

Middle School Restructuring

Ann Arbor Public Schools



The Goals of Middle School Restructuring

• Maintain High Student Academic Achievement

• Maintain a Variety of Educational & Activity Options

• Maintain or Lower Class Size

Through...

• Rigorous Curriculum

• Rich Exploratories

• Relationships Between Students & Teachers

Why Restructure Our Middle Schools?

As we explained in the first newsletter, the Ann Arbor Public Schools is faced with the on-going task of addressing the budget deficit of approximately \$11 million dollars over the next two years. In order to address the projected deficit, we are examining how we can reduce costs in all areas of the district while ensuring that we maintain outstanding programs for our students in AAPS.

We continue to diligently assess the middle school programs and we are pleased to report that we are moving successfully towards a recommendation.

The goal is to reduce the middle school costs by \$2–2.3 million. We are optimistic that we can accomplish our goals and we will continue to report out our progress.

Status Report #2- Middle School Restructuring

Questions we are hearing from staff, parents and students....

Q: Is middle school redistricting part of this plan?

A: No. There is no plan for redistricting at the middle school level.

Q: How will after school activities and sports be impacted?

A: Currently a sub committee is working on a plan that will keep all after school sports programs while expanding club activities.

Q: How will academics be impacted?

A: In plans currently under consideration, instructional time per class would increase by approximately 10 minutes per class per day.

Q: Will kids be taking less physical education?

A: No, all 6th graders will still be required to take a half year of physical education and 7th and 8th graders will be able to select physical ed as an elective.

Please be aware that these plans are evolving and may change as the committee develops the final recommendation.

Electives

Currently the committee is investigating a schedule where students have four core subject classes and two elective periods per day. Classes would be approximately 55 minutes in length.

6th Grade - Students who select a music/performing arts elective would alternate with physical education for the entire year. The other elective hour will be rotated between 6 different exploratory classes that will rotate every 6 weeks allowing students 6 different elective experiences. There will be alternative schedules for students with two music electives.

7th Grade – Students would take a 9 week required health class and then select either music, which is offered every day for the full year, foreign language for a semester or from a variety of 9 week elective courses including art, physical education, computer skills and technology.

8th Grade – Students are able to choose between year-long music and foreign language electives. Those who do not choose one or both of these year-long electives will have the opportunity to choose 9 week electives from a variety of choices including art, computer, technology, physical education.

Ann Arbor Public Schools

MIDDLE SCHOOL RESTRUCTURING

Middle School
Restructuring
Updates

Can be found at:

www.a2schools.org

We welcome your
comments. Connect to
the committee via the
AAPS website.

Timeline

The committee began meeting last week and will continue to meet through January to develop the recommendations, which will be presented to the Superintendent and Board of Education.

The committee has added some meetings to give them further time to fully investigate the options. This may delay the parent meetings until late January. A revised timeline will be distributed in the next Newsletter after we return from winter break. Our next meetings are scheduled for January 9 and January 12.

Issues We Continue to Address

- Electives** Development continues on what electives will be offered across the district and in each school.
- Relationships** The committee is discussing the importance of relationships between students and adults as well as students to students.
- Teaming** Relationships between students and adults are key to student success. Is teaming a key strategy to address this and if so, how?
- Advisory** Different advisory models are being investigated to enhance the student/staff relationship.
- Athletics** The sub committee is looking at offering more clubs while keeping the same rotating athletic teams.

About the Middle School Restructuring Committee..

The committee combines the talents of district teachers, administrators and parents. The committee follows an agreed set of norms as they work through the process of developing the recommendations for the Middle School Restructuring. The teachers on the committee represent a variety of disciplines including counseling, physical education, core academic subjects, foreign language, music, art, technology.

Teachers

Pat Bantle – Ann Arbor Open
Greta Barfield – Scarlett
Eula Eaddy – Clague
Tracy Grant – Slauson
Joan Grissing – Scarlett
Soon Hotaling – Clague
Cary Kocher – Forsythe
Angela Newing - Forsythe
Tom Pachera – Forsythe
Mary Pedley – Tappan
Claudia Siewert – Tappan
Greg Sipp – Tappan
Jon Strite – Slauson
Alex Vinter – Scarlett
Cherry Westerman – Slauson
Mary Pedley – Tappan
Bill Johnson - Clague
Alan Loeb – AAEA
Linda Carter – Ex officio
Paul Morrison – Ex officio

Administration

Benjamin P. Edmondson – Scarlett
Michael Hecker – Clague
Pat Rose – Slauson
Janet Schwamb – Forsythe
Bob Galardi - AAPS
Joyce Hunter – AAPS

Parents

Cindi Masini – Tappan
Bill Shea – Clague
Amy Shepherd – PAC
Violetta Viviano – Scarlett
Terry Collins – Slauson
Joyce Hansel – Forsythe
Barb Byers - PAC
Greta Barfield – Scarlett
Michelle Machiele - PTOC

Co-Chairs

Rick Weiler – Tappan
Gary Court - Tappan