Big Changes
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A new pond with new fish and a whole different flow, starting 7th grade was a lot different than 6th grade, and it took some getting used to. Some of the biggest concerns that the 7th graders had were not being able to get their lockers open, having no where to sit at lunch, or being late for class. Getting to walk alone from class to class was one of the biggest changes and also one of the hardest to make. One student, Lilly Roe, said “Starting 7th grade was hard, but after a few days it became easier,” But the new 7th graders didn't have to go through it alone thanks to the support the teachers and adults gave. If someone had a question about finding a classroom they could ask them. School Counselor, Janae Grunow, stated, “As the transition school counselor, I understand that leaving one school and entering another can be very stressful on students. To lessen students’ stress with transitioning, I provide students with guidance classes that discusses what to expect at the middle school, provide a tour of the middle school in May with a question/answer session from current 6th grade students, and give them the opportunity to practice with combination locks, and for students that are new to our district, in August, we offer a new student/family luncheon.”

While coming to the middle school was already a big step, it would have been a lot harder to come to the middle school straight from the elementary school. Having the intermediate school for 5th and 6th grade caused all of the three elementary schools to come together, giving the students a chance to see new faces and meet new friends before transitioning up to the middle school. Getting to choose band, orchestra, choir, or general music as a music elective in intermediate school got them ready for all of the elective choices that they have up at the middle school such as art, Spanish, band, etc. Though not all of the choices have to do with choosing electives, lunch was a big change as well, having choices like pizza, salad, and other foods are a part of lunch that we didn’t have in 5th and 6th grade. Making new friends wasn’t as hard to do at the middle school as it was at the intermediate school. This was mainly because all of the elementary schools came together in 5th grade, and all of those students got to see and meet lots of new friends. Then when they transitioned into 6th grade, they got to see those same kids and get to know them even better, so by the time they got to middle school they would know almost all of the kids and have a lot of friends. Unlike all of the St.John’s students that were just making the transition from St. Johns to the middle school because their school had gone up to 6th grade instead of 4th grade. Most of the kids that they knew were all coming from St.John’s as well, so having all of those new faces and new people to become friends with was a big change that they had to make. Being the little fish in the big pond is scary and nerve wracking but when all of the little fish are going through the same thing, they work together to get through it in the end.