Change One Middle School to Elementary School

Model/Option Overview
To create more capacity at the elementary level, one of Bethel’s six middle schools would become an elementary school.

Bethel Specific Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Anticipated cost</th>
<th>High School</th>
<th>Middle school</th>
<th>Elementary school</th>
<th>District wide</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$</td>
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</tbody>
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| Potential capacity increase | Elementary: creates 726 new capacity (reducing overcrowding from 2,712 down to 1,986) |
|                            | Middle School: 197 excess capacity |

What Could Change? (schools affected)
- There would be five middle schools in Bethel School District instead of six
- There would be 17 elementary schools in Bethel School District instead of 16.

Benefits of The Model
✓ Additional capacity
Additional capacity would be created at the elementary school level. Overcrowding would still exist in some schools.

✓ Cost-effective
Converting a middle school into an elementary school allows the previous building to be reused at a low-cost if no renovations are needed. Reusing or repurposing an existing building can be significantly less expensive than demolishing and rebuilding. Facilities such as gyms, cafeterias, playgrounds, or sports fields may already exist at the middle school. However, the number of renovations greatly depends on the school that is being converted, which may add to overall costs.

✓ Classroom space
This approach repurposes existing classroom spaces to fit the need of elementary students. Schools are built and designed with very specific needs to cater towards education; thus, repurposing a middle school to become an elementary school may face limited structural challenges.

Challenges of The Model

Community & family
- Family schedule
- After-school care
- Vacation

Student
✓ Impacts more students (school-specific v district-wide)
Converting schools of any type has the ability to affect many students district-wide. The addition of a new elementary school will require new district and school boundaries to ensure student populations are evenly distributed. This option may not be popular as it may force some families to relocate schools. Additionally, students from the converted middle school will have to transfer to other middle schools in the district.

Safety

Instructional
- Student achievement/learning outcomes
- Summer school/remediation

Teaching staff
- Additional staff
  Not all middle school teachers could teach elementary school. May result in riffs for some teachers and create a need to hire new teachers and have displacement impacts to classified and administrative staff. Converting a school of any type has the ability to affect many students district-wide. The addition of a new elementary school will require new district and school boundaries to ensure student populations are evenly distributed. This option may not be popular as it may force some families to relocate schools. Additionally, students from the converted middle school will have to transfer to other middle schools in the district.

- Classroom space
- Curriculum
- Development
- State Testing

Administration
- Additional staff
- Professional development

Extracurricular activities
- Athletics
- Music / band
- Clubs / social organizations

Facilities
- Additional staff
- Access
- Time
- Storage space
- Increase in wear and tear