

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

1. My reasons for wanting my daughter to stay in elementary school for 6th grade are more social development than academic. Also, Westland is TOO far away from our neighborhood. Traffic is HORRIBLE! Travel times are too long. It's a crazy articulation pattern.
2. I am a middle school teacher and am very familiar with the curriculum. I believe that there is no real advantage in having our students exposed to that, while we are giving up a very important advantage by having the students at a smaller school. Ideally, we could open a new middle school, but as it currently stands, I believe that Westland will be just too big.
3. We're moving to another part of MCPS.
4. it only changes it to a dislike somewhat. in my opinion, while primary schools come with their own benefit, we have tolerated the inconvenience of having children in different schools (two PTAs, twice the volunteering, twice the fundraising, twice the events, etc., not to mention just the different location) for the perk of having our 6th graders at NCC. westland is far away and already way too big for the fragile age of junior high. the only redeemable solution is the creation of a new middle school (at Lynbrook, for example) that would cover our geographic area. Putting kids from this area on a bus for that long each day is inconceivable. They are very limited with "free" time as it is (and in this "free" time are suppose to contend with ever increasing loads of homework and extracurricular activities and somehow fit in family time and true free time). I urge you to consider a true long-term solution, which moving our 6th graders to Westland is not.
5. all 6th graders need same curriculum
6. Well, simply there needs to be academic equity in what all 6th graders receive.
7. As I understand it, it is the same curriculum, just not with the same number of offerings
8. Yes and I would like to know why they wouldn't have the same benefits.
9. I think that every child deserves the same education opportunities... I would be strongly against any watering down of the 6th grade curriculum at NCC or CC... not acceptable for any of our ct's children.
10. I live in Kensington so the distance to Westland is absolutely absurd. My fear of ever having to pick up my child there (especially in rush hour) outweighs her education. That's how bad the distance is. And with two other kids, we'd rather move than have to have our kids at a school that many miles away.
11. I feel that its important that my child has the same educational resources and opportunities that other children the same grade have.
12. It is our preference that our 6th grader remain at NCC because of the proximity to our home, the quality of the school, and the supportive community that is established there. We are concerned about trading this though for a disparate education. It is possible that our child will be entering 7th grade at a significant disadvantage.
13. I am concerned that our 6th graders will not be given the depth of education others will be getting. I do not want to compromise their education.
14. That is a fine trade off. Our children will do well, if not better, just by remaining for an extra year in the elementary setting.
15. The reason I oppose moving the 6th graders to Westland is that Westland is too far away from where we live. I do not want my 6th grader to have to catch the bus at 6:50 every morning and then spend 45 minutes commuting to Westland. Kids need their sleep, and Westland is just too far away. I would like for the 6th graders at NCC and CC to receive comparable education to what those at Westland are getting, but it doesn't necessarily need to be the same.
16. Social and emotional issues at this age are key to academic outcomes in future grades. I have no doubt my

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

MCPS 6th grader will get a good education as a 6th grader in an elementary school setting, while having years ahead as a more mature student to take advantage of any accelerated programs MCPS has to offer.

17. I would rather keep the 6th grade in the Chases but understand the economics of it and am somewhat resigned to the fact that they will probably move them. I do not like making Westland so large.
18. I am torn between the two especially with the smaller new middle school
19. Is anyone challenging the premise of why NCC or CCES 6th Graders will be taught in a lesser manner? It seems like County officials might be forcing an outcome of the issue by stating this.
20. I dislike that the curriculum will not be the same, but would be ok with a minimum set of standards for 6th grade.
21. Want my 6th grader to remain competitive and not be behind once he goes to middle school
22. Maybe -- the best result would be to keep 6th grade at CCES and provide 6th graders there with the same course choices as 6th graders at Westland. But there are enough advantages of keeping 6th grade at CCES that I can't answer the question yes or no without knowing how great the differences in curriculum would be. We are very happy with Chevy Chase ES, and would like our younger daughter to have the opportunity to attend 6th grade there too. At the same time, we certainly want our daughter to have the same educational opportunities as other 6th graders in the county.
23. I'd need to understand the differences before I can really answer this question.
24. I wish my daughters could have the smaller, nurturing environment of a 6th grade at NCC, but don't want them to completely miss out on all the course offerings that a larger middle school can provide.
25. 1) Like 6th grade in elementary, not middle, school
2) NCC is a great school. That matters more than a new curriculum
26. The reason I somewhat dislike sending my future 6th grader to Westland is that it is overcrowded already. The best long term solution is a 2d middle school to relieve overcrowding.
27. Already reflected in my answer.
28. I do not know anything about the new curriculum that is being rolled out for 6th graders.
29. Given the choice between 6th grade at the middle school and an unequal curriculum for 6th graders at the Chases, I would unfortunately prefer middle school. I believe my children deserves an education equal to all other middle schoolers in the county, and if MCPS is not going to provide it at the Chases, than I must vote in favor of academics.
30. Feel that this would put my children at a disadvantage
31. The main reason that I do not like the idea of 6th grade moving to another school is that our elementary age children do not get to stay in one school longer than 3 years whereas most other schools accommodate children from K-5. However, it bothers me that having my children remain at Chevy Chase for 6th grade means that they would receive an unequal education.
32. I would be more in favor of my child attending Westland if they were not at Rosemary Hills for 3 yrs and then NCC for 3 yrs. It makes no sense that they cannot roll out the program to NCC and CC. Westland would have to hire more teachers to meet the needs of these students.
33. I feel that it is important that we have a least a minimum of a foreign language, science and technology offered. Not knowing what else is coming along with Middle School reform it's difficult to say as I feel the 'Chases' need to have somewhat equal offerings.

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

34. The same curriculum should be offered to ALL sixth graders, regardless of where they attend school. It appears the administration is trying to force NCC and CC to move sixth graders to Westland, by punishing the students. This is wrong---however, I would change the articulation pattern, rather than have my child do with less.
35. Perhaps -- I don't know enough about the new curriculum to say one way or the other.
36. What they have to do is make sure that every 6th grader gets the same curriculum, otherwise here comes a discrimination lawsuit.
37. It's a very hard trade-off -- but slightly prefer sending to 6th grade in middle school if otherwise are going to be put at a disadvantage to other students (which seems entirely unacceptable)
38. If they can't get the same education then they need to go to Westland.
39. If the County Council and School Board work to improve the 6th grade, social, experience in the Middle School or open a second Middle School in the cluster.
40. I think it is absolutely appalling that the county does not feel that they need to give the same services to children at CC and NCC as they do at Westland. I am willing to help in any way I can regarding getting the same services for these children.
41. if not the county curriculum, then what? why would it be different?
42. The more diverse/new curriculum for Westland MS sixth-graders is the reason I prefer my 6th grader at Westland instead of remaining in elementary school for 6th grade
43. I feel that the 6th graders at NCC & CC should be taught and offered the same curriculum as those at Westland or we should be able to decide to send our children on to Westland in 6th grade. Although it is nice to keep my daughter at NCC in this small environment I don't want her to miss out on the curriculum that is offered to every other 6th grader in the county except for those at NCC & CC. I never made the decision to keep her at NCC for 6th grade. We were told she would be offered the same curriculum as every other sixth grader.
44. I want my child to have the same curriculum opportunities as others in the county.
45. That is the major reason why I think they should move to Westland for 6th grade.
46. Well yes, but why would they not get prepared for 7th grade in CC? Do they get prepared for 6th grade in 5th grade. Maybe I just do not understand.
47. We wish for our children to have the same curricular offerings available to all MCPS middle school students
48. My 7th grader finds the large student body at Westland rather intimidating. The extra year to ease into the attached social pressures that come with attending a large school with older children was extremely beneficial.
49. I would prefer my son to be at Westland if the curriculum at CCES is not the standard 6th grade curriculum.
50. We should advocate that they be treated the same as all 6th graders, whether they are able to remain at NCC in the future (my preference) or only until space is available.
51. Two things -- 1) I don't know anything about the differences that would result in the CCES vs. Westland 6th grad curricula, so I can't judge if it would be detrimental to have one over the other, and 2) I am hoping that the cuts made in other CCES programs could be alleviated if 6th grade is moved.
52. Hearing the recent news about NCC losing Spanish next year has already changed my mind--I have loved having 2 kids do 6th grade at NCC instead of Westland, but if the budget will not provide necessary support for a middle school curriculum at NCC, I would reluctantly prefer they do 6th grade at Westland. We also

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

have a current NCC 5th grader.

53. Westland at 1,400 students is too large of a school. MCPS should build a new middle school and split the student population between the 2 schools.
54. I would like them to be closer, but have the same opportunities all 6th graders have for curriculum.
55. I am even more in favor of moving the 6th graders so that they can be offered the new curriculum. I am concerned that over the course of time, NCC and CC 6th graders will fall behind if they remain in elementary school as more and more new curriculum is rolled out. Plus, I think parents and NCC and CC administrators will have to fight an uphill battle every year to keep the 6th grade program at status quo - foreign language is on the table to be cut, technology, etc. Having said that, I am not looking forward to the distance my children will have to travel on the bus to get to Westland. I am hopeful the county will move on the proposal to open a new middle school closer to the NCC and CC neighborhoods.
56. I want my children to remain in the lower school environment and closer to home for social and emotional reasons. I do not believe that this is as valuable at the expense of educational losses.
57. If this is true, I would prefer my 6th graders to go to Westland.
58. I want my kid to receive the same curriculum
59. This change should NOT take more than 6 months. County Officials and Planning Department should have already been working on this for years!!!
60. Of course all 6th graders should be taught from the same curriculum regardless of where they are in school. Ridiculous to even consider doing differently!
61. I am only willing to accept the westland option b/c I feel that MCPS has backed us into a corner, and refused to provide parity for NCC 6th grade. However, I don't see the point in having to continually fight that battle.
62. I want them to have every chance to succeed as other children in their district.
63. I like the idea of an extended elementary school experience, especially since they have already transferred once after RHPS. However, if the schools have a 6th grade there, the curriculum offered should be equivalent until the students are moved to a middle school. Slowly paring down the 6th gr. curriculum to sub-standard levels seems to border on irresponsible, at minimum its inconsistent with MCPS standards. If MCPS isnt paying currently for the CC and NCC 6th graders to be taught at westland then they should pay for them to continue to receive their equivalent 6th grade instruction at CC/NCC until that move happens.
64. Westland is already overcrowded, and I am already uneasy about the long middle school commute over to Mass Ave. Heck, if we can fundraise for smart boards and playgrounds, at least give us a chance to fundraise for actual classroom instruction.
65. If a new 6th grade curriculum is being rolled out county wide, why would NCC or CCES be allowed to be left out? Why can the administrators just decide to ignore or go against the county's directive? That is just wrong, esp. if it puts our students at a disadvantage when they get to 7th grade.
66. I really don't feel like the kids are going to miss out on anything they can't make up down the road. In our cluster they go through to much change with having to split up their years in grade school. If you want to send them to Westland then you have to make Rosemary Hills NCC and CC K -5 schools.
67. Why would it be different - that makes no sense.
68. I answered the first question already understanding the possible curriculum changes. I want my child to have access to the top curriculum. That is more important to me then having her go to 6th grade at NCC. In an ideal world, if NCC gets the same curriculum/resources as Westland, then that would be my preference,

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

but that does not seem to be an option.

69. This sounds like scare tactics, If you don't do what we propose your children will be punished. We pay huge taxes to the state and county, our children deserve the best education possible, why is it not possible to implement the new curriculum in CC?
70. all 6th graders should be given the same academic curriculum, regardless of where they are schooled.
71. In that case the students would be at a disadvantage vis-a-vis others in their age group.
72. I want my 6th grader to have the same opportunities and curriculum as all 6th graders county wide.
73. Westland is crowded and very far. If another middle school opened in our neighborhood, that would be more appealing than Westland, but I would prefer a full 6th grade curriculum (ie, same as 6th grade curriculum at Westland) at CCES.
74. I would give up the benefits of a smaller school community to ensure that my child received the curriculum as other 6th graders in MCPS.
75. The schools should receive adequate funding to teach the children with the same new curriculum at CC and NCC as all other 6th graders. Many of these children are forced to be bused out of their neighborhoods for three years. They deserve an extra year at a neighborhood school.
76. Yes - the quality of the education is most imp to me
77. I still dislike the idea and believe that there could be room for other options/compromises.
78. I would like to fight for parity for our incoming 6th graders at both CCES and NCCES
79. Who knows if the great new offerings for 6th graders at Westland will also be taken away once our 6th graders show up.
80. If the 6th graders at the Chases are not offered the same curriculum as 6th graders elsewhere in the county, then 6th grade should no longer be at the Chases.
81. We are undecided on this as it depends on the severity of the cuts. This is an extremely distressing choice as both options have serious negative consequences.
82. Before learning this at the recent meeting my answer to 1. would be Dislike Very Much. It had never occurred to me that by avoiding a year of the middle school experience socially, my children could suffer academically.
83. I still hate the idea of my children going to Westland in 6th grade, especially when it will become the largest middle school in the county. Obviously I don't like the idea of their getting an inferior education, but that doesn't change the fact that I really don't want them leaving the community school, which is also an elementary school. Kids are growing up too quickly in the wrong ways and putting 6th graders with 7th and 8th graders only exacerbates that trend. Middle school generally is my least favorite of the school levels and I've heard that Westland, though improved, remains the weakest link from elementary through high school, in this area. I've also heard that the teachers at Chevy Chase are much stronger. For all of those reasons I would like to limit the amount of time my children are at Westland. The change in curriculum would be very very troubling, but that doesn't make me happy about sending my kids to Westland in 6th grade; it just makes me very depressed about budget cuts.

Finally, I'm still very unpersuaded that there is no way to provide at least a comparable if not identical curriculum for 6th graders at CCES and NCCES. Why not combine teachers for the two programs. I think the county is getting lazy about this issue and just wants the ease of sending all 6th graders to the same place. I know times are tough but I think that they can do better. I would be willing to fight for greater parity!

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

84. It is unacceptable that they not be offered the similar curriculum. School officials need to search harder for a way to provide this. Westland is already overcrowded and cannot handle more students.
85. I want my child to receive the same curriculum, incl. technology and the arts. High school level courses are not important to me.
86. The county should support sixth graders wherever they are or get rid of Rosemary Hills as a huge K-2 school.
87. Westland is the farthest school from our neighborhood which is a negative. However, parity in curriculum and access to academic opportunities are most important.
88. There should be equitable instruction and opportunities for all 6th graders not dependent on their school placement
89. We are torn between the environment at NCC/CC for 6th graders vs. the expanded opportunities at Westland.
90. We are more concerned about how the middle school will adapt to better support the 6th grade, socially, not just academically.
91. Actually, it's more like maybe. It depends how different the curriculum would be and what the repercussions would likely be for doing well in 7th grade.
92. Parents must rally to ensure that CCES and NCC 6th graders received instructional support on par with that of our home middle school. Anything less is not acceptable.
93. I feel strongly that 6th grade stay in the elementary school. It allows for the kids to become leaders and continue to grow socially in a more developmentally appropriate setting. I think the benefit of 6th grade in ES is such a plus. Moving the 6th grade out of these elementary schools takes away the wonderful growth and incredible learning that can be foster in the 6th grade classrooms that remain a part of the elementary school.
94. I would need to know the specifics of what our NCC/CC 6th graders would be missing.
95. I liked the 6th grade in elementary school option but only if the curriculum was very similar
96. It does not change my response, but it does strike me as a craven, cheap solution by MCPS. Our children should be able to attend a middle school at least relatively close to our homes AND be offered the curriculum we pay for as taxpayers.
97. The school environment itself is a priority for us.
98. Curriculum opportunities need to be consistent throughout district.
99. I could accept, as the cost of staying at CCES for 6th grade, some limitations on the curriculum--e.g., fewer language and class offerings as there are now. But losing IB or something similarly important would change my answer. In light of the inevitable overcrowding of Westland, though, and the possibility of sharing teachers between CCES and NCC, I am hopeful that MCPS will seriously consider keeping 6th graders at CCES AND keeping their curriculum strong.
100. There is a huge benefit to keeping 6th graders in smaller schools with younger children. Test scores show our 6th graders do well at CC and NCC
101. Of course I would like the "best of both worlds" - the new curriculum, at CC. If not I think I still prefer my child to stay at CC for 6th...but am open to persuasion.
102. This is an unacceptable solution if this will put our children at a disadvantage.

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

103. I would like my kids to receive the same curriculum at NCC - but if they can't I'd rather them go to Westland for 6th.
104. This is one of the many reasons that already factored into my response to #1 so it does not change my answer here
105. do not want my kids at a disadvantage
106. I would want my children to receive the same curriculum at other county 6th graders.
107. I think the county needs to meet the communities part-way
108. I think early exposure to more advanced/specialized criteria is a good reason to send them to Westland. And a cheaper option than replicating everything somewhere else. (I am a taxpayer too.)
109. Why would they not follow the same curriculum? That just sounds like asking for trouble!
110. I'm not worried about curriculum changes, but am concerned about lack of resources or cutting classes or programs.
111. It supports my response to move them to Middle School. With that said, I would like to see a new additional middle school closer to my neighborhood and not quite so large as Westland.
112. I don't really know much about that curriculum, but it seems pretty unfair - but I really would like to delay my son being in middle school by the extra year.
113. I think that is a lame response from the school administrators and I am left with the feeling that East Bethesda is the "step child" without fair choices or options. How dare the school administrators choose not to teach the same new curriculum that is being rolled out COUNTY WIDE because we thought NCC was the better school for our kids. The situation makes me sick and a disappointed that my tax dollars don't get me anywhere.
114. We are very confident with the quality of instruction at CCES, and we believe that the social/developmental benefits of staying in a smaller, more familiar school setting for the 6th grade year. We also feel that the social disruption of changing to a more demanding middle school setting would very likely offset the hypothetical benefits of more funding for additional elements of instruction.
115. If the pupils do not receive the new curriculum at CC and NCC then they MUST be given the option to go to Westland because all pupils should be given the chance to live up to their full potential and participate in the new curriculum. "The easy way out is not always the best."
116. All 6th graders in Montgomery County - regardless of school - should be taught using a consistent curriculum. To me, it doesn't make sense which physical location a 6th grader attends, but that all 6th graders in the same school system are educated equally.
117. We have no doubt that holding children hostage over curriculum would cause a major legal battle. Any change at CC needs to be linked to a change in busing to Rosemary Hills.
118. Dependent on whether those services can be provided to parents/students on an after school basis (such as FLES more regularly). Also, if overcrowding is issue, don't know why westland won't be overcrowded - so not sure why that curriculum can't be taught at NCC
119. The new curriculum should be taught to all students in grade 6 regardless of the physical plant--we do not have any solid information on this new curriculum at this time anyway, and why it would not be possible to implement it in all 6th grade classes county-wide regardless of physical plant.
120. All 6th graders should receive both the same curriculum and the same extra-curricular activities and services, including languages, advanced courses, etc. - regardless of which school they attend. We moved

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

to this area specifically for the schools; we would not appreciate the goalpost being moved, and would show our displeasure, beginning at the ballot box.

121. It would be helpful to have more information about the differences in curriculum and why.
122. I'd like my 6th grader to have the county-wide 6th grade curriculum.
123. The children should be taught the same sixth grade curriculum regardless of where they attend school. Montgomery Co. should have a standard curriculum for sixth grade.
124. I think we should fight for the same programs that they would be getting at Westland. Or augment curriculum with PTA funds. Other states CA, WA are able to do it. The current budget crisis may not last long but moving 6th grade will be permanent.
125. Why is this? Montgomery county is Montgomery county...why does it have to be different for NCC or CC???????????????
126. I need to know more about the new curriculum, and how it would differ from what the 6th graders at NCC and CCE are taught. Sixth grade curriculum should be uniform county-wide, without regard to the building in which the child sits. Not only curriculum, but also environment (smaller, more personal) plays an important role in a child's educational experience. If the curriculum were comparable, even if not identical, and children could integrate in 7th grade without unnecessary additional stress, that might suffice.
127. If the children at CCES or NCC are not receiving the same services as other middle schoolers, the 6th grade should not remain in the elementary schools.
128. Our answer may be different if we were given more information to make an informed decision, such as: (1) Explain why the new curriculum can not be taught at the 6th grade at CC or NCC, and (2) what would be the potential impacts for kids if they are not taught under the new curriculum in the 6th grade?
129. It is more of a priority for my child to receive the proper (challenging) academic instruction than any advantage gained by staying at NCC
130. they are pressuring us to move to Westland by taking away resources to NCC and CCES. the solution is to fight to get the resources back by increasing 6th grade enrollment by adding students, most likely from East Bethesda, to provide sufficient numbers to increase resources.
131. I would rather they go to Westland Middle for 6th grade and get the same education as all 6th graders than stay in elementary school for 6th grade and not receive the same education.
132. how can it not? regardless of where they are located, 6th graders should receive the same curriculum!
133. That's not fair. Please make sure you're planning competently.
134. I think the benefits of staying at NCC or CC for 6th grade are almost negated if the students aren't getting the same education as those at Westland so I'd be in favor of a move if that is the only way to get parity. However, I'm hesitant to support a "resolution" that creates what will be the biggest middle school in the county.
135. I don't want my child to be left behind academically.
136. the new curriculum needs to be taught to all MoCo public 6th graders, otherwise there will be a disadvantage that will ripple through high school.
137. I am very interested in knowing what exactly would be the difference in the curricula, and whether the NCC community can lobby for or provide for a way to maintain parity.
138. They SHOULD be taught new curriculum.

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

139. Obviously, they deserve the same opportunities as the rest of the county, so if moving them to Westland is the ONLY way to make that happen, then so be it. But I still do NOT like that option.
140. Yes, the academics as well as the social assimilation makes me somewhat more inclined to support moving the 6th grade. I have heard from some parents that arriving at Westland in 7th grade results in the students from NCC and CCES being somewhat "left out"
141. Why can't CC elementary school provide the new curriculum?
142. I'm not supportive of 6th grade at CCES if it means the curriculum will be sub par relative to Westland. However, I'm concerned about overcrowding at Westland.
143. If 6th graders remain at NCC and CC to avoid more overcrowding at Westland they deserve the same 6th grade curriculum as others.
144. I believe the advantages of keeping 6th graders at the elementary level for one more year far outweigh any other concerns. And on a personal level, one of the major reasons for choosing our new neighborhood was that elementary school would be through 6th grade.
145. Unacceptable
146. It really depends on the curriculum changes. There are benefits to the smaller setting close to home that might outweigh the curriculum loss, especially given the quality teachers at CCES. My question is how Montgomery County can discriminate in this way. Isn't every child entitled to an equivalent curriculum? Given the number of mandates that govern teachers, I don't understand why there are no legal boundaries on what the County can do that would resolve this question without tossing it to the parents to make pedagogical decisions that most of us are not in a position to intelligently make, but which might have a profound impact on our children.
147. It appears that the 6th grade class from NCC and CC ES that enter MDS 7th grade do very well.
148. I do not want my daughter (first grader in RHES) now to go to sixth grade at Westland...we moved to area for NCC!!!!!!
149. But they should give the same resources to the 6th grade at the elementary schools.
150. if there is not parity, then I would prefer to deal with the large school and long commute over to Westland
151. I like the student will be taught using the same new curriculum as in the middle school.
152. Changes it from just a matter of location to a matter of curriculum.
153. Why can't the 6th grade students at CC benefit from the same curriculum as county-wide? what is the difference? what is the professional opinion of the two?
154. I want to know how the curriculum will be different and see if I can supplement the NCC curriculum with enrichment courses to match or exceed that of what Westland has to offer. The best thing about NCC is that it continues through the 6th grade. I was thrilled that we'd only have to endure two years of Middle School; I don't want to see it extended to three years. I'd ideally like to avoid Westland altogether. What is so difficult about offering the same curriculum at NCC and CC as long as its already been developed/thought out for Westland and we're all in the same county? I'm sure the 6th grade NCC and CC teachers could be trained on the new curriculum. Need more info!
155. Although I would think that middle school curriculum and requirements are middle school requirements and must be followed. My oldest , who is at Westland , despite being at NCC, had a middle school curriculum in 6th grade.
156. If keeping the 6th grade at NCC detrimentally changes the learning curriculum for the 6th grade, I do not

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

want my child to be disadvantaged. However, I would like an explanation of how the curriculums would differ and what the impact would be in 7th grade of students with divergent 6th grade curriculums. A detailed explanation is required from the county which as of yet has not been provided. A town hall meeting is not sufficient.

157. There needs to be equity for all sixth graders in the county. It isn't fair for CCES or NCCES 6th graders to not have the same opportunities and programs as other 6th graders in the county.
158. I think if they stay at NCC/CC, they should have a curriculum as similar as possible to Westland. I realize it is not possible to offer everything, but I think it should be as close as possible.
159. They should all be on the same page. Isn't that what public schools in the same district ought to do by law?
160. It makes no sense to base curriculum based on physical location of the student.
161. I would prefer my daughter stay at NCC for 6th grade, however, if I had to choose between Westland with standard curriculum and NCC with less than standard curriculum, I would choose to send her to Westland.
162. It is unacceptable that the community is being forced into doing something they don't really want to do -- move the 6th grade -- under the threat of a subpar education for their children should they remain at CCES or NCCES. This is not a choice; it is a threat. In lengthy meetings at CCES it was clear that the MCPS rep could not clearly explain WHY the appropriate classes couldn't be provided to CC/NCC (that there had been little to no creative thought into how to make this work), just that MCPS couldn't do it because of economy of scale and the mandate to cut special programs. MCPS has long made these pairings in order to increase diversity, promising that students would get extra support in order to mitigate the negative effects/burdens of pairings. It is now clear that MCPS intends to force the maintenance of the pairings, despite this creating an overly large RHPS, and take away any extra support/benefits that permitted kids to succeed and parents to feel motivated to keep their children in the cluster.
163. The administrators should reconsider that position and teach according to the county-wide curriculum.
164. If sixth graders at NCC/CC will not be taught using the same new curriculum, my response changes to Like Very Much. If they could receive the same education at NCC/CC, I would prefer they remain at NCC/CC. If they cannot receive the same education at NCC/CC, then I would strongly prefer that they move to Westland.
165. I think it is the county's responsibility to offer all six graders the equivalent program. What they are proposing is inequitable and our children's education will suffer.
166. It is hard to understand why sixth graders at NCC and CC can't receive the county-wide curriculum for sixth graders. Still, I would prefer to minimize the number of years in middle school and have our children attend school closer to home when possible.
167. The only issue is when must the children move into a new environment. The studies show that the children who stay in elementary school do better on standardized tests for the 6th grade, but none of the studies follow those children to show how they do in the ensuing years.
168. I am familiar with academic studies done at Duke that show that 6th graders that are combined with 7th and 8th graders in middle school learn less and misbehave more than 6th graders that are kept in elementary school. That is dispositive for me.
169. However, I feel that the benefits of staying away from a large MS outweigh the few classes they may miss. My child's educational experience is the most important, and if she cannot feel safe or secure with 8th graders, then she won't learn. 5/6 could cluster, as well.
170. If the county requires standards of its students, it should apply to all students, not just the students that the county chooses. The county is also presuming that there will always be huge state and county deficits looming over the educational system. If so, those cuts will not only apply to the Chases, but to Westland. In

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

that case, I'd rather have my 6th grader in a smaller, nurturing environment with strong parental support and adult supervision, rather than an overwhelmingly large institution where they are asked to act like and interact with teens.

171. If sixth remains at NCC/CC, there simply must be parity with the county middle school curriculum. It is unconscionable that the county has not even provided the sixth grade teachers with training for middle school reform provided to all other sixth grade teachers. Clearly, before moving sixth is even considered, there ought to be an even playing field. Otherwise it is clear that the county is forcing the hands of its parents and students and not acting in the best interests of its student population.
172. because they need to do the curriculum they'll be taught
173. I think 6th grade should continue to be at CC, however the same curriculum as other schools should be taught.
174. The 6th Grade at Chevy Chase is very successful at teaching the middle school curriculum in the elementary school.
175. If the county will not fund the same program at NCC as at Westland, I would prefer my child to attend Westland. However, I am concerned that the social and nurturing environment at NCC is being sacrificed for short-sighted budgetary reasons.
176. Knowing this moves me from "dislike very much" to either "dislike somewhat" or neutral.
177. All students should be taught the same things regardless of the school they attend.
178. Given that 6th grade in these two schools are an exception to the rule in the county, my preference is to ensure that kids at Westland have better facilities instead of fighting a losing battle.

In an ideal world, I'd be happier to see kids attending 6th grade close to home with younger kids, rather than being the youngest in a large teen population. But not if that comes at the price of sacrificing valuable parts of the curriculum, such as preparation for the IAB, languages and daily PE.

Parents talked of equity for 6graders at CC and NCC but these kids already have better results than other kids in the county. To give them special treatment by maintaining sixth grade is to rob other children in the county who may be more in need.
179. Since the county isn't supporting 6th grade anywhere except for Westland, we really don't have a choice.
180. So You're saying we have a voice but you're already taking away that choice by minimizing their education? The amount it costs to get them into Westland which is also over crowded already not to mention the program. And where's all the savings from selling off and renting out OUR middle school?
181. All 6th graders should be taught the same curriculum regardless of their location. I have not been able to make any of the meetings but has the idea of combining the 6th graders at NCC and CC to be at one location, either NCC or CC? If this is not possible how about sharing "special" teachers between the schools so we could still provide Spanish, etc. for our children.
182. I strongly believe the 6th grade should remain in the Elementary School. With that being said, it is not acceptable for the county and school administrators to accept it as a 'less than' situation. If the curriculum that will be provided is considered equivalent and the resources allocated will be comparable, then fine. If not, the county and school administrators need to determine a way for this to occur. The decision for the kids to remain in the Elementary Schools is the right one for developmental and educational reasons. Decisions around this matter should not be made because it is expedient for the county to move them to the middle school. They need to adequately address the capacity and resource issues at NCC and CC for the 6th graders!
183. otherwise, i would dislike the move even more. as it is, i can see some potential upside.

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

184. Children are too impressionable in 6th grade. Moving them to Westland exposes them to too much too soon (e.g. drugs and alcohol, harsher bullying, peer pressure). Also, I saw an email that stated that test scores from CC and NCC students were actually better in 7th and 8th grade than those who attended 6th grade at Westland.
185. Although it does seem silly not to offer the same curriculum. If 6th grade is a middle school year, then why couldn't a middle school curriculum be offered to the students that remain in place at NCC/CC?
186. Without explanation this seems arbitrary and as if they are trying to force the issue through a threat which is not professional..
187. I still dislike it very much, but it makes me angry that the county won't provide the same education at NCC and CC schools.
188. What are the differences in curriculum for CCES and Westland
189. I would prefer to keep my child closer to neighborhood for that smaller school setting and environment as opposed to sending them all the way to Westland. Unfortunately will sacrifice the level of curriculum.
190. I still dislike the idea of 6th grade at Westland, and I strongly dislike the idea that 6th grade at NCCES or CCES would not use the same curriculum as the rest of the county. Why would that even be under consideration?
191. Parity, parity, parity. That is the ONLY important issue here. Our children must be offered the same or similar curriculum options no matter where they attend. Regardless of where kids attend in future years, next year's 6th graders at NCC and CCES, and those of the next few years before the transition is complete MYST be accorded the same chance to achieve as those attending Westland for 6th grade, Anything else is deeply inequitable. Thus, I support the eventual move of the 6th grade out of CCES and NCC ONLY on the condition that such parity is achieved in the meantime.
192. If the same curriculum or equivalent is not offered, I think it better for a child to go to Westland, provided Westland can handle an additional 140 or so students! As long as we don't know what impact this will have on Westland's capacity and quality of education our answer will be more in the negative.
193. However, it is ridiculous not to have the same/similar curriculum...the current teachers could handle it if trained.
194. it moves it to Like Very Much.
195. I think it is ridiculous to not roll out the same curriculum to all 6th grade teachers.
196. This determination - unaccompanied by any explanation - seems merely punitive and if anything sets me more firmly against the proposed realignment
197. I enjoy having my child at CCES for grade 6 as it is nice to have them in the elementary school environment. But, I don't agree with the discrepancy in curriculum within the same school system. Either they offer the same curriculum at CCES as they do at Westland or we will absolutely choose to move him to Westland for 6th grade.
198. I would want my child to have a comparable or more challenging curriculum than at Westland.
199. not really sure what this means, what are the differences?
200. Feel stronger about going Westland
201. make sure they do have the new curriculum as everyone else

Appendix B: Comments in response to question asking for opinion about keeping 6th graders at NCC/CC if the new middle school curriculum is NOT offered at these elementary schools.

202. The gains to remaining in 6th grade are far beyond the costs of missing the new curriculum. Anyone who objects to this can send their child to Westland.
203. Would need to understand how it would differ.
204. It's not fair that the 6th graders at NCC and CC are not receiving the same curriculum.
205. The curriculum should be universal regardless of the school--it should be worked out to apply to CC and NCC elementary schools as well.
206. Consistent curriculum is important.
207. THAT MAKES NO SENSE! WHY WOULD THEY NOT TEACH ALL CHILDREN AT THE SAME GRADE LEVEL THE SAME CURRICULUM?
208. I don't understand that at all. I would want my children to be moved to Westland MS or for them to be taught the same curriculum as the other 6th graders.
209. 6th grade is still 6th grade no? Why would they not get the same curriculum????
210. It validates my response. I only "like somewhat" because I think Westland will be too huge. I support an additional middle school to be built.
211. There are still a lot of unanswered questions that I have and hope to get answers to before I can really make up my mind about how to proceed. We probably need two tracks -- saving the curriculum short term at CCES and NCC and figuring out what to do long term (ideally, same curriculum at CCES and NCC as at Westland)
212. I want to understand the difference in curriculum between the two schools. I also want to know what the options are for parental supplementation of the budget, why these changes are being made, and how these changes can be taken given the agreement that 6th grade stay at CCES and NCC that was made years ago.
213. Curriculum required to be the same for all 6th graders
214. This question is not accurate. The students at NCC do receive the same core instructional program, as the WMS students receive. This question is misleading.
215. Its disturbing that the same curriculum would not be provided for CC and NCC. My feelings would depend on how different the curriculum would be, but overall, I believe the best environment for my 6th grader is at the elementary school.
216. The county MUST maintain an equitable curriculum.
217. I believe ALL 6th graders should be getting the same educational opportunities.
218. I don't believe this threat.
219. It depends, I would like to know how different and to what degree the difference is before responding to this question.