

# 6th Grade Teams

Transition to two 4 person Teams



**Together**

**T**

**E**

**Everyone**

**Achieves**

**A**

**M**

**More**

# Recommendation

## 6th Grade Teams

**Recommendation:** The 6th grade is looking to transition to two teams each made up of four teachers: an English teacher, a mathematics teacher, a science teacher, and a social studies teacher (special education teacher would be embedded on the team) to enhance the following:

### Key Objectives:

- Transition from elementary to middle school
- Build positive bonds between students and teachers (Academic Extension)
- Improve subject-based teaching structure
- Enhance Team-based communication

**Current Structure:** The 6th grade has four teams each made up of two teachers: English/social studies teacher and math/science teacher (special education teacher is across two teams)



# 6th Grade Teams

## Four person teams

- Extend the middle school model of two four-person teams to the 6th grade that is currently established in the 7th and 8th grade.
- Maintain the unique 6th grade academic extension block
- Students will travel as a unit from class to class through the core subjects
- Facilitates enhanced transition to 7th and 8th grade

## Teacher schedule

- Teachers will teach four periods within their subject area and one period of Academic Extension
  - AE will continue to serve as a focused enrichment and support period
  - Four classrooms are either connected or across the hall on each team
- Curriculum and Instruction
  - Enhanced curriculum alignment across the grade, as well as vertical alignment
    - Increased collaboration at department meetings
    - Enhanced instruction (cross curricular projects, inquiry-based learning, student-focused learning)



# Common Planning

- Teacher Teams: Academic teaming organizes teachers across subjects so that teacher teams share responsibility for curriculum, instruction, evaluation, and student supports for the same group of approximately 80 students
- Each team has common planning time every other day for teachers to communicate and facilitate supports for students they teach in common and the integration of curriculum across disciplines
  - Five teachers review student needs and supports
  - Enhanced communication w/ special education teacher to support students on IEPs
  - Increase collaboration (5 teachers – planning, scheduling and assessing curriculum and learning projects)
  - Communication platform (Schoology) aligned across all team teachers



# Transition

## Transition from Elementary to NMS

- Admin. and Counselors visit the elementary schools (5th grade)(March)
  - Review 6th grade teams, extra-curricular activities, school events, classes, lunch, etc.
  - Student ambassadors Q&A
- Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information Night (March)
  - Review course offerings, middle school programs, the course selection process, extracurricular activities, meet with the middle school counsel department, PTO, and administration
  - Introduction to the middle school transition, and how we will support each child's success



# Transition

## Transition from Elementary to NMS

- Step-up Day (June of 5th grade)
  - Students are placed on their teams for next year to help students connect with their teachers, peers and new teams to assist in children feeling more comfortable and confident in a new environment
  - Team-building activities, tour the school, learn about the resources, clubs and activities
  - Students receive team t-shirts
- Student schedules are sent home on the last day of school
- August Open House (6th Grade)
  - Receive a duplicate student schedule, locker assignment, tours of the building (from 8th grade ambassadors), information about NMS teams, teacher websites, extra-curricular activities available to students, etc. Parents will also be able to meet with school counselors, PTO and NMS administration





# 6th Grade Classes that Support the Transition to NMS

## iPad/Library Class

- All 6th grade students have this exploratory class first quarter
- Students will learn how to use the iPad as an educational tool
- Students will be provided with an overview of the structure and resources of the NMS Library

## Social/Health Guidance Class

- 6th grade students will have this exploratory class second quarter
- Students will apply their iPad instruction, and learn to use technology to support executive functioning and study skills, as well as how to be safe and positive digital citizens online
- Students will learn developmentally appropriate skills to enhance their academic, social and emotional well-being and development



# Social/Emotional Benefits of Four Person Teams

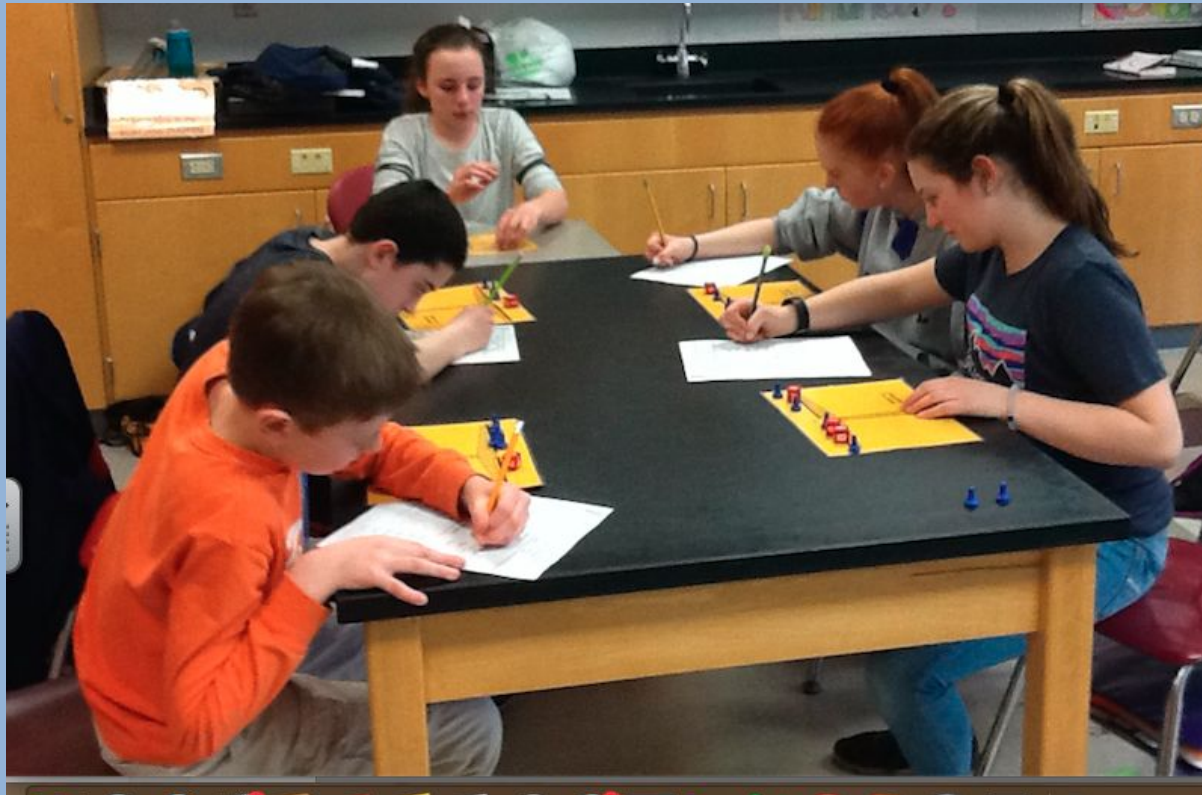
- Students have more opportunities to meet and connect with students and teachers
- Students benefit from exposure to and understanding of different teaching styles
- Four person teams align with the transition from grade 6 to 7 and 7 to 8
- Four person teams will allow better alignment with an overall middle school model and with our NMS school schedule. This promotes a schoolwide sense of community



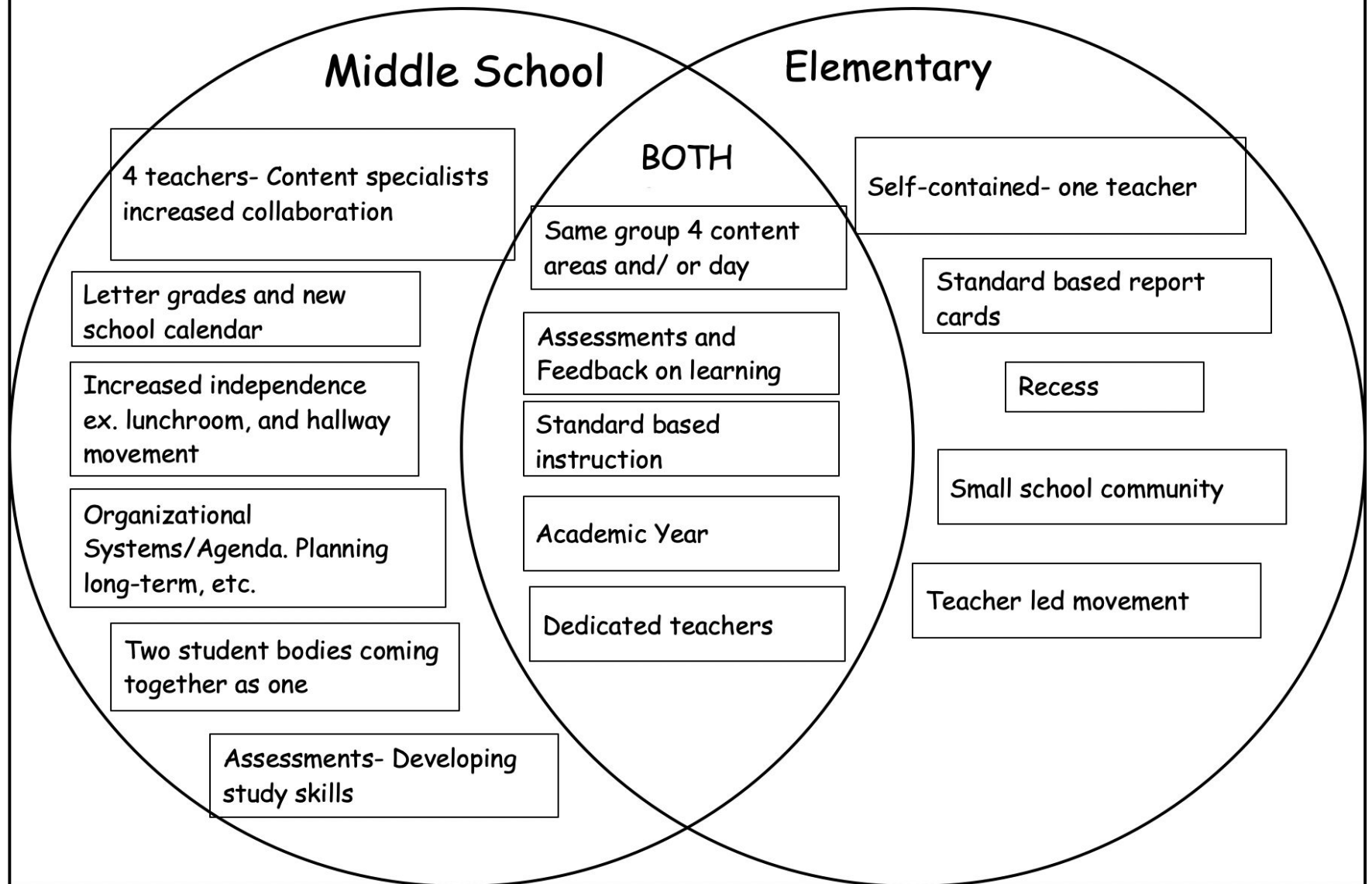


# Supporting the Middle School Transition

**Presented by  
Sixth Grade Teachers**



# Middle School vs. Elementary School



**How do sixth grade teachers  
support this “same, but  
different” middle school  
model?**

# Academic Extension- What it is?

“The Academic Extension course **fosters growth and development** through an extension of the content covered in class while providing **additional academic, team building and interpersonal skill**. At the beginning of the school year, this course will focus on an **introduction to the general procedures and expectations** as well as activities that will assist students in **acclimating to the middle school environment**. As the year progresses, the course will focus on specific academic content and group-based activities. This course will also be a time for students to **receive extra help, practice content skills, extend learning of the content, take assessments, complete make-up work, and conference with teachers**. While students will not receive a grade for the Academic Extension class, much of the work completed during this period will be tied to their academic class grades.”

# Academic Extension is a Way of Supporting Students as they Transition to a Team of Four Teachers:

- \* Fosters growth and development**

- \* Acclimating to middle school environment**

- \* Additional academic, team building and interpersonal skills**

- \* Students receive extra help, practice content skills, extend learning of the content, take assessments, complete make-up work, and conference with teachers**

- \* Introduction to general procedures and expectations**



# Easing the Transition to Grade 6



Get to know you  
activities/surveys

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/987>




Orientation Lessons  
“How to Navigate NMS”



*\* Acclimating to  
middle  
school environment*




**CONQUERING  
LOCKER ISSUES!**



Do you have  
something more  
befitting a 6th  
grader?

[https://s3.amazonaws.com/lowres.cartoonstock.com/children-elementary-elementary-schools-kid-boy-parents-mgrn664\\_low.jpg](https://s3.amazonaws.com/lowres.cartoonstock.com/children-elementary-elementary-schools-kid-boy-parents-mgrn664_low.jpg)



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uRTAtMjLLrE>

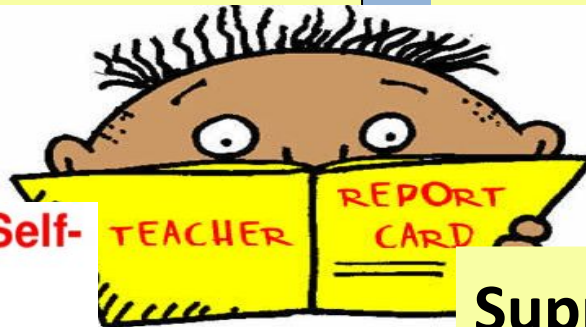
# Easing the Transition to Grade 6

***\* Fostering growth and development***

***\* Acclimating to middle school environment***

## Teaching Positive Self-Talk and strategies for success

# Understanding Grades and Developing Strategies for Academic Growth



## Negative Self-Talk

- I should always be perfect and do everything perfectly
- I should never make mistakes
- I should always be in control
- I should always put the needs of others before mine; otherwise I am being selfish

## Positive Self-Talk

- I am calm and relaxed
- I feel peaceful and centered
- My breathing is deep and regular
- I have control over how I react to stressful situations in my life
- I am worthy and deserving of happiness

## Supporting guidance class lessons



# Easing the Transition to

*\* Acclimating to middle school environment*

Introduction to general procedures and expectations

Aspen X2 for grades

Norwell Public Schools

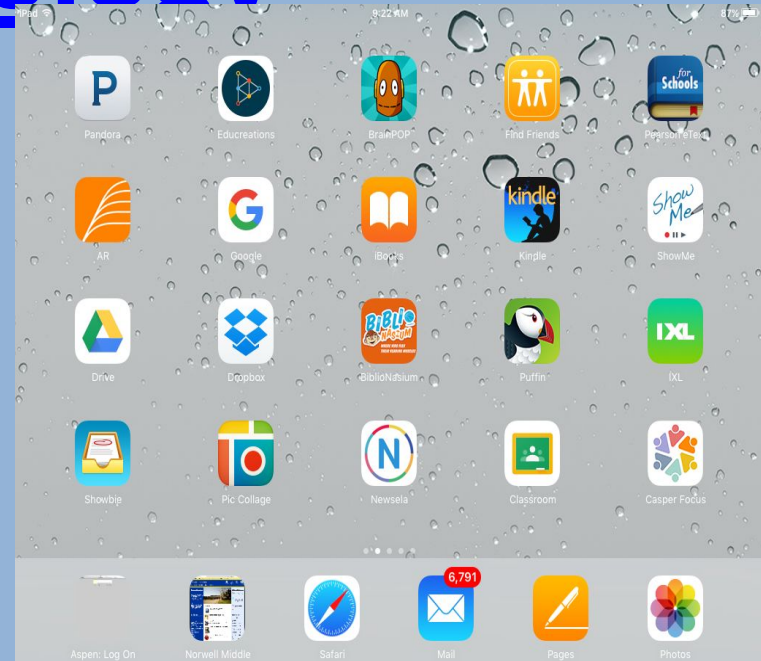
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Password

[I forgot my password](#)

Supporting Technology class lessons

Teaching about Websites and Apps



Various textbook apps, electronic submission, and other learning tools

# Independent, Small Group and Differentiated Instruction



Teacher & student conferencing

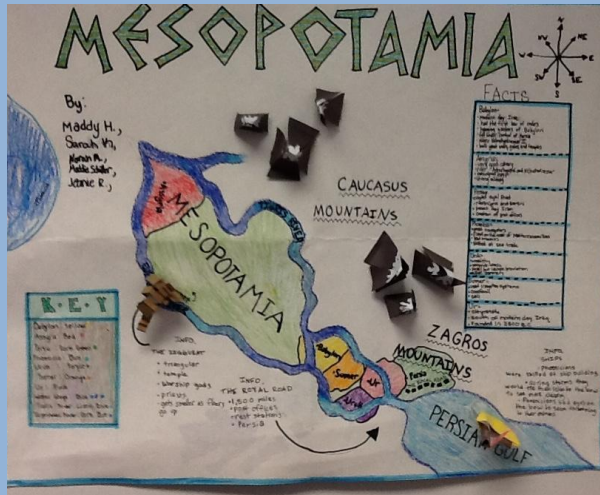


Individualized student paced  
subject work and  
assessments

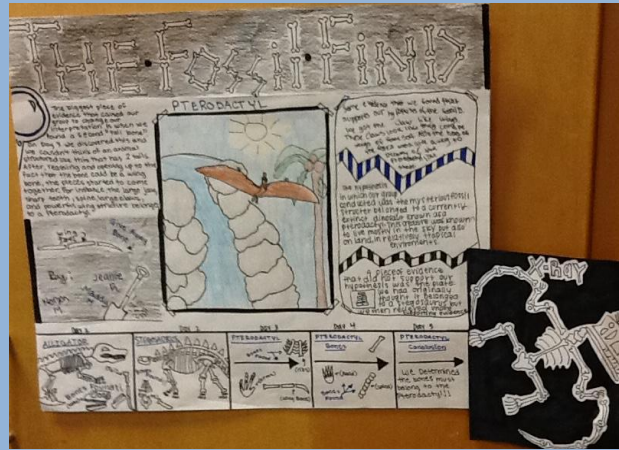
*\* Students receive extra help, practice content skills, extend learning of the content, take assessments, complete make-up work, and conference with teachers*



# Team Building Lessons



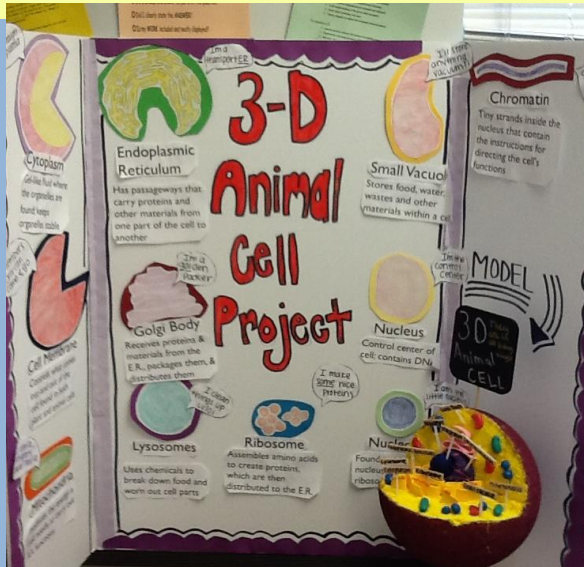
**Social Studies End of the Unit Activities for Student Choice**



**Science Fossil Find**



**Holiday Plays**



**Recreate a cell project**

*\* Additional academic, team building and interpersonal skills*

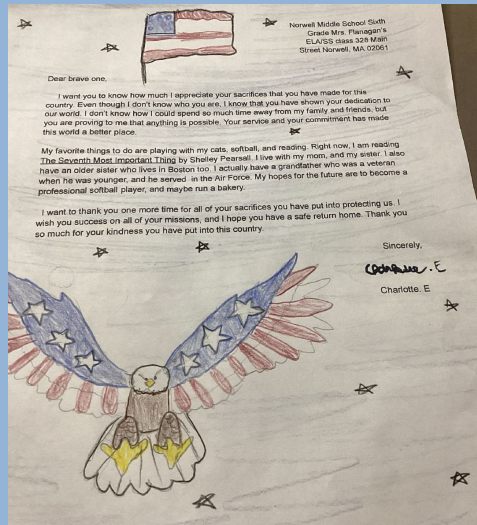
**Other Activities Include:**

- ◆ Hands-on math problem solving and logic puzzles
- ◆ Creating a Virus project
- ◆ Cross Team Lessons and Activities



# Community Outreach

## Letters to soldiers and veterans



*\* Fosters growth and development*

*\* Additional academic, team building and interpersonal skills*

## Stars of Honor Showcase



Dear incoming sixth graders,  
Sixth grade is very fun and interesting. iPads are a lot of fun to use and a lot easier. I recommend that you don't play games on your iPad during class or you'll get in trouble. No matter which teacher you get don't worry they are all great. Anyways have a lot of fun and don't be scared.

## Additional Activities:

- ◆ “Gifts” of the Holiday Season
- ◆ Comparative Literature: Whole grade read aloud/theater field trip
- ◆ Guest speakers to the teams
- ◆ Whale of a Day- In house Field Trip and science/ELA lessons

End of the year Words of Wisdom activity to incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders

**What do the students have to say about Academic Extension?** **Student Survey Feedback**  
***Question: What were some of the Academic Extension projects you enjoyed the most?***

- I liked learning about the America's White Table story, and when the two veterans came in to talk
- Painting cave art outside
- Independent Reading
- I enjoyed working on our goals for next year
- An assignment I had no clue about was the cells, and I took time to learn a little more about it
- Otzi Project - I knew nothing about him, but after this project, I knew he was a nomad and other important things about life

# **Academic Extension Survey (cont.)**

***Question: If you were to share what AE is all about with an incoming sixth grade students, how would you describe this to he or she?***

- A time when you don't have to worry and when you can focus on whatever you need to do that will help you grow in so many ways because you took that time wisely
- A time to learn more about different topics
- It is a time besides late night to catch up on work and get help from a teacher
- It is a time to expand on your learning and/or finish work you may not have finished

**In summary, Academic Extension is a way of supporting students as they transition to a team of four teachers**

- **Academic Extension supports and extends learning as well as allowing students to broaden and develop interpersonal skills with both teachers and their peers**
- **This unique class for our sixth grade students is our Middle School 101 which eases this transition into our NMS community and provides students with a sense of belonging**

**Thank you to our audience...**

**We welcome your questions**