Use Parts of Middle Schools for Elementary Schools

Model/Option Overview

To create more capacity at the elementary level, elementary school students would use select spaces at each of Bethel’s middle schools that share a common campus.

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>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
<td>$ N/A</td>
<td>$ Low</td>
<td>$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


What Could Change? (schools affected)

- 5th grade elementary classes would re-locate to a Bethel Middle School, Frontier Middle School and Liberty Middle School

Benefits of The Model

✓ Student achievement/learning outcomes

Using parts of a middle school as an elementary school can create a more collaborative teaching process across various grades. Studies show that creating a shared knowledge of teaching and learning experiences from collaborative teaching can help improve student achievement. According to the National Middle School Association, “[elementary] students benefit from teachers working together, planning activities, groupings, and advising students as a team, as compared to the traditional isolation of elementary classroom teachers.” Teachers can plan more cohesive curriculums and provide academic continuity between transitions in grade levels.

✓ Social development and extracurricular activities

The average elementary school student is now entering adolescence up to a year earlier than previously identified. Organizing some 5th grade classes with middle schoolers bring together age groups that are more similar in social and mental development. Middle schools provide a unique opportunity for 5th grade students participate in new cooperative teaming arrangements and social activities that are not offered in elementary schools.

✓ Curriculum

Moving teachers from the solitary environment of an elementary school to a more collaborative, team-based environment of a middle school can have benefits on curriculum. Teachers will be able to keep their sense of ownership for their curriculum, while being able to receive instructional support from the team. Teacher teams can provide a more diverse curriculum in the classroom and enhance student learning.

Additional capacity
Impacts fewer students (school-specific v district-wide)
Challenges of The Model

Community & family
   Family schedule
   After-school care
   Vacation

Student
   Safety

Instructional
   Student achievement/learning outcomes
   Summer school/remediation

Teaching staff
   Additional staff
   Classroom space
   Curriculum
   Development
   State Testing

Administration
   Additional staff
   Professional development

Extracurricular activities
✓ Other classes
   Facilities for physical education classes, science classrooms, libraries, or spaces of elective courses may not be adequate or appropriate for all students, depending on the curriculum structure. While allowing 5th grade classes to be taught at middle schools can provide more exposure to extracurricular activities, the school administration needs to ensure there is enough capacity for those students to participate in those activities to create opportunities for extracurricular enrichment.

   Athletics
   Music / band
   Clubs / social organizations

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

Long Range Facilities Task Force - Housing our students: Use Parts of Middle Schools for Elementary Schools | 2
Transportation
Additional buses/routes
Additional bus drivers
Increase in traffic during student pick-up & drop-off


4 National Middle School Association. (n.d.).
