecast for GCPS for FY25:

- Opportunity for additional foreign language in the South
- Sustaining current electives and programming is anticipated to become a significant issue, especially in the North
- Opportunities for earning high school credit in the 8th grade in the North will be a significant challenge that will need to be addressed and may result in substantial change
- Establishing support and accelerated paths across the county will be a significant challenge (especially in the North)
- Variances in 6th grade programming will need to be carefully considered

Other Implications to Consider

- Master schedule implications specific to instructional times
- Additional requests for Out of Areas
- Challenges specific to student transfers
- Building and implementing the Blueprint Plan for many grade band configurations
- Challenges surrounding common PLC times
- Curriculum challenges specific to adopting and implementing resources for students in 6th-8th grade attending schools in various grade bands
- Challenge with spreading staff thin and attracting highly qualified staff for hard to fill positions
- Implementation of Blueprint requirements such as the 60%/40% teaching requirement within the career ladder

Possible Path for a Northern Student

Northern Area

Pre-K to 5th, 6th-8th, 9th-12th Grade Band



Birth to Pre-K

- Some students/families have access to full:
 - Judy Center Supports
 - Title I Supports



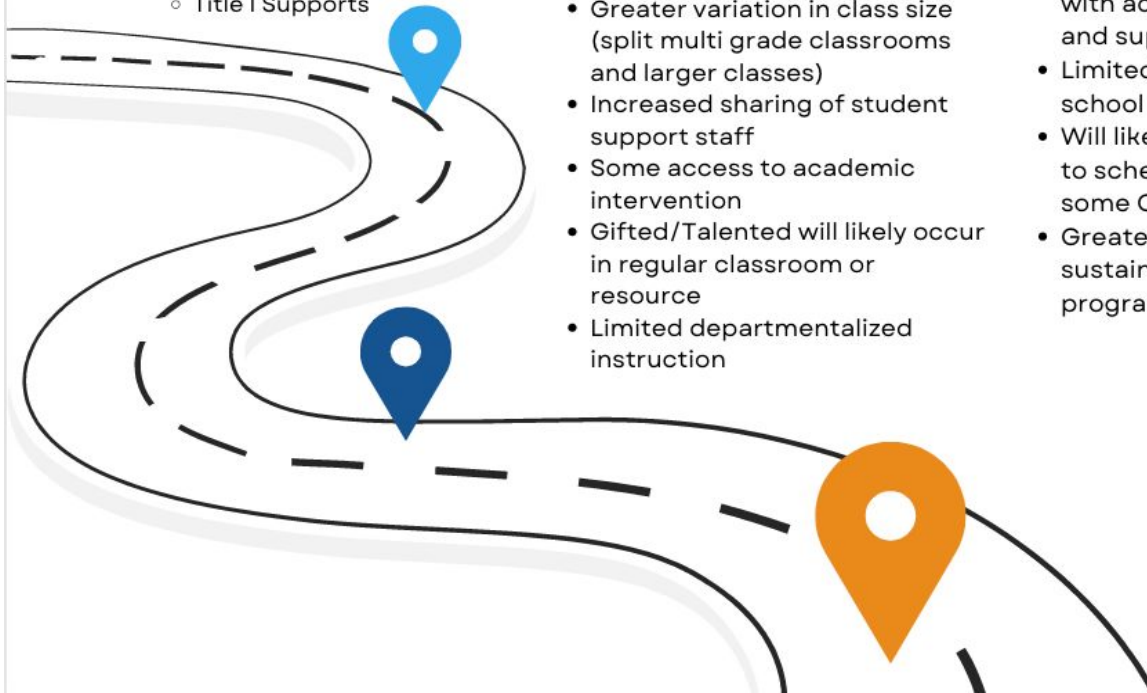
K-5th

- Media Assistants
- Current structure for computer science to the extent possible
- Greater variation in class size (split multi grade classrooms and larger classes)
- Increased sharing of student support staff
- Some access to academic intervention
- Gifted/Talented will likely occur in regular classroom or resource
- Limited departmentalized instruction



6th-8th and 9th-12th

- 8th Grade access to high school credit where possible
- More barriers to overcome with accelerated pathway and support path
- Limited exposure to high school programs
- Will likely be more difficult to schedule AP courses and some CTE courses
- Greater concern for sustaining electives and programs



Possible Path for a Southern Student

Southern Area

Pre-K to 6th and 7th to 12th Grade Band



Birth to Pre-K

Easy access to:

- Judy Center Supports
- Title I Supports



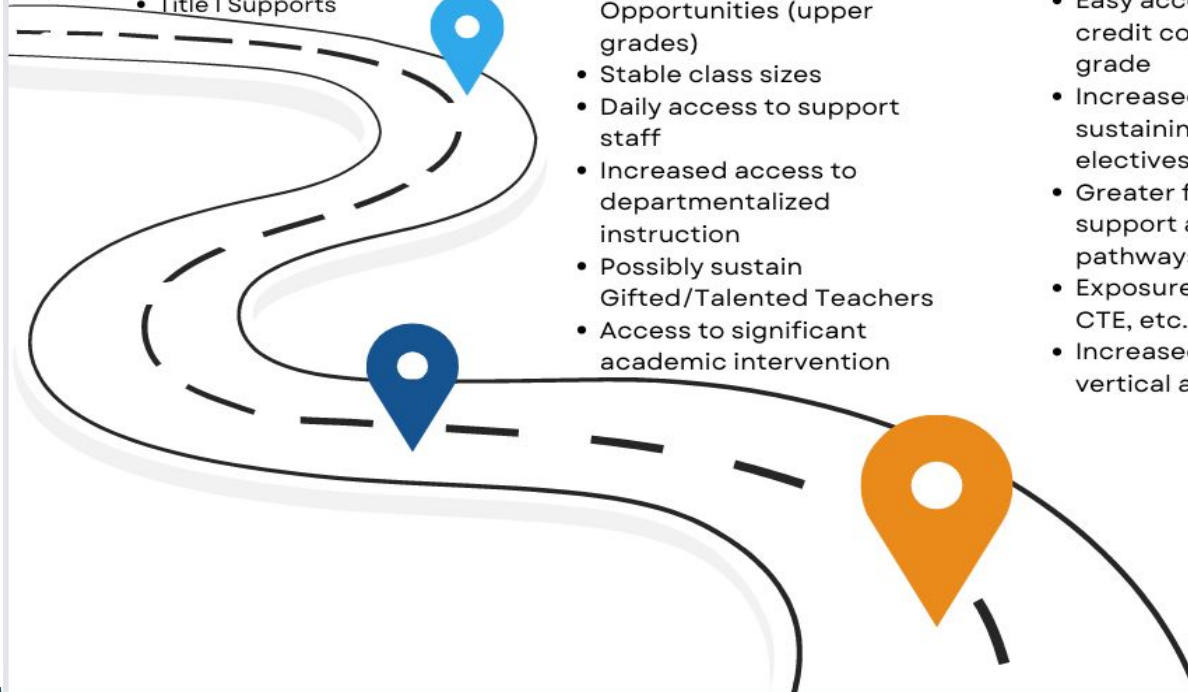
K-6th

- Certified Media Specialist
- Robust Computer Science Opportunities (upper grades)
- Stable class sizes
- Daily access to support staff
- Increased access to departmentalized instruction
- Possibly sustain Gifted/Talented Teachers
- Access to significant academic intervention



7th-12th

- Opportunity for additional foreign language
- Easy access to high school credit courses for 8th grade
- Increased likelihood of sustaining current electives and programs
- Greater flexibility for support and accelerated pathways for students
- Exposure to FFA, JROTC, CTE, etc.
- Increased opportunity for vertical alignment



Immediate Priorities

- Secondary Master Schedule Planning
- Career Ladder Work
 - Includes the 60%/40% teaching responsibilities outlined in Blueprint
- Job Embedded Professional Development and Professional Learning Community structures
- FY 25 Budget Planning
- Southern High School and Southern Elementary School Renovation Work

* Additional direction is needed from the elected board specific to grade band and facility use to inform system priorities for staff work.