

CFIS FAQ

Below are answers to common questions that families ask about Chagrin Falls Intermediate School. Information is sorted into the following categories for easier access: Academics, Technology, Communication, and Culture & Safety.

ACADEMICS

What is “Personalized Learning” and what does this look like at the Intermediate School?

Personalized Learning is at the root of our district mission and vision. It can be defined as helping students to achieve their potential through a wide range of resources, strategies, and opportunities that match their learning styles, abilities, and interests. At the Intermediate School, we personalize learning through targeted intervention, leveled classes, gifted programming, interest-based extracurriculars, and student choice.

What happens during PLT? Personalized Learning Time, or PLT, is the part of the school day devoted to intervention and enrichment. Students are identified for intervention through the RTI process. (See below) Enrichment opportunities are available through STRETCH and grade level Friday enrichment classes. PLT is also a time for Academic Lab, which is a place for students to complete class assignments, make up missed work, and retake tests. Students not participating in intervention or enrichment use PLT to work on electronic learning pathways, read quietly and/or conference with teachers.

What is STRETCH? STRETCH is a selection of enrichment offerings designed for cognitively gifted students and taught by a licensed gifted specialist. In addition to academic enrichment, STRETCH includes social/emotional support programming as well. STRETCH classes occur everyday during PLT.

What is RTI and how are students identified for intervention?

Response to Intervention, or RTI, is a multi-tiered approach to helping students who are struggling to meet grade level benchmarks. Every teacher uses interventions in core academic classrooms (Tier I). However, if a child does not respond to these, more targeted interventions are used to help the child learn (Tier II, Tier III). The focus of intervention is to address gaps in learning and to scaffold content and skills to meet benchmark expectations. Data is used to identify students for Tier II or Tier III intervention. Some examples are: MAP data (below the 40th percentile), AIR data (below a score of 715), and classroom assessments (below C average). Tier II and Tier III intervention typically takes place during PLT, although there are some instances where students receive intervention during their Encore block.

What are MAP and iReady? All students in grades K-8 are assessed on grade level standards to see if they are showing growth and meeting expected benchmarks. At the Intermediate School, we use both MAP (“Measures of Academic Progress”) and iReady to assess students in reading and math. MAP is used to assess students in Tier I, and iReady is used to assess students in Tiers II and III. iReady has a progress monitoring components that allow teachers to measure student growth on targeted interventions. Both MAP and iReady are adaptive in nature, which means the difficulty of each question is based on how well a student answers all the

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previous questions. As a student answers correctly, questions become more difficult. If a student answers incorrectly, the questions become easier. The final score is an estimate of the student's overall achievement level. Teachers use student benchmark scores to help with instructional planning, to prioritize intervention, and to assist students in setting personal growth goals. MAP and iReady also provide students at all levels with online personalized pathways that pre-teach and reinforce concepts and skills.

TECHNOLOGY

What is Google Calendar? Google Calendar is a place where teachers list homework assignments, upcoming assessments, and projects. You can access Google Calendar through teacher websites, and you can join the calendar yourself by clicking on the plus sign located at the bottom right hand corner of the calendar. (Note: You must have a Google account to do this.) All assignments are posted using the following format: Subject (Due Date) Assignment.

Example: Math (Due W) p.31 1-7. All students have student planners to keep track of homework assignments as well. These are filled out in class, which is supervised by teachers on a daily basis.

What is Google Classroom? The purpose of Google Classroom is to facilitate paperless communication between teachers and students and streamline assignments and resources. Classroom allows teachers to create classes, post information and assignments, organize folders, and view work in real-time. Typically, work found in Classroom is meant to be completed at school; however some teachers do post homework assignments as well. One way to know if your child needs to complete work in Classroom for homework is to check student planners or Google Calendar. (Note: Not everything posted in Classroom is assigned for a grade. Please check with your child to know if the work needs to be "turned in" or if it is there as part of a class lesson. Do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher, too, if you have questions.)

How do I access Infinite Campus? Infinite Campus is our district Student Information System which houses, among other things, family demographics, student reports, and grades. It also includes a Parent and Student Portal, which is used to communicate information from teachers to families. This is different than Final Forms, which needs to be updated separately and is used for registration and paperless records. All students and all parents have an Infinite Campus account. If you need help accessing this, or if you have questions about Infinite Campus in general, please contact Angel James in our district's Central Office. You can reach her by phone by calling 440-247-5500, ex. 4004 or by email at angel.james@chagrinschools.org.

How do I get the Infinite Campus Application on my mobile device? You can also access Infinite Campus directly from your phone or tablet. Here's how:

1. Download the Infinite Campus App on your tablet or smartphone.
2. When you are asked, "What's my district ID?", enter the District code: GFXQDZ.
3. Make sure that you have a parent account that has been created by accessing the IC Parent portal on a laptop/desktop computer. Identify your established Username and

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Password. If this information is misplaced you can contact ParentPortal@ChagrinSchools.org to obtain the information needed.

4. Enter your Username and Password.

5. You should see all of your children listed via drop-down menu.

What filters are available for student Chromebooks? All district owned Chromebooks have applied filters. There are filters for content and there are filters for email. Both are applied through a student's login account, which means that it does not matter what school Chromebook, or device, is used at school, the filtering stays in place. It is important to note that when a child logs in to a computer at home, content filtering is no longer applicable. Email filtering, however, is enforced regardless of the device and location. If a teacher or parent would like a student to have more restrictive filters applied to an account, they should speak with the building principal.

PARENT/SCHOOL CONNECTIONS & COMMUNICATION

How is information communicated at the Intermediate School? We encourage open and ongoing communication between home and school, as we believe it is vital to the success of our students! Information is shared in a variety of ways, including teacher emails and phone calls, weekly newsletters, eblasts, and our regularly updated building website. Parents may also join grade level PTO Facebook pages titled "Chagrin Falls Graduate - Class of ____". These are accessible by invitation only, but parents may request access at any time.

How should I communicate concerns? Parents should note that academic concerns should be shared first with classroom teachers and intervention specialists. Social/Emotional concerns can be shared with teachers and the school guidance counselor, Karen Appell, and behavior concerns/incident reports should be reported to classroom teachers and/or school administration.

What information is included in the weekly newsletter? A weekly newsletter from the principal is emailed to families every Saturday morning. In this newsletter you will find important dates for the building, weekly teacher news as well as important information on what's taking place throughout the district. If you are not currently receiving newsletters, you may sign up by going to the district website and clicking the "Stay Connected" button located at the top right of the page. The newsletter is also posted on the school website.

How do I get updates about what is happening in my child's classroom? There is a "Weekly News" link included in every school newsletter. "Weekly News" has information from each teacher's classroom and includes updates about what is being taught and assessed in the upcoming week, positive vibes from the classroom, as well as contact information for each teacher. The "Weekly News" link is also accessible via the school website.

Can I volunteer at the Intermediate School? Yes! There are many volunteer opportunities at the Intermediate School! Some examples are: classroom helpers, Field Day, lunch/recess

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supervision, the Decorating Committee, Room Parents, and special events. If you are interested, please contact your child's teacher and/or grade level PTO representative.

STUDENT CULTURE & SAFETY

What is PAX? PAX is a set of strategies to help students learn self-management skills while collaborating to make classrooms a peaceful and productive learning environment. It is not a classroom management system, but it helps to make managing classrooms much easier! Some elements of PAX include visioning, PAX leadership, and the Good Behavior Game. PAX is an important part of our building's overall PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Support) program. PBIS is a framework that uses a multi-tiered approach to support the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral needs of all students by implementing evidence-based prevention and intervention strategies and practices.

What is the discipline process? At CFIS, we aim to provide a rich, supportive, collaborative, learning environment that is respectful of individual differences and encourages students to reach their academic and creative potential. We believe that school staff, parents, and students all share the responsibility of creating the best possible learning environment. We also believe that parents and staff must work together to help children learn to take responsibility for their actions. Our ultimate goal is to help children develop understanding, self-control, and a desire to meet expectations. All discipline reports will be thoroughly investigated, and consequences will be fair, appropriate, and logical and in accordance with our District's Code of Conduct. For classroom infractions, teachers will give students a warning first, then will conference with the student before contacting parents.

What is the Intermediate School's Bullying Policy? We are committed to creating a safe, caring, respectful learning environment for all students. The bullying of students at CFIS is strictly prohibited, and will not be tolerated. Parents, students, and staff members are encouraged to report incidents of bullying immediately. (These reports can be made anonymously if desired.) Reported incidents of bullying will be investigated promptly and thoroughly by school administration. Our District policy defines bullying as the following: *"Bullying, harassment and intimidation is an intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once."* To access specific information concerning bullying/harassment, including the Incident Reporting Form, please visit the Intermediate School website.

What is the rule regarding classroom snacks/treats? Each grade level allows students to have a healthy snack time during the school day. We ask that families keep snacks nut-free as to not endanger our students with nut allergies. Pre-packaged snacks and treats are required for classroom parties. We do not allow birthday treats (edible or otherwise) at the Intermediate School.