



WPSD RE-2
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WPSD Announces 2023-2024 Plans to Expand Elementary Schools to PK-6
Grade Schools**

Woodland Park, CO – 03/01/2023 - After careful consideration, Woodland Park School District has made a strategic decision to optimize its facilities and enhance academic performance by expanding its three elementary schools to PK-6 grade schools and relocating 6th grade from the middle school to the elementary schools. This new configuration will allow for proper utilization of space for both the Woodland Park Middle School (WPMS) and Merit Academy as enrollment continues to grow.

This configuration offers several benefits to our students. Firstly, our elementary schools strongly emphasize fundamental skills such as literacy and numeracy. By incorporating the 6th grade into our elementary schools, students will have a better opportunity to establish a solid foundation in these core subjects before transitioning to the more complex middle school environment. Also, middle school can be a time of heightened peer pressure as students begin to navigate the complexities of social relationships and group dynamics. Staying in elementary school for 6th grade allows students to focus on their academic and personal growth without feeling as much social pressure. Finally, as the oldest students in the school, they will have opportunities to take on leadership roles. This can be a rewarding experience that helps students to develop important skills like empathy, communication, and responsibility.

In response to this change, some WPMS employees participated in a call-out-sick protest today, March 1, which disrupted our students' learning environment. We understand the frustration caused to our students and families. It is unconscionable that some would target Woodland Park families to elevate adult angst at the expense of our students' classroom learning.

Our focus in these changes will always be on the best educational outcomes for our students, including both the WPMS students and the Merit Academy students who

share the building and whose educational environment is also being targeted by these disruptive actions.

The District remains committed to providing a safe, supportive, quality education to its students and will continue making strategic decisions to enhance their academic performance.

About the Woodland Park School District Re-2

A Place of Becoming.

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