

SBRSD Middle School Task Force Launch

- ▶ Tuesday, February 13, 2018 @ 3:15 PM
- ▶ Organizational Meeting
- ▶ Presenters
 - ▶ Beth Regulbuto, Superintendent of Schools
 - ▶ Kerry Burke, Curriculum and Professional Development
 - ▶ Glenn Devoti, Principal of Mount Everett

Today's Agenda

- ▶ Why are We Looking at the Middle Level Now?
 - ▶ Why Reconfigure our Middle School for Grades 6-7-8 ?
- ▶ What is Our Common Ground?
 - ▶ Definition of Task Force
 - ▶ Middle School Model
 - ▶ Current Middle School Experience
- ▶ Where Do We Go from Here?
 - ▶ You Tube—Skills for 2028
 - ▶ Planning for Meeting # 2
- ▶ Meeting Time & Dates

Why are We Looking at the Middle Level Now?

- ▶ **Supt. Regulbuto** opened with:
 - ▶ Data Drives Middle Level Programming at SBRSD
 - ▶ Data from National, State, and Local Sources
 - ▶ District's Commitment to Social Emotional Learning
 - ▶ Ongoing Challenges
 - ▶ Declining Enrollment
 - ▶ District Sustainability
 - ▶ Timely and Wonderful Opportunity
 - ▶ A Focus on the Middle Level in Efforts to Enhance and Continuously Improve the Educational Experience of All SBRSD Students
 - ▶ A Plan for Reconfiguring MS Experience for Grades 6-7-8

What is Our Common Ground?

- ▶ **Ms. Burke** presented:
- ▶ Definition of a Task Force
 - ▶ Temporary group of people formed:
 - ▶ To carry out a specific mission or project
 - ▶ OR...
 - ▶ To solve a problem that requires a multi-disciplinary approach.
- ▶ History of and Details about the Middle School Model

History of the Middle School Movement

- ▶ Middle School Model Founder Professor William Alexander, George Peabody College
- ▶ 1963: Calls for a “a new school in the middle” to replace the “junior” version of high schools that was the norm.
- ▶ Alexander described the junior high model as merely a “junior” version of high school.
- ▶ Alexander insisted that the early adolescent requires greater attention to:
 - ▶ social and emotional development
 - ▶ smaller learning communities
 - ▶ more engaging and hands on learning
 - ▶ supportive environment
 - ▶ rich after-school programming
 - ▶ the developmental stages taking place during the early adolescence.

Junior High	Middle School
Subject-centered	Student-oriented
Emphasis is on cognitive development	Emphasis is on cognitive and affective development
Organizes teachers in subject-based departments	Organizes teachers and students in interdisciplinary teams
Traditional instruction dominates	Experiential approaches to instruction
Six to eight class periods per day	Allows for block and flexible scheduling
Provides academic classes	Provides exploratory, academic, and nonacademic classes
Offers study hall and/or homeroom	Offers advisor/advisee, teacher/student opportunities
Classrooms arranged randomly or by subject or grade level	Team classrooms in close proximity

Early Adolescent Development 101

Emotional/Social Changes

- ▶ Stronger, more complex friendships and peer relationships.
- ▶ Experience more peer pressure.
- ▶ Become more body awareness as puberty approaches.
- ▶ Body image and eating problems sometimes start around this age.

Thinking and Learning

- Face more academic challenges at school.
- Become more independent from the family.
- Begin to see the point of view of others more clearly.
- Have an increased attention span.

Where Does The Middle School Model Fit Today?

Students today are facing an increase in

- ▶ Standardized testing.
- ▶ Meeting academic standards that require a greater depth of skill and knowledge.
- ▶ Economic pressures.
- ▶ More peer pressure in the advent of social media.
- ▶ Tasked with creating an environment with resources to support the needs and aspirations of developing adolescents at the middle level for grades 6-7-8.

KEY ASPECTS OF A MODEL MIDDLE SCHOOL



Middle Level Curriculum Goals

- ▶ Provide a comfortable transition between elementary and high school.
- ▶ Teach to the individual student.
- ▶ Support the social and emotional development of young adolescents.
- ▶ Provide varied instructional strategies and exploratory programs.
- ▶ Promote enrichment and encourage self-expression.
- ▶ Integrate technology across the school.
- ▶ Create a positive school climate and a sense of community within this middle level.
- ▶ Create an environment that connects the school and the community.
- ▶ Maintain appropriate academic rigor and high behavioral expectations.

Critical Components of a High Functioning Middle School

1. Interdisciplinary Teams
2. Collaboration
3. Environment
4. Scheduling
5. Advisory Periods
6. Academic Support
7. Instructional Practices
8. Professional Development

The Exemplary Middle School

The National Middle School Association (www.nmsa.org)

- ▶ Purpose of middle school is to center on the intellectual, social, emotional, moral, and physical developmental needs of young adolescents
- ▶ Exemplary middle level programs offer appropriate programs, policies, and practices that foster the development of these tasks in positive ways.

The NMSA identifies five key components for the exemplary middle school curriculum:

1. Interdisciplinary teaming
2. Advisory programs
3. Varied instruction
4. Exploratory programs
5. Transition programs

Mount Everett Middle School Today



Basis of Programming in Grades 7 and 8 at Mount Everett

- ▶ **Principal Devoti** shared that Mount Everett Middle School Holds these Cultural Beliefs:
 - ▶ From Struggle Comes Strength
 - ▶ Faith in Each Other Fosters Exponential Achievement
 - ▶ Genuine Affection for Adolescents is Combined with Loyalty to MERS
 - ▶ Our Work Ethic is Based on Commitment vs. Compliance
 - ▶ Effective and Candid Communication with Organization Promotes Clarity, Trust, and Sound Ethical Decisions

Mount Everett is Ready for a Reconfiguration that includes Grade 6 based on--

- ▶ Our Commitment to our Cultural Beliefs
- ▶ Our Focus on Student Success
 - ▶ Our Pride in our State Test Scores and Student Performance in Grades 7 and 8
- ▶ Our Dedicated Faculty and Staff who Enjoy Working with Students in Early Adolescence
- ▶ Our Existing Structure, Approaches, Schedule and Offerings to Support Student Growth
- ▶ Our Thematic Approach in Grade 7 of Personal Responsibility and in Grade 8 of Cultural Responsibility
- ▶ Our Willingness to Embrace Grade 6 with the Challenges and Rewards into our Middle School Community

Where Do We Go from Here?

- ▶ Video : *Did You Know that in 2028?*
 - ▶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QpEFjWbXog0>
- ▶ Exit Ticket:
 - ▶ Complete 10 Essential MS Student Skills to Develop Now for Future Success
- ▶ Meeting # 2:
 - ▶ Sharing Skills Compilation
 - ▶ Brainstorming at the Table

Meeting Time & Dates

- ▶ Time Check: Confirmed for 3:15 PM in MERS Library
- ▶ Date Checks:
 - ▶ Next Meeting: Moved from March 7 up to March 1
 - ▶ Future MSTF Meetings:
 - ▶ April 4, May 2, and June 13
 - ▶ Proposed Parent Outreach & Forums:
 - ▶ MSTF March 29, April TBD, and May 31
 - ▶ MERS Grade (5) 6 Ice Cream Social Date TBD
- ▶ Minutes out after each meeting to:
 - ▶ All members via email
 - ▶ Community at www.sbrsd.org on Home Page under Upcoming Events and Important Information– Middle School Task Force Section

Today's Agenda—Meeting's End

- ▶ Why Reconfigure our Middle School for Grades 6-7-8 Now?
- ▶ What is Our Common Ground?
 - ▶ Task Force
 - ▶ MS Model
 - ▶ Current MS Experience
- ▶ Where Do We Go from Here?
 - ▶ You Tube—Skills for 2028 Today's Exit Ticket
 - ▶ March 1 Meeting # 2: 2028 Skills Compilation and Brainstorming+
 - ▶ Send thoughts, suggestions, and questions to Kerry Burke via email before March 1
- ▶ Meeting Time & Dates Established
- ▶ **Questions? ~ Thank you for your participation today.**