



# Did you miss the Middle School panel event?

**Here is some of the information shared by Henderson Middle parents, both current and former. Another event coming soon!**

*"Sometimes the reputation out there is that Henderson is bad, and Kittredge is the best, but both are exaggerated, and the truth is in the middle." -Former Kittredge parent, and current HMS parent*

*"Henderson encourages kids' independence, helps them find their own space to thrive, and teaches them how to study . . . how to stay on top of things. There is a sense of community since they go to school with their neighbors. They are also kept in their own 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grade wings, so they have their own space to be comfortable with kids their age." "There are SO many activities at HMS for your child to be with other kids who share similar interests, definitely join the extracurricular activities!" -Current HMS and OGE parent*

*"Teachers go above and beyond to help my child at Henderson. When he was struggling with some content, they couldn't have been more helpful to address those difficult calculus topics." -Current Lakeside, former HMS, and current OGE parent*

*"My child was so nervous about the lockers, and his schedule when he entered 6<sup>th</sup> grade. But we were able to help adjust his schedule to maximize time where he needed it most. Coming from Oak Grove he was 100% prepared academically for Henderson. The teachers are there for you, but they are really there for the KIDS." -Current Henderson parent*

*"They DO want parent help at Henderson, contrary to what I hear in the community." -MANY parents*

*"Children operate in pods or specific areas of their own wing. They're not running down the hall to get to their next class. They do start nervous about things like lockers and getting to class, but by fall they are all comfortable in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. I hear a lot of concerns in the community about things that aren't true about Henderson, but that happens at all schools. As for the gifted track, I teach children who are on the gifted track and children in the general education track throughout my day teaching at Henderson, so they aren't divided up or never see each other." -HMS teacher and parent*

*"I thought I wanted my children in Catholic school, but every year my children had at OGE was a great year." "The teams at Henderson travel together in a team that's very controlled. They have a BRAND new state of the art sixth grade wing. Being from a science background, the science labs were important to me, and I have been beyond impressed with Henderson's facilities in that regard. It's very impressive." "Band has been an amazing experience for my son, he's gotten to play at Oak Grove, at Henderson, and why do you think the band is so great at Lakeside? Because they've traveled along this arch that started here at Oak Grove!" -Current Oak Grove and Henderson parent*

*"The Chorus teacher is a nationally recognized award-winning teacher. His productions are ones that alumni return for year after year to be a part of." -Almost everyone on the panel talked about this!*

*"All the music programs are wonderful, band and orchestra included." -MANY parents shared their child's music successes at Henderson.*

*"Henderson offers extended learning time that is like study hall, where teachers offer assistance which also helps to cut down on work that children bring home."*

*"We are not on the gifted track. We have had unbelievable teachers." -Current Henderson parent*

*"Henderson Middle School has exceeded our expectations. Our 6th grade son has not had any difficulty transitioning from OGE to HMS. He has made new friends, has joined the ultimate frisbee team and continues to do well academically. The middle school concerns that we have discussed over the past six years between ourselves and others, and the reasons that cause hesitation for some to send their children to Henderson, have not presented themselves to us. We are pleased with our decision to give Henderson a chance and plan to continue there. " -Current OGE and HMS parent not on gifted track*

*"One of my children has special needs, and his teacher calls me on Fridays to go over how things are going. I have never had this happen before Henderson." "Get involved in clubs, there are activities for all interests. Some clubs are even started by kids for kids."-Current Henderson parent and PTA member*

*"My introverted child was nervous about middle school, but meeting children from our other area elementary schools helped him find people he clicked with that don't live far from him. He is on the gifted track and so far that is going well." -Current OGE, Henderson PTA Board parent*

*"If you compare Henderson's Milestones scores to area private schools, they are in equal standing with Kittredge and Chamblee."-Current HMS parent*

*"I am the chair of the Henderson welcome committee, am a part of the HMS PAC and Foundation. I am also a developmental psychologist, and see that the experiences our children have and go through at Henderson are valuable parts of the growing process. I have six years of experience at Henderson and it has been great." -Current Henderson parent*

*"My daughter attended Briarlake Elementary, and was having a wonderful experience. She got accepted into Kittredge and we (gasp) turned it down. I went back and forth over the decision, talked to everyone I knew, and ultimately decided not to take her from one amazing experience she was already having that's five minutes from our house. It was about the lifestyle we wanted to have as a family, and we are having an even better experience at Henderson than we could've imagined. My daughter did not think her seventh grade teachers could compare to her sixth grade teachers, and she felt the same that her sixth grade teachers couldn't possibly be as good as her fifth grade teachers had been at Briarlake. But they were all equally great!" -Current Henderson Parent*

## **Information You Need About Henderson Middle School and 4<sup>th</sup>/ 5<sup>th</sup> at OGE**

### **Henderson tips and dates**

- Sign up for the Henderson PTA Newsletter NOW to learn more about the school early on: Go to **[hmsptsa.org](https://hmsptsa.org)** and click *subscribe*.
- Tours start in February, you'll know about these through the above newsletter and HMS Facebook page: **Henderson Middle PTSA**
- Henderson Welcome Committee can be contacted at [hmswelcome@gmail.com](mailto:hmswelcome@gmail.com)
- The complete list of Henderson's **20+ activities and clubs** can be found at [www.hendersonms.dekalb.k12.ga.us/Clubs.aspx](http://www.hendersonms.dekalb.k12.ga.us/Clubs.aspx) They have something for everyone!

### **OGE 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grades offer:**

Strong departmentalized teaching teams

Band/orchestra programs

Morning Announcement Video Stream

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip

Possible Foreign Language program coming

Access to technology

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Fall Festival

Fundraising/Social Events

STEM: continuity to HMS

Neighborhood friends together!

Gifted certified teachers

Problem Based Learning