ALBUQUERQUE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Where Everybody Belongs Information

1. What is WEB?

- WEB stands for **"Where Everybody Belongs"**—a proven **middle school transition program** that pairs trained 8th grade student leaders with incoming 6th graders to help them feel connected and confident.

- It's **more than orientation**—it's a **yearlong support system** focused on leadership, mentorship, and belonging.

2. Why It Matters

- The transition to middle school can be tough. New students face bigger schools, new routines, and social challenges.

- **Research shows** that if students feel connected early, they are more likely to succeed both academically and socially.

- WEB creates **intentional connections** from day one, increasing school belonging and reducing anxiety.

3. What Happens in WEB?

- **Spring**: Incoming 6th graders receive a personalized invite and phone call from their assigned WEB Leaders.

- **Orientation Day**: 8th grade Leaders guide their small group of 6th graders through team-building, school tours, and survival skills.

- **Throughout the Year**:

    - Leaders check in regularly with their assigned 6th graders.

- Leaders teach peer-led academic and life skill lessons (study skills, cooperation, teamwork).

- Social events like lunches, school game nights, or buddy activities keep connections strong.

4. How Does It Build Leadership?

- 8th graders are selected and trained in communication, group dynamics, and mentorship.

- They're more than tour guides—they become positive role models and mini-mentors who grow as leaders while supporting others.

- The program gives them real responsibility and pride in shaping school culture.

5. Impact on School Culture

- WEB helps foster a respectful, inclusive, and connected community.

- When older students lead with care, and younger students know they have someone to turn to, it transforms the atmosphere.

- It boosts both student confidence and student leadership, which benefits the entire school.

6. For Parents and Community Members

- Parents can feel reassured knowing their child has a trusted peer mentor.

- The community benefits from a generation of students learning early the power of empathy, leadership, and service.

7. Why We're Proud

- This is not a one-time event—it's a sustained, intentional, research-backed program.

- WEB Leaders leave a legacy of kindness, support, and leadership—and 6th graders start their middle school journey knowing: *they belong here*.