

Middle School Reorganization

Currently there are eight content teachers at the middle school with 2 each for English, social studies, math and science.

Next year the class size for each grade, using current enrollment, would be:

Sixth Grade	47 students
Seventh Grade	31 students
Eighth Grade	41 students

If the current staffing remained in place class sizes would be:

Sixth Grade	15 to 16
Seventh Grade	15 to 16
Eighth Grade	13 to 14

These would be lower than the projected for grades 1, 3, 4 and 5.

Proposal

The proposal would be to have the same four teachers teach two sections each of English, social studies, math and science for grades six and seven.

This would create class sizes of 24 in grade six and 16 in grade seven. Class sizes in math would be smaller by creating a remedial class for students who need additional support in basic skills.

Unified arts classes in music, world language, health and physical education would be at 24 for grade seven and 16 for grade six.

Unified arts classes in FACS, technical education, computer education and art would be 16 for both grade six and seven.

Proposal

Grade eight would have a dual certified person to teach both English and social studies creating classes of 21.

Grade eight has students who take Algebra 1 with high school students, there would be two sections of eighth grade math with class sizes of about 18.

Due to lowering enrollment at the high school level, the person who teaches two sections of grade nine science would also teach two sections of grade eight science. Grade eight class sizes would be at 21 and grade nine classes would be at 22.

Grade eight students would take a full semester of health.

Grade eight students would take a full semester of physical education combined with ninth grade students.

Proposal

The school board has established a policy that allows middle school students to earn high school credit while in grade eight. Currently students can earn high school credit in Algebra, French and Spanish.

With this reorganization, most students will earn one high school credit and possibly two in the following areas:

Band	Chorus	Art	Technical Education
French	Spanish	Algebra 1	Computer Education

The high school and middle school schedule run on the same schedule. With some adjustments in scheduling this can be accomplished.

Effects of the Reorganization

This reorganization takes away the teaming concept in the middle school model from the eighth grade to a large extent.

This will also result in the reduction of two teachers, the specific persons have not been identified at this time.

Concerns Raised

Principal Bagley voiced a concern in losing staff from the middle school noting that there had been previous reductions prior to 2016-17.

- Declining enrollments create the need to create responsible class sizes.

Losing staff creates issues in morale and the changes that have taken place in this current school year with the change in schedule are just being evaluated.

- There will be no changes in the schedule, grades six and seven virtually unaffected.

Middle school students in classes of 24 may be too large.

- Class sizes are within school district and state recommendation for class size.

What if there is growth in the student population in grade six?

- Math classes will already be smaller due to creating remedial classes. The high school can potentially absorb one class in English, social studies and science if needed.

Concerns Raised

Will eighth graders still be considered middle school students?

- Yes, in reporting to the state eighth grade will be part of the middle school.

Are we meeting minimum standards as required by ED 306?

- Yes, the requirement is that the district create a schedule where art, music, technical education, computer education, FACS, health and physical education are available. The schedule will make them available for students to choose.

Will the potential mixing of eighth grade students with high school students in electives create a problem?

- The electives eighth grade students are eligible for will be limited to those introductory offerings that make sense and are most often taken by freshman. This would include Woods 1, Computer Literacy, 2 Dimensional Art, Creative Cooking, French 1, and Spanish 1. Band and chorus can use more instrumentalists and vocalists.

Concerns Raised

Does this create less flexibility within the middle/high school schedule?

- No, by allowing UA classes to be held during the last two periods of the day it increases flexibility in the schedule.

Will this make scheduling more difficult?

- The schedule for grade six and seven are already done, we just need to plug student's names in. Since the eighth grade can be incorporated into the high school schedule in some places it adds options.

What about eighth grade students in 90 minute blocks, can they focus for that time period?

- By scheduling English, social studies, math and science in classes that are not mixed with HS students in the right time periods, they can be the 48 minutes they are now.

Advantages

- More middle school students would be able to earn HS credit early.
- Leads to more flexibility in scheduling in high school years.
- Allow students to take Advanced Placement in French and Spanish if they choose to.
- If a student has a desire to focus on art, music, tech. ed., FACS, or computer ed. they can while in middle school.
- Currently eighth grade students only get $\frac{1}{4}$ of health or physical education. A full semester of each would be beneficial.
- Elective classes in art, music, FACS, technical education, and computer education can now be offered in the last two periods of the day creating more flexibility in the high school schedule. To date, those two periods were blocked out by middle school UA classes.

Advantages

- The middle school science room is a full lab set up, the classroom for ninth grade science is not. Using the one room will negate the need for any renovations to the ninth grade science room.
- Eighth grade students will still have lunch with sixth and seventh graders, be in the fifth period remediation block, if appropriate, and still get the attention they need.
- For advanced students they could be in Algebra 1, the first year of a foreign language and earn two high school credits early.
- More viable class sizes in elective classes.
- More efficient use of staff.
- Reduction in district cost of over \$90,000.