

**Homer Central School  
Board of Education  
Board Meeting Date: March 12, 2013**

Be it Resolved, that the Homer Central School Board of Education approves the option to allow Hartnett Elementary Grade 6 students to attend the Homer Junior High, along with the Intermediate School Grade 6 students, which results from the previously approved grade reconfiguration resolution.

***Rationale:***

Seventh grade has typically been the grade for the students to transition into their 7-12 class. With the Homer Intermediate students beginning that process in grade 6, the Homer Board of Education believes that Grade 6 Hartnett families should have this option as well.

Signed By:

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Sonia Apker, Board President

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Date

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Nancy S. Ruscio, Superintendent

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Kelli Yacavone, District Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



Homer Central School District  
Lisa Harris  
Principal-Hartnett Elementary School  
607-842-6216  
[lharris@homercentral.org](mailto:lharris@homercentral.org)

**February 13, 2013**

**Reasons for Sixth Grade to Remain at Hartnett**

Students at Hartnett Elementary School, which uses a community based K-6 configuration, benefit from this configuration because:

- Hartnett students **belong**. They get to be participants in a school community for 7 years, They gain a cultural and academic understanding of what it means to be in community.
- Hartnett students are **generous**. They lead within the building, and they reach out to the community in which they live.
  1. Our 6<sup>th</sup> graders serve on student council;
  2. As sixth graders, they have an additional year to become leaders, and to learn how to take appropriate risks;
  3. They seek opportunities to reach out locally, regionally and globally;
  4. They peer-tutor, play sports, star and act in our school-wide theatre production.
- Hartnett students are expected to **master** academics and social-emotional behavior. They receive intensified instruction in a multi-layered program. Students at the 6<sup>th</sup> grade receive a MINIMUM of 90 minutes in ELA; 50 minutes in science; 55 minutes in social studies; and 45 minutes of math.
  1. In addition, Hartnett students benefit from a small school's ability to adjust the minutes as needed to maintain momentum and increase focus. We used flexible scheduling. We work to enrich all instruction by showing connections within and across subject areas.
  2. Our Pupil Teacher Ratio, (16:1 overall), provides for intensive instruction. Our current 6<sup>th</sup> grade is 22:1.
  3. We use the Response to Intervention model for the entire class, which lets us vary intensity of instruction. During ELA block, we distribute our resources so that we have a 22:3, or approximately a 7:1 ratio. We use a writers' workshop approach. We model how writing can be used as a means for thinking and questioning.
  4. Students are taught the principles of PRIDE and are held to that standard of behavior. The classroom meeting continues through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.



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5. Our teachers take an active role in modeling thinking about behavior, i.e., consequential thinking, and invest large amounts of time in each child's development.
  6. We have 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students change classrooms, so they can benefit from "expert" instruction in math, social studies and science. We use expeditionary learning methods in conjunction with the Common Core "Shifts."
- Hartnett students are expected to **achieve increased independence** by the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade and are prepared to move on to the junior high school.
    1. Students at Hartnett School, by 7<sup>th</sup> grade, are ready for the lengthy bus ride to Homer;
    2. Students have shown high level achievement on state Math scores;
    3. Students have connections with Homer Jr. High School now and will have those connections in the future at the 7<sup>th</sup> grade level.