Advancement of Middle Level Philosophy in the School and Community

Strong evidence is shown how the team has advanced the middle level philosophy in the school and community.

- Responsive using the distinctive nature and identities of young adolescents as the foundation upon which all decisions about school are made.
- Challenging cultivating high expectations and advancing learning for every member of the school community.
- Empowering facilitating environments in which students take responsibility for their own learning and contribute positively to the world around them.
- Equitable providing socially just learning opportunities and environments for every student.
- Engaging fostering a learning atmosphere that is relevant, participatory, and motivating for all learners.

Essential Attributes, taken from, The Successful Middle School: This We Believe

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<u>Team Building, Identity and Cohesion</u>
The team demonstrates how they build a strong team identity and a cohesive spirit.

- Team name/identity
- Common expectations, rules, policies, etc.
- Team building/special projects
- Recognizing student achievement, growth, and accomplishments
- Service projects

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Application fully describes the programs offered and provides many pertinent examples and considerable detail on how they built team identity and a cohesive spirit.		Application substantially describes the programs offered. Examples may focus on particular aspects of team building, team identity, or team cohesion.			describes offered a provides example	ion generals the prog to the scho some det s of team to cohesion	rams ol and ails and identity	Application minimally describes the programs offered by the team on team building, team identity and team cohesiveness.				

Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

The team gives concrete examples on how the use of integrated/interdisciplinary instruction has advanced academic achievement and student growth.

- Educators are specifically prepared to teach young adolescents and possess a depth of understanding in the content areas they teach.
- Curriculum is challenging, exploratory, integrative, and diverse.
- Health, wellness and social-emotional competence are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
- Instruction fosters learning that is active, purposeful, and democratic.
- Varied and ongoing assessments advance learning as well as measure it.

taken from, The Successful Middle School: This We Believe

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Demonstrating Flexible use of Time

The team demonstrates how they use a flexible schedule to promote grouping practices that are consistent with the middle level philosophy.

- Intervention
- Enrichment
- Appropriate use of support staff to enhance instruction
- Common planning time (PLC's, TBT's, etc.)

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The team provides convincing and strong evidence that it follows a schedule that provides grouping and re-grouping. The team utilizes a schedule that has a balance of core and exploratory courses for students.		substant it follow provides re-group utilizes a has a bal	n provided ial evidents a scheduled grouping ing. The a scheduled lance of cory course	team that team that that and team that ore and	evidence schedule grouping re-group utilizes a has a bal	ing. The schedule ance of cory course	llows a ides team that ore and	The team lacks sufficient evidence that it follows a schedule that provides grouping and re-grouping. The team utilizes a schedule that has a balance of core and exploratory courses for students.			

Culture and Community

Studies show that if teams implement comprehensive and inclusive programs of partnership, than many more families respond, including those who would not become involved on their own. How does the team show that they implement comprehensive and inclusive programs that demonstrate partnerships?

- Educators respect and value young adolescents.
- The school environment is welcoming, inclusive, and affirming for all.
- Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
- School safety is addressed proactively, justly, and thoughtfully.
- Comprehensive counseling and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
- The school (team) engages families as valued partners.
- The school (team) collaborates with community and business partners.

taken from, The Successful Middle School: This We Believe

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