

Alexandria Township Schools

Middle School Presentation

Goal #1

- Ensure that all middle level students participate in a challenging, standards based curricula and engaging instruction, and that their progress is measured by appropriate assessments, resulting in continual learning and high achievement.

Goal #2

- Support the recruitment and hiring of teachers who have strong content knowledge and the ability to use research-based instructional strategies and assessment practices appropriate for middle level students.

Goal #3

- Develop ongoing family and community partnerships to provide a supportive and enriched learning environment for every middle level student.

Goal #4

- Facilitate the generation, dissemination, and application of research needed to identify and implement effective practices leading to continual student learning and high academic achievement at the middle level.

Goal #5

- Support organizational structures and a school culture of high expectations that enable both middle level students and educators to succeed.

Middle School Teaming Concept

"A team is a small number of people with complementary skills who are committed to a common purpose, and approach for which they are mutually accountable."
(Katzenbach and Smith, 1993)

Teams of Teachers

Teams of Students

Teams of Administrators

Teams of Support Staff

Grade Level Teams

- Strategy for fostering supportive relationships between teachers, students and parents.
- Like small neighborhoods within a busy city, teams within a middle school enable young adolescents and educators to interact daily on a formal and informal basis.
- Teaming makes it possible for each student to receive the attention of a group of concerned adults through out the day.

Developing Teams

- Personalities, adult learning styles, beliefs and knowledge about teaching and learning.
- Teaching and teaming experience.
- Cultural awareness.
- Complimentary work habits.
- Subject expertise.

Time for Planning

■ Teachers:

- Engaging in collaborative inquiry to improve student work
- Plan curriculum
- Develop assessments
- Refine instructional strategies
- Think big picture from grade to grade and content to content (Dickinson & Erb, 1997, p. 525)
- Working as a member of a team, not a lone soldier in the trenches

Team Time

- Student performance
- Curriculum
- Technology Integration
- Vertical Teaming
- Team Teaching
- Development of learning goals
- Student Expectations
- Grading Policies
- Interdisciplinary Units
- Calendar (student)
- Student Experience

Student Impact

- No more homogeneous grouping
- Less confusion (after the storm)
- More Spanish
- Compliance with Physical Education Requirement
- Less down time (homeroom, study hall, enrichment)
- Focus on student development / learning (student-centered)