

District 97 Middle School Update

2023-24 School Year
June 11, 2024





Tonight's Presenters

JUNE 2024

DR. LUIS FERNANDO DE LEÓN
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS

DR. FELICIA STARKS
CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER

TEQUILA BUTLER
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MICHELE CAPIO
DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSAL
DESIGN FOR LEARNING

Agenda

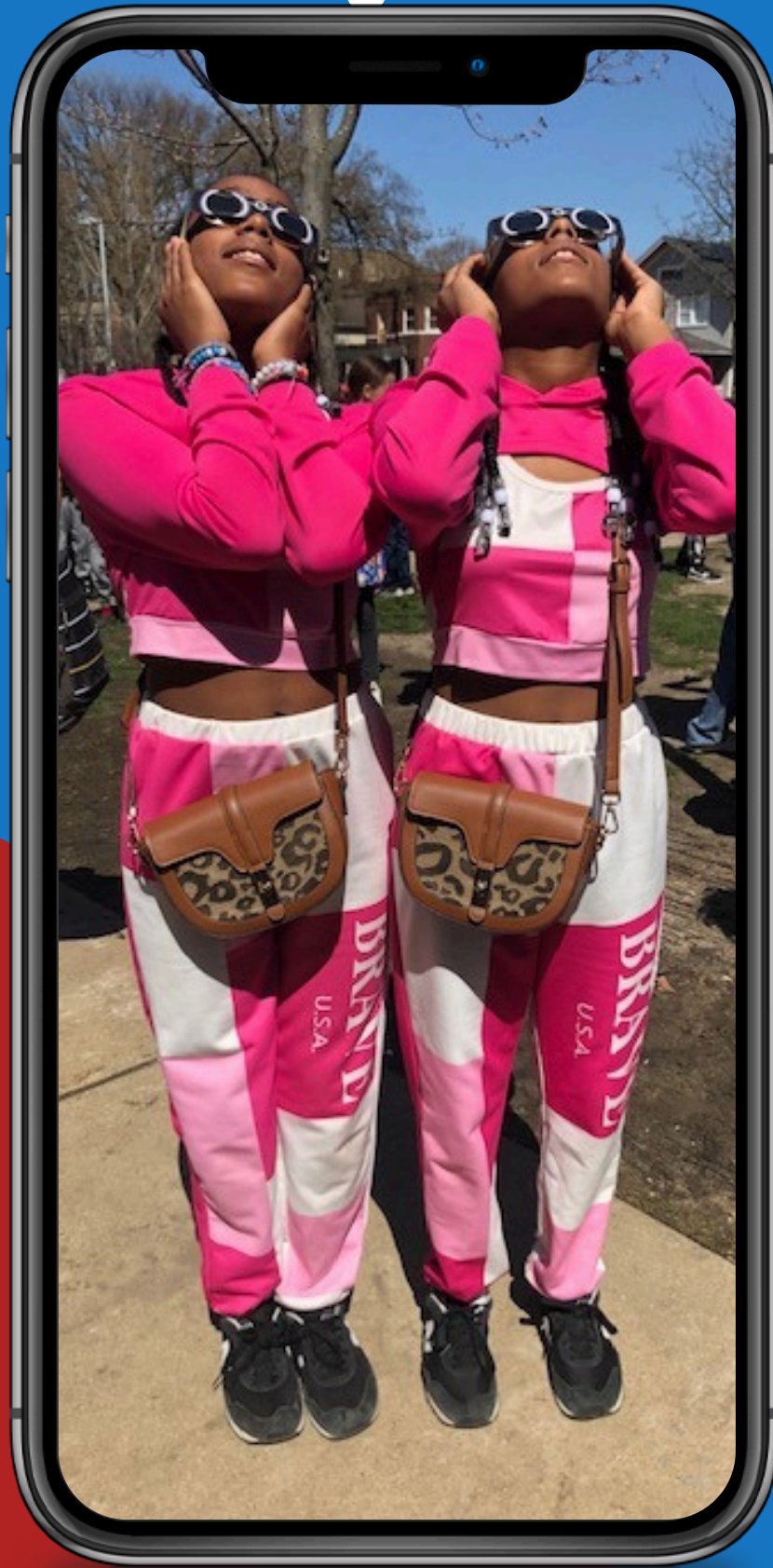
Topics Covered

Celebrations

Middle School Redesign

Improving Middle School
Culture and Climate

Middle School Celebrations



District 97

MIDDLE SCHOOL



Winter/Spring Highlights





JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Winter/Spring Highlights



Lunch Trays
Earth Day Assembly



Julian Townhalls: Increasing
Student Sense of Belonging



CAST Dinner Theater:
8 Track: Sounds of the '70s

PASS THE MIC



What impact do you think the Lunch Trays have had on the Julian school community so far? And what are you most proud of in terms of your accomplishments?

“We haven’t made any mind-blowing, mind-boggling changes, but I do think that it’s one of those things where there are going to be a ton of little changes, to the point that no one is going to really notice. Until you look back and you’re like, oh wow, we’ve come a relatively far way. So, I think that we haven’t made any, like, huge jumps, we’ve just taken little steps to get where we want to be...I do think it’s a kind of cool thing that we have been able to make a little bit of impact, even if it’s not a huge step. Like, the little things will add up.”



Annie, 8th Grade, Co-Founder of The Lunch Trays

PASS THE MIC

What impact do you think the Lunch Trays have had on the Julian school community so far? And what are you most proud of in terms of your accomplishments?

“Probably, like, the things we’ve done, not what we’ve achieved. I mean we were just a bunch of kids who didn’t want to be in community service, so we just thought of something to get a good grade obviously, which all turned into this. So, it was kind of--I’d say, it’s impressive. What just a couple of kids did.”



Theo, 8th Grade, Co-Founder of The Lunch Trays

PASS THE MIC



What impact do you think the Lunch Trays have had on the Julian school community so far? And what are you most proud of in terms of your accomplishments?

“Making a little community. I mean, these people are my friends now. Our club is not that big, but like we’re a happy, small little family.”



Carmen, 8th Grade, Co-Founder of The Lunch Trays



BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Winter/Spring Highlights



Brooks Varsity Boys
Volleyball Second-
Place Finish



Classes Participate in
Local Hunger Relief
Campaign



Rainbow Revolution
Day of Silence

PASS THE MIC



What inspired you to get involved with Rainbow Revolution and participate in events like the Day of Silence?

“What inspired me to get involved with Rainbow Revolution was because it seemed like a very inclusive and safe space to me. It was also an easy way to connect with my peers when first starting middle school, as we could work together in making changes to the school to be more inclusive. Because of what we were doing, it allowed me to find a bit of my voice and discover my identity, and definitely impacted me to get involved with and participate in events that allow the club and students to shine.”

Ainsley, 8th Grade, Member of Rainbow Revolution

PASS THE MIC



What motivates you to take a stand against LGBTQIA+ discrimination in schools?

"I think just seeing how over time the school and really the district as a whole is improving, but as we go one direction, a majority of the world does not. There is still so much discrimination in the school, and I think over the past three years we have improved a lot, but we still have a while to go. Something that really motivates me to get involved in things like this is seeing everything that is happening in the world, good and bad. Such as everything that happened with Nex Benedict. When I saw everything that happened, I immediately wanted to do something about it because I really want this school and the world in general to become a better place for LGBTQIA+ folx."

El, 8th Grade, Member of Rainbow Revolution

PASS THE MIC

What impact do you hope the Day of Silence demonstration will have on your peers and the wider community?

“I really hope that this demonstration will help bring attention to the community and will help people find their safe space. When people see Rainbow Revolution participating in the Day of Silence and holding a bag drive, they hopefully give more thought to the LGBTQIA+ community and maybe help out with our efforts. It will also hopefully help the people who believe they can't be themselves realize that they are amazing just the way they are and hopefully help them find people they feel comfortable with and connect with. I just really hope this helps more people in our community find their safe spaces.”

Sammy, 8th Grade, Member of Rainbow Revolution

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Winter/Spring Highlights



D97 Wrestling Team:
Back-to-Back
Conference Champions



D97 Art Show Features
Collaboration with
Local Artist



D97 Middle School Speech
Team Earns Back-to-Back
Wins at West 40 Speech
and Drama Festival

WHAT CAN WE DO TOGETHER

Winter/Spring Highlights



Ultimate Frisbee Club
(Alpha) State
Champions



Ultimate Frisbee Club
State Spirit Champions

IN THE MEDIA

WEDNESDAY
JOURNAL
of Oak Park and River Forest

“Percy Julian Math Club Hosts Fifth-Grade Competition”



The Percy Julian Math Club smiles holding trophies from past victories. | Photo by Amaris E. Rodriguez

WEDNESDAY
JOURNAL
of Oak Park and River Forest

“D97 Multilingual Teachers Honored with IEA Award”



D97 multilingual teacher's Jennifer Jaros and Angelica Degante receive the Reg Weaver Human and Civil Rights Award during the 2024 IEA's Representative Assembly. | Provided by Angelica Degante.

WEDNESDAY
JOURNAL
of Oak Park and River Forest

“Julian Middle Track Athletes Bring Home 2 State Championships”



Seventh graders Nyah Kissoon, Ava Pero, Zoey Danley and Maya Davis won a state championship during the 4x200 relay at the IEA Track and Field State Finals. | Provided by Nicole Davis.



Seventh grader Timmy Smith won a state championship in his short put event during the IEA Track and Field State Finals. | Provided by Kimberlee Smith.

WEDNESDAY
JOURNAL
of Oak Park and River Forest

“D97 Celebrates Middle-School Graduation”



Do you have a middle school highlight to share?

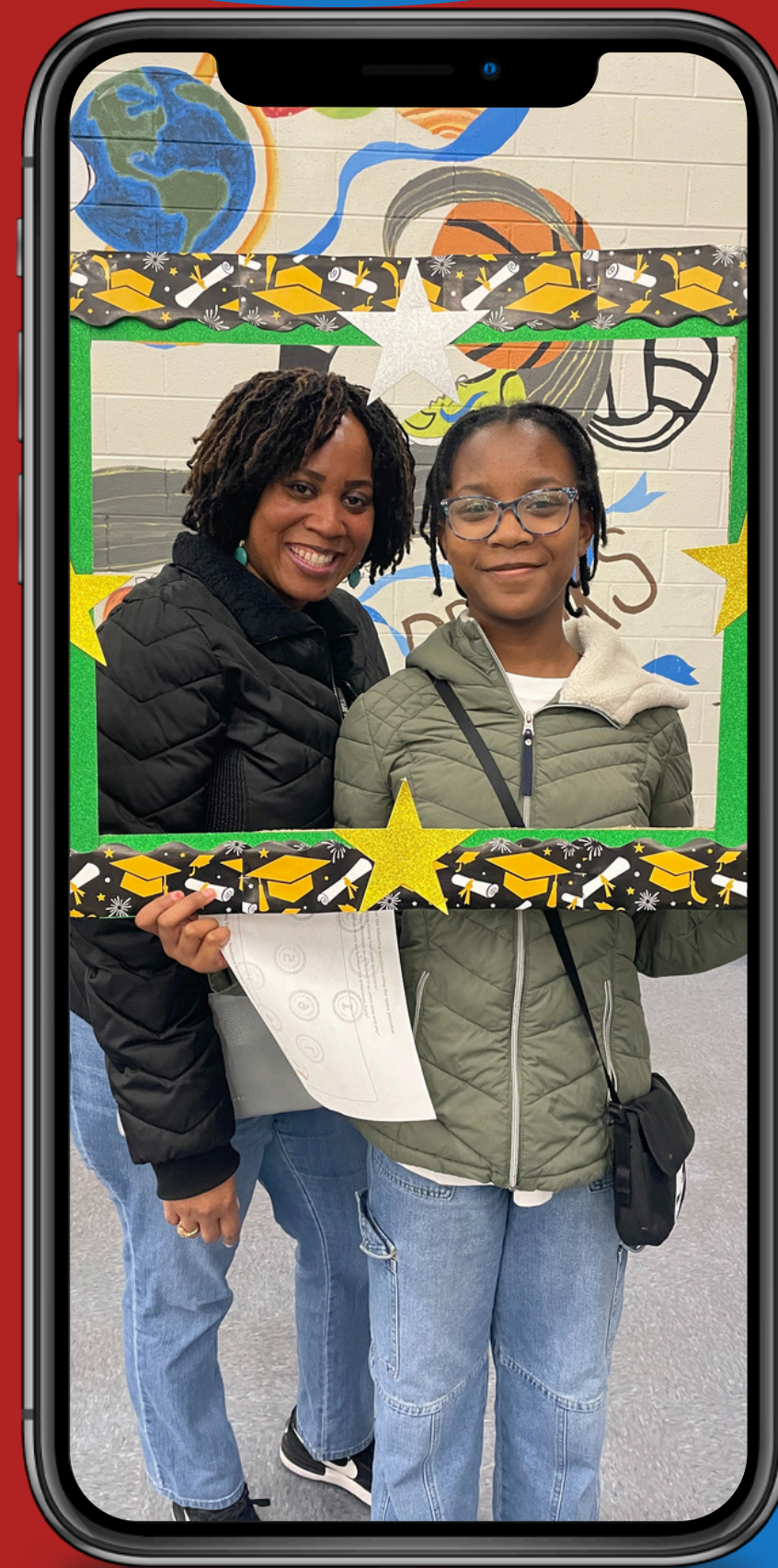
LET'S TALK!



We invite the community to
celebrate our middle schools
year-round using Let's Talk!



www.op97.org/letstalk





Middle School Master Schedule

3-Year Timeline: Middle School Master Schedule Redesign

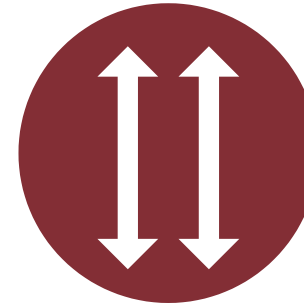


Year One: *Assess and Adjust*



Brooks & Julian: Working Together

- Developed team structure and culture between middle school leadership, teams, and systems
- Increased collaboration between leaders at both middle schools
- Facilitated joint professional development sessions to unify practices and strategies (e.g., Teach to Lead, Search Institute, and Culture and Climate Planning Session)
- Co-created new programs and initiatives to support students (e.g., District 97 Middle School Connection and Portrait of an 8th Grade Oak Park Graduate)



Assess and Streamline Course Names

- Aligned course names to ISBE course names.
- Ensured parallel course names across both schools in SY25.
- Removed unused/expired course codes from our system.
- Built capacity for Power School master scheduling with middle school administrators and central office staff



Feedback for IB MYP and C/J Day Adjustment

- Performed an internal audit of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (IB MYP)
- Administered surveys to staff, students, and families, and held focus groups with middle school staff
- Conducted non-evaluative learning walks in collaboration with department chairs
- Recommended sunseting of IB MYP effective SY25
- Recommendation to eliminate C/J days in SY25

Before the Pandemic

District 97 middle schools had all nine periods.

2019-2020

Mondays

Advisory	9:00 - 9:45
1st	9:48 - 10:23
2nd	10:26 - 11:01
3rd	11:04 - 11:39
4th	11:42 - 12:17
5th	12:20 - 12:55
6th	12:58 - 1:33
7th	1:36 - 2:11
8th	2:14 - 2:49
9th	2:52 - 3:30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday

1st	9:00 - 9:43
2nd	9:46 - 10:26
3rd	10:29 - 11:09
4th	11:12 - 11:52
5th	11:55 - 12:35
6th	12:38 - 1:18
7th	1:21 - 2:01
8th	2:04 - 2:44
9th	2:47 - 3:30

During the Pandemic

During the 2020-21 school year, District 97 middle schools pivoted to block scheduling with A and B days. In 2021-22 the middle schools added C/J days to the schedule.

2020-2021

Daily schedule at Brooks - A Day			
Time	A Day	Period	Term Course
9:00-10:20	Period 1: Math 6/7	1(A)	20-21 Math 6 7
		2(A)	20-21 Concert Band
		3(A)	20-21 Science 6
		4(A)	20-21 Individuals and Societies 6
10:20-11:40	Period 2: Concert Band	5(A)	20-21 Lunch 6
		6(A)	20-21 Physical Education 6
		7(A)	20-21 Health 6
11:40-12:20	Advisory 10(A)	8(A)	20-21 Language Acquisition - Spanish 1
		9(A)	20-21 Language and Literature 6
12:20-1:00	Lunch	10(A)	20-21 SOAR6
			Advisory 6
1:00 -2:20	Period 3: Science 6	M1 - first 6 weeks of trimester 1; therefore first 6 weeks is Health and the rest of the year will be Physical Education	
2:20-3:30	Period 4: Individuals & Societies		
		M2 - 2nd 6 weeks of trimester 1, therefore first 6 weeks in Physical Education, then health 2nd 6weeks, then rest of year Physical Education	
		T1 - Trimester 1 Course	

Daily schedule at Brooks - B Day			
Time	B Day	Period	Term Course
9:00-10:20	Period 6: Health (M1)	1(A)	20-21 Math 6 7
		2(A)	20-21 Concert Band
		3(A)	20-21 Science 6
		4(A)	20-21 Individuals and Societies 6
10:20-11:40	Period 7: Spanish	5(A)	20-21 Lunch 6
		6(A)	20-21 Physical Education 6
		7(A)	20-21 Health 6
11:40-12:20	Advisory 10(A)	8(A)	20-21 Language Acquisition - Spanish 1
		9(A)	20-21 Language and Literature 6
12:20-1:00	Lunch	10(A)	20-21 SOAR6
			Advisory 6
1:00 -2:20	Period 8: Language & Literature	M1 - first 6 weeks of trimester 1; therefore first 6 weeks is Health and the rest of the year will be Physical Education	
2:20-3:30	Period 9: SOAR		
		M2 - 2nd 6 weeks of trimester 1, therefore first 6 weeks in Physical Education, then health 2nd 6weeks, then rest of year Physical Education	
		T1 - Trimester 1 Course	

2021-2022

White Day/A Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch and SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	1	75	
10:18 to 11:34	2	76	6th grade Lunch and SOAR
11:37 to 12:53	3	76	8th grade Lunch and SOAR
12:56 to 2:12	4	76	7th grade Lunch and SOAR
2:15 to 3:30	5	75	

Blue Day/B Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch and SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	6	75	
10:18 to 11:34	7	76	6th grade Lunch and SOAR
11:37 to 12:53	8	76	8th grade Lunch and SOAR
12:56 to 2:12	9	76	7th grade Lunch and SOAR
2:15 to 3:30	10	75	

Eagle's Day/C Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch and SOAR
9:00 to 9:39	1	39	
9:42 to 10:18	5	36	
10:21 to 10:57	4	36	7th Grade SOAR
11:00 to 11:36	2	36	6th Grade Lunch
11:39 to 12:15	3	36	8th Grade Lunch
12:18 to 12:54	9	36	7th Grade Lunch
12:57 to 1:33	10	36	
1:36 to 2:12	8	36	8th Grade SOAR
2:15 to 2:51	7	36	6th Grade SOAR
2:54 to 3:30	6	36	

After the Pandemic

District 97 middle schools continued with block scheduling and C and J days.

2023-2024




GBMS Bell Schedules			
6th Grade Schedule A Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	1	75	
10:18 to 10:55	2	40	SOAR
10:58 to 12:13	3/4	75	
12:16 to 12:53	LCH	37	Lunch
12:56 to 2:12	6	76	
2:15 to 3:30	7	75	

7th/8th Grade Schedule A Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	1	76	
10:18 to 11:34	2/3	75	
11:37 to 12:53	LCH/5	75	8th Lunch/SOAR
12:56 to 2:12	LCH/6	76	7th Lunch/SOAR
2:15 to 3:30	7	76	

6th Grade Schedule B Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	8	75	
10:18 to 10:55	9	40	SOAR
10:58 to 12:13	10/11	75	
12:16 to 12:53	LCH	37	Lunch
12:56 to 2:12	13	76	
2:15 to 3:30	14	75	

7th/8th Grade Schedule B Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/SOAR
9:00 to 10:15	8	76	
10:18 to 11:34	9/10	75	
11:37 to 12:53	LCH/12	75	8th Lunch/SOAR
12:56 to 2:12	LCH/13	76	7th Lunch/SOAR
2:15 to 3:30	14	76	

All Grade Levels C Day Schedule			
	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
9:00 to 9:39	1	1	1
9:42 to 10:18	6	6 (SOAR)	6
10:21 to 10:57	7	7	7
11:00 to 11:36	LCH (Lunch)	2/3	2/3
11:39 to 12:15	3/4	4/5	LCH (Lunch)
12:18 to 12:54	13	LCH (Lunch)	13
12:57 to 1:33	8	8	8
1:36 to 2:12	2/9 (SOAR)	9/10	9/10
2:15 to 2:51	10/11	11/12	5/12 (SOAR)
2:54 to 3:30	14	14	14



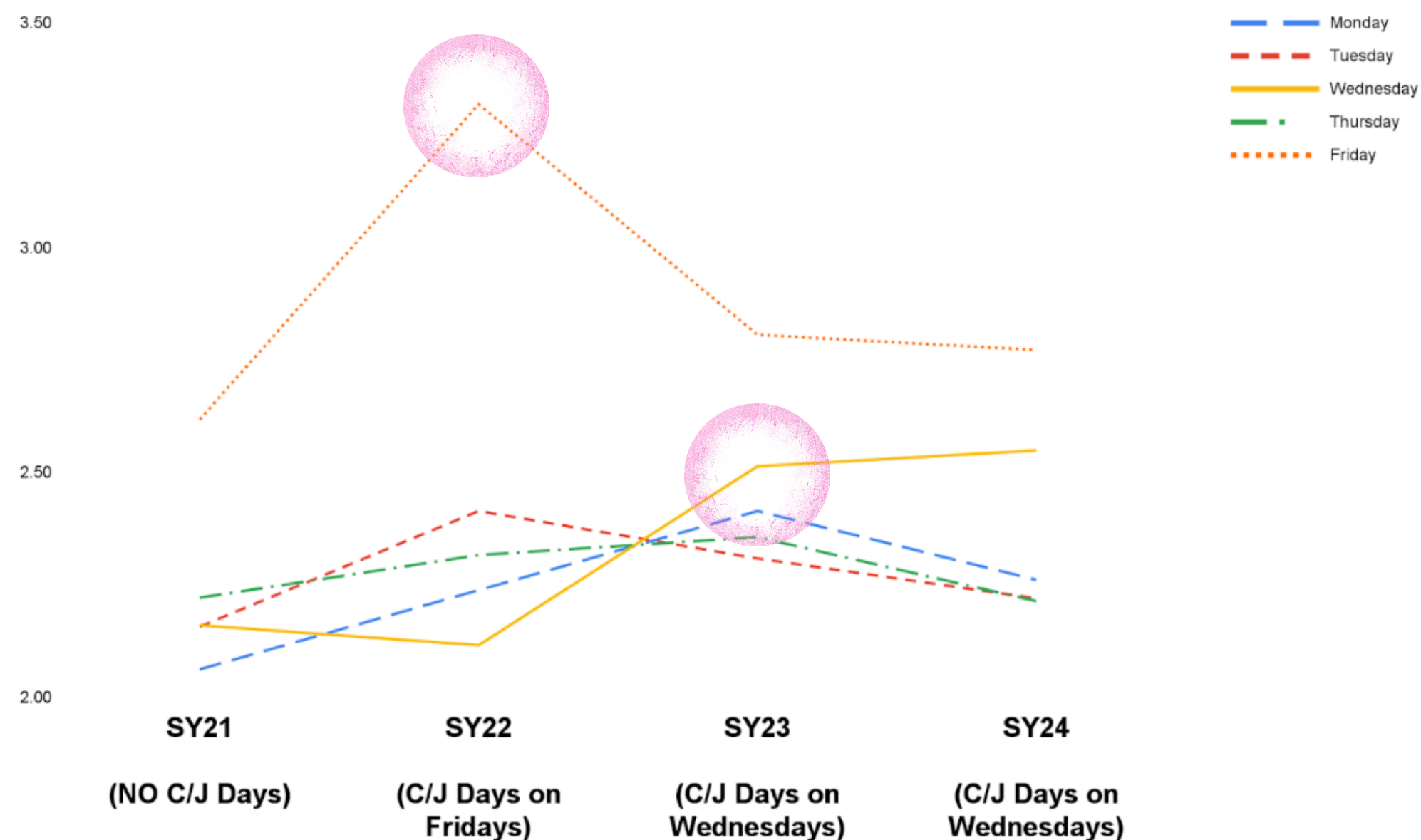
PJMS Bell Schedules			
A Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/Advisory
9:00-10:15	1	75	
10:18-10:21	2	3	Jayhawk Reminder
10:21-11:36	2	75	6th grade advisory/ lunch
11:39-12:54	3	75	7th grade lunch/advisory
12:57-2:12	4	75	8th grade lunch/advisory
2:15-3:30	5	75	

J Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/Advisory
9:00 - 9:35	1	35	
9:38-9:40	2	2	Jayhawk Reminder
9:41-10:15	2	35	6th Grade Advisory
10:19-10:57	3	38	7th grade lunch
11:00-11:38	4	38	8th grade lunch
11:41-12:16	5	35	
12:19-12:57	7	38	6th grade lunch
1:00-1:35	6	35	
1:38-2:13	8	35	7th grade advisory
2:16-2:51	9	35	8th grade advisory
2:54-3:30	10	36	

B Day			
Time	Period	Mins	Lunch/Advisory
9:00-10:15	6	75	
10:18-10:21	7	3	Jayhawk Reminder
10:21-11:36	7	75	6th grade advisory/ lunch
11:39-12:54	8	75	7th grade lunch/advisory
12:57-2:12	9	75	8th grade lunch/advisory
2:15-3:30	10	75	

C/J Day Data: *Student Absences*

Middle school student absences tend to increase on the days of the week associated with C/J schedule days.

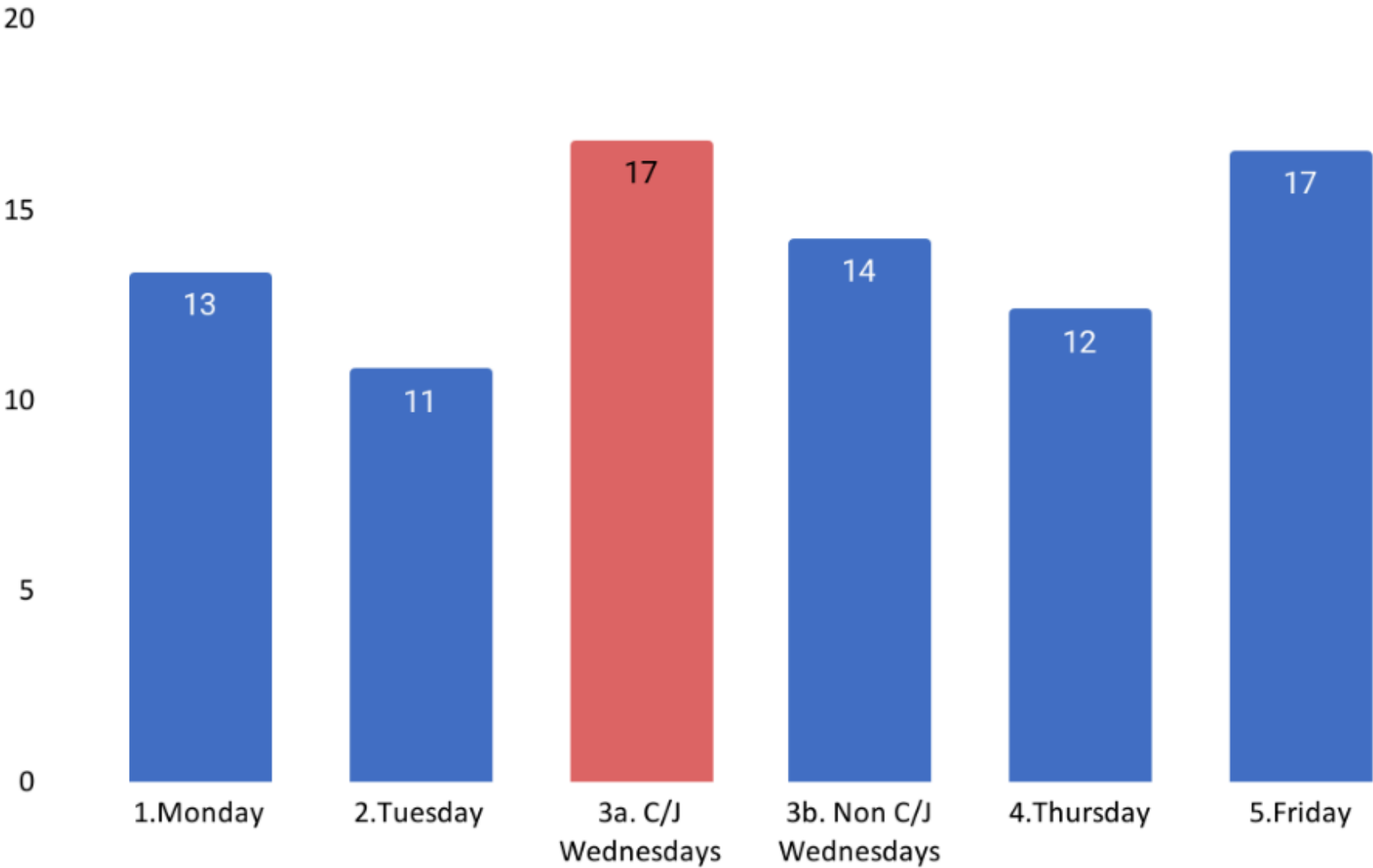


- C/J days Student Absences**
- **SY22 Fridays C/J - increase in absences on Fridays from SY21**
 - **SY23 and SY24 Wednesday C/J - increase in absences on Wednesdays from SY22**

Number of absences by day of the week, adjusted for number enrolled middle school students in SY21 through SY24, as of April 12, 2024.

Maximizing Learning: Teacher Absences

On average, 17 teachers are absent at our middle schools on C/J Wednesdays and Fridays during the 2023-24 school year.



There are approximately 160 middle school teachers total; about 10% of middle school teachers absent on C/J days.

Average number of middle school teachers absent on each day of the week, SY24 as of April 12, 2024.

Staff Engagement and Feedback

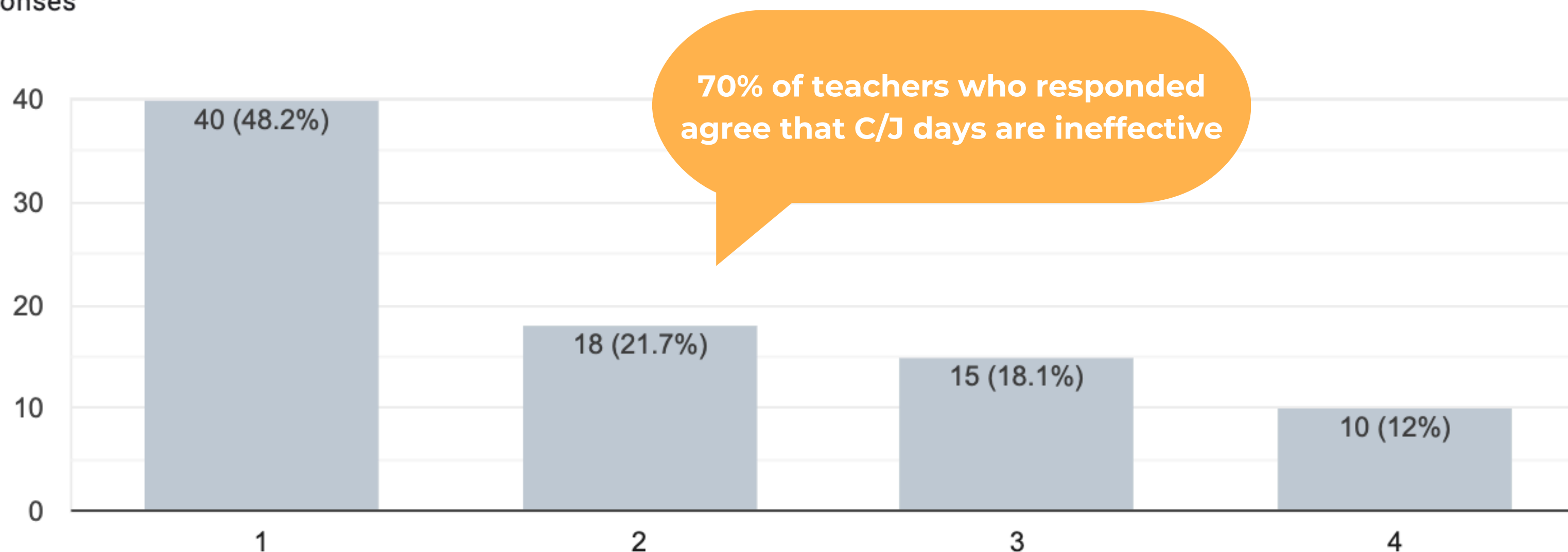
Principals met with School Improvement Teams, which consist of teachers and other staff members, along with Team Leaders, who are also teachers, and all other teachers and staff to discuss the adjustment regarding C/J days. They explained that there is a noticeable increase in both staff and student absences on Wednesdays.

Teachers particularly feel the impact of these absences, as many of them substitute for their colleagues during their planning time. The staff understands the rationale behind this change, as they directly experience the effects of C/J days.

June 4, 2024 Teacher Survey

On a 4 point scale, rate your agreement with the effectiveness of the C/J days schedule meeting the learning and social emotional needs of our students.

83 responses



Middle school staff reflections on effectiveness of C and J day schedule as of June 7, 2024. 83 responses were received (~ 50% of middle school teachers).

Recommendation

Based on this feedback and data, we believe simplifying our A-B-C/J structure to a A-B structure will lead to **improved attendance, increase high quality instructional time, and consistency in learning experiences** for our students next school year.

Also, by eliminating C/J days our **students will gain 15 min a week** of instruction due to the reduction of 5 passing periods.

Our plan is to continue to engage with our community in SY 24-25 to build a better schedule that maximizes the quality and time of instruction/learning experiences for our students.

3-Year Timeline: Middle School Master Schedule Alignment

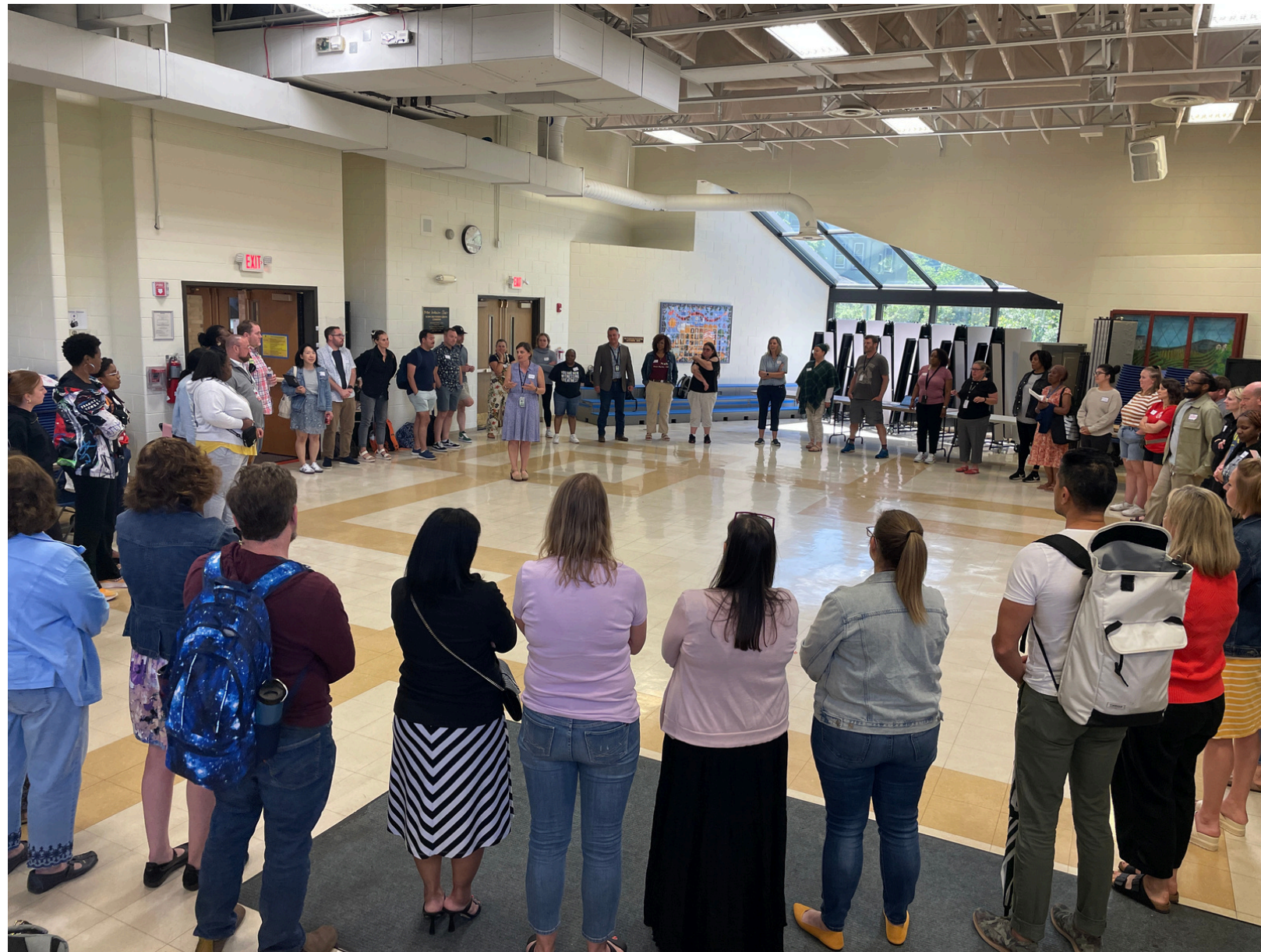




District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations

**What is being done to
improve the culture and
climate at District 97
middle schools?**

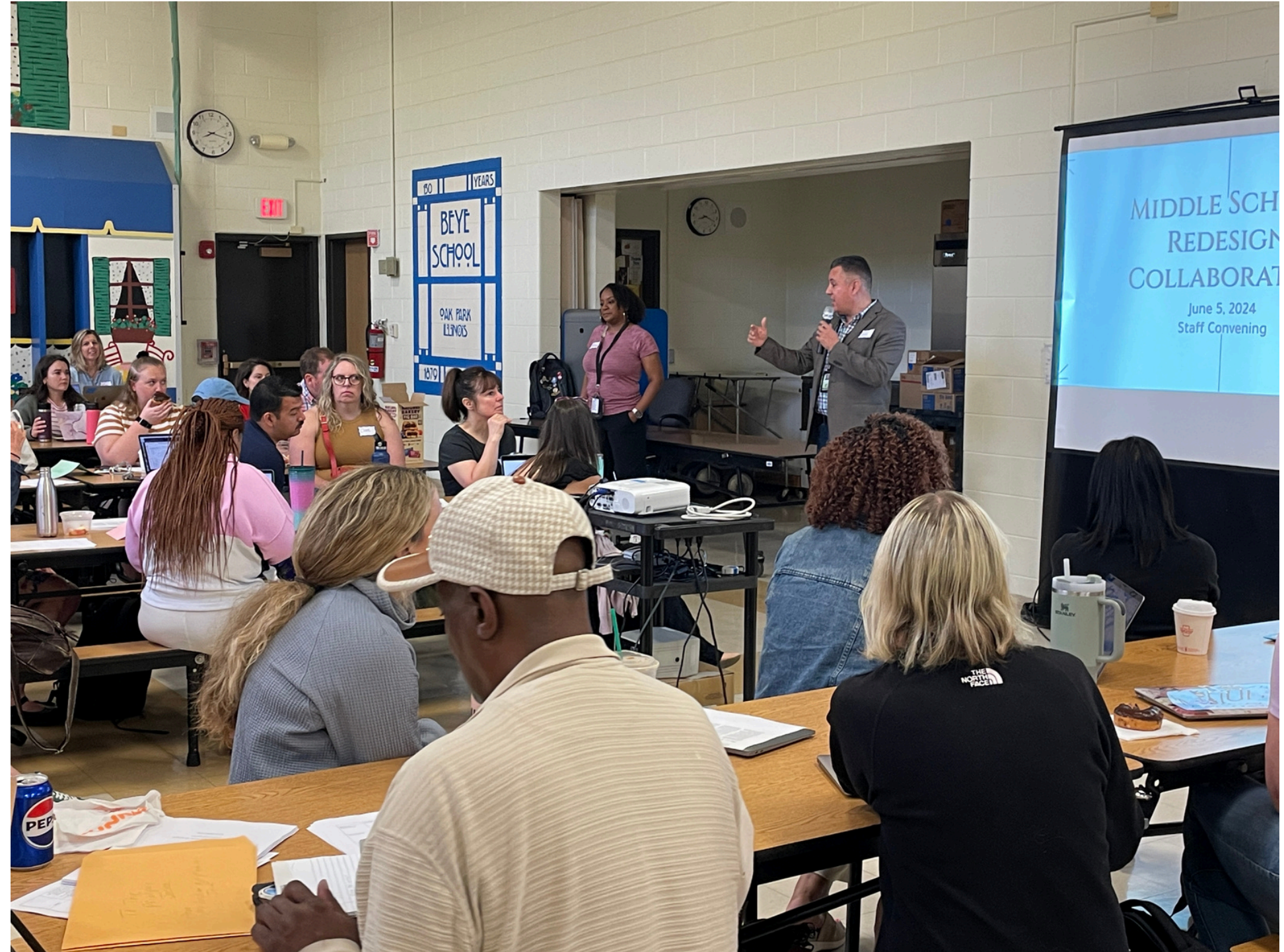
One D97 Middle School Team



On June 5, nearly 70 educators and staff from Brooks and Julian middle schools came together to plan for the 2024-25 school year.

Purpose

The goal of the June 5 planning session was to **create alignment and clarity** in social, emotional, and behavioral support systems across both middle schools. Practitioners were given the space to **share their expertise, establish priorities and develop a draft action plan** to ensure a successful start to the 2024-25 school year.



Who was a part of the team
on June 5 working to
improve the culture and
climate at District 97 middle
schools?



Thank You!

April Capuder
Joe Casanovas
Bethany Ezawa
Nancy Guarino
Amy Hawk
Nia Kerr
Maureen Kelly McDonald
Carin McKinney
Raul Reynoso
Stephanie Suerth
Sergio Torres
Yael Berenson White
Tequila Butler
Elizabeth Chu
Adrienne Court
Christiana Harrington
Steven Hoskins

Marie Jones
Kathleen O'Keefe
Lauren Robinzine
Patricia Washington
Christine Wehman
Laura Barlich
Angie Cataldo
Kasey Fleming
Felicia Garcia
Kelly Good
William Lee
Mallory Mowery
Courtney Southward
Tanya Thigpen
Susan Walsh
Tyra Banks
Abby Berman

Roshaun Bowens
Clare Brooks
Shanita Fillyaw
Lawrence Harvey
Lisa Muniz
John O'Brien
Seth Robey
Andrew Swiontoniowski
Samantha Tracy
Tim Walsh
Catherine Brinkman
Leslie Budde
Andrew Davis
Caroline Delia
Meribeth Duhem
Pam Gaffney
Denise Gildon

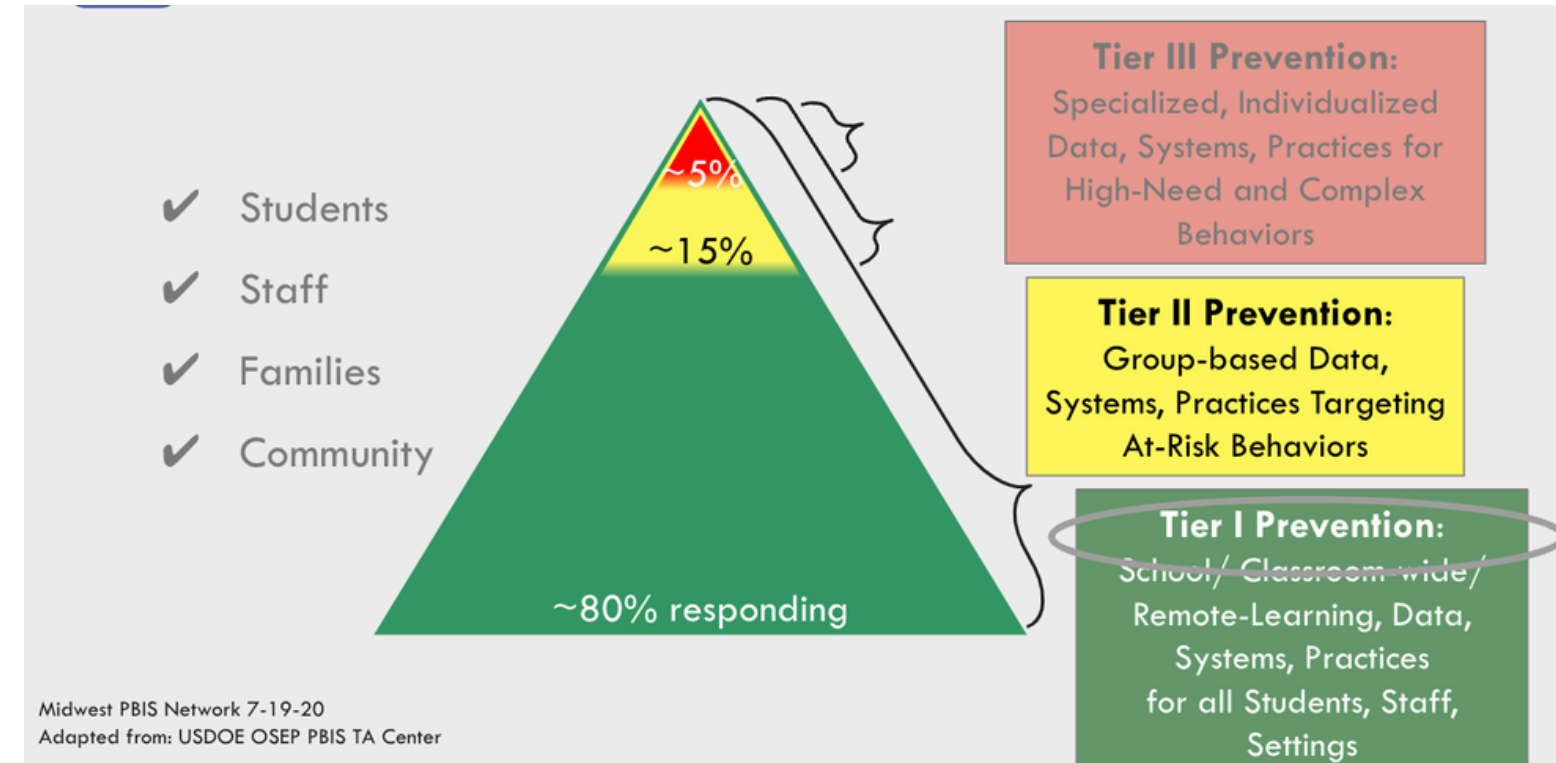
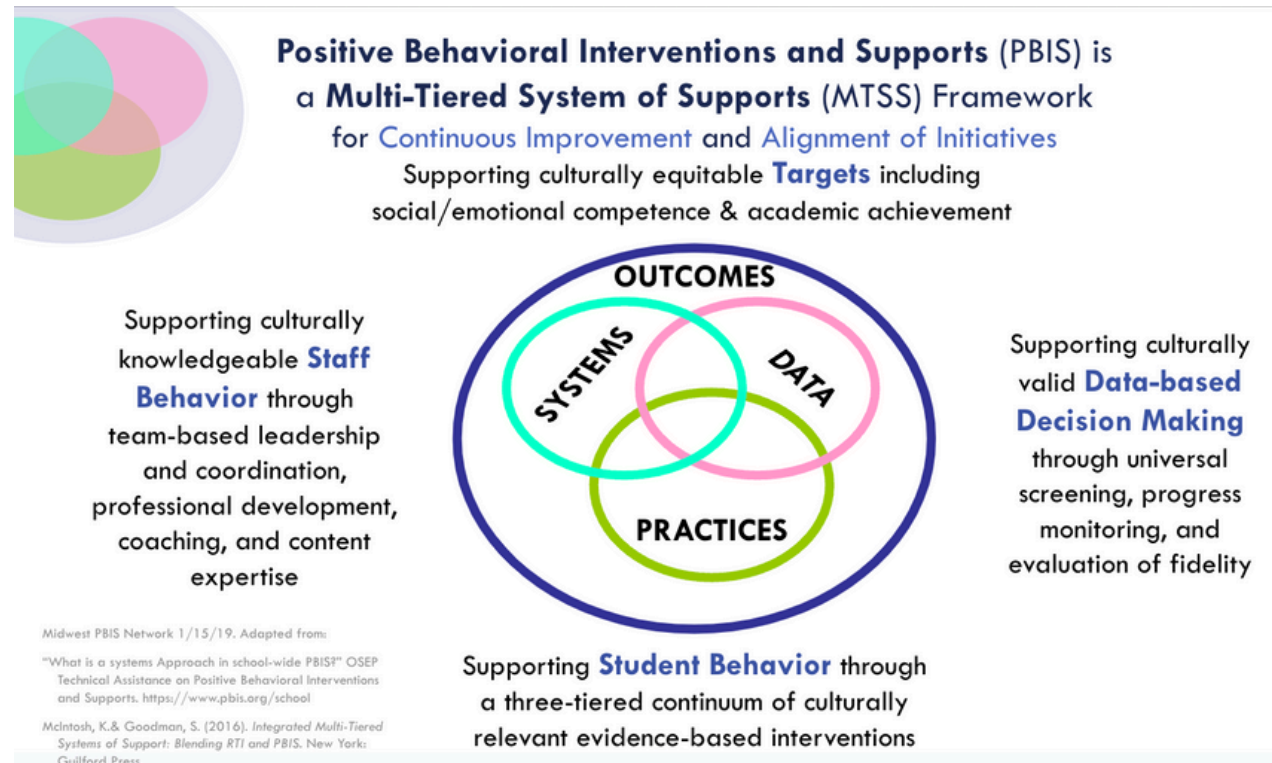
William Mandeville
Jason Morrell
Thomas Reising
Stacey Robertson
Luis Fernando De León
Felicia Starks Turner
Nick Filipowski
Tracy Hamm
Michele Capio
Emilie Creehan
Rebecca Bald



The group included middle school administrators, teachers, teaching assistants and hallway monitors.

Why will the June 5 planning session improve the culture and climate at District 97 middle Schools?

Rooted in Research & Evidence-Based Practices

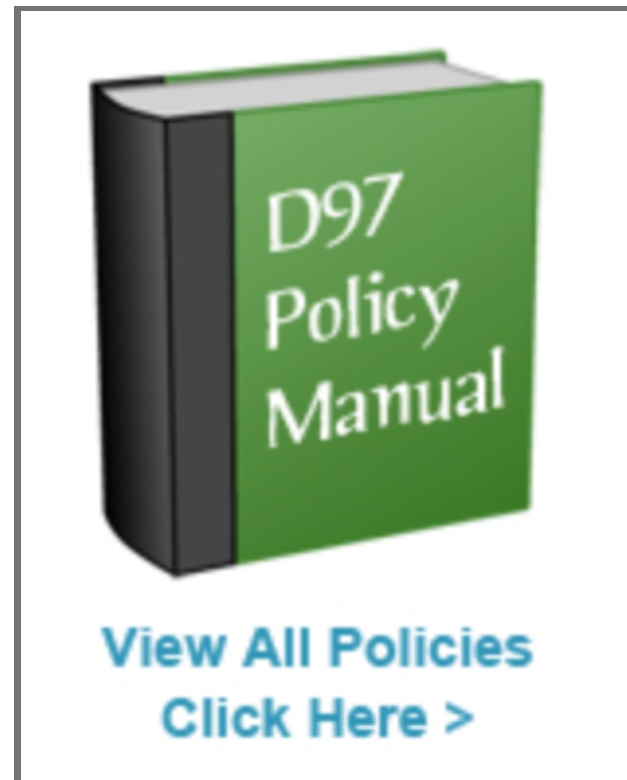


Tier I Prevention:
School/ Classroom-wide/ Remote-Learning, Data, Systems, Practices for all Students, Staff, Settings

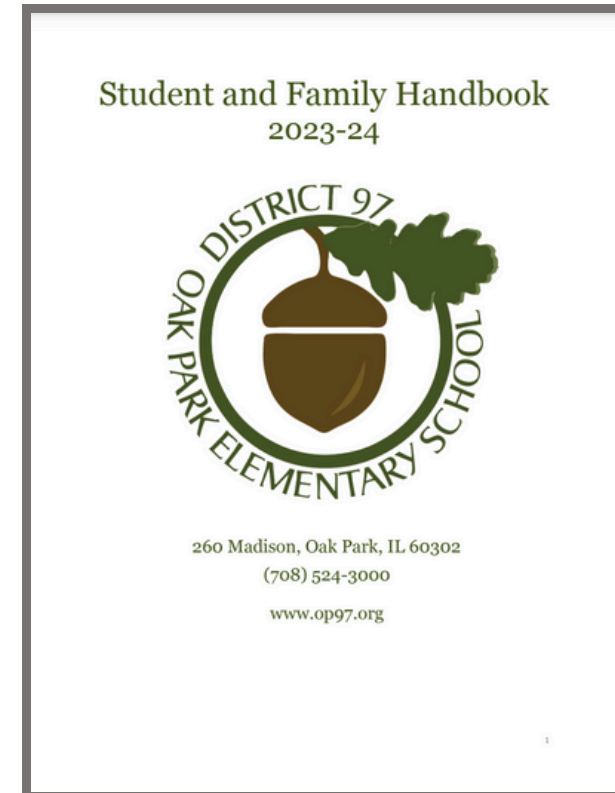
Tier II Prevention:
Group-based Data, Systems, Practices Targeting At-Risk Behaviors

Tier III Prevention:
Specialized, Individualized Data, Systems, Practices for High-Need and Complex Behaviors

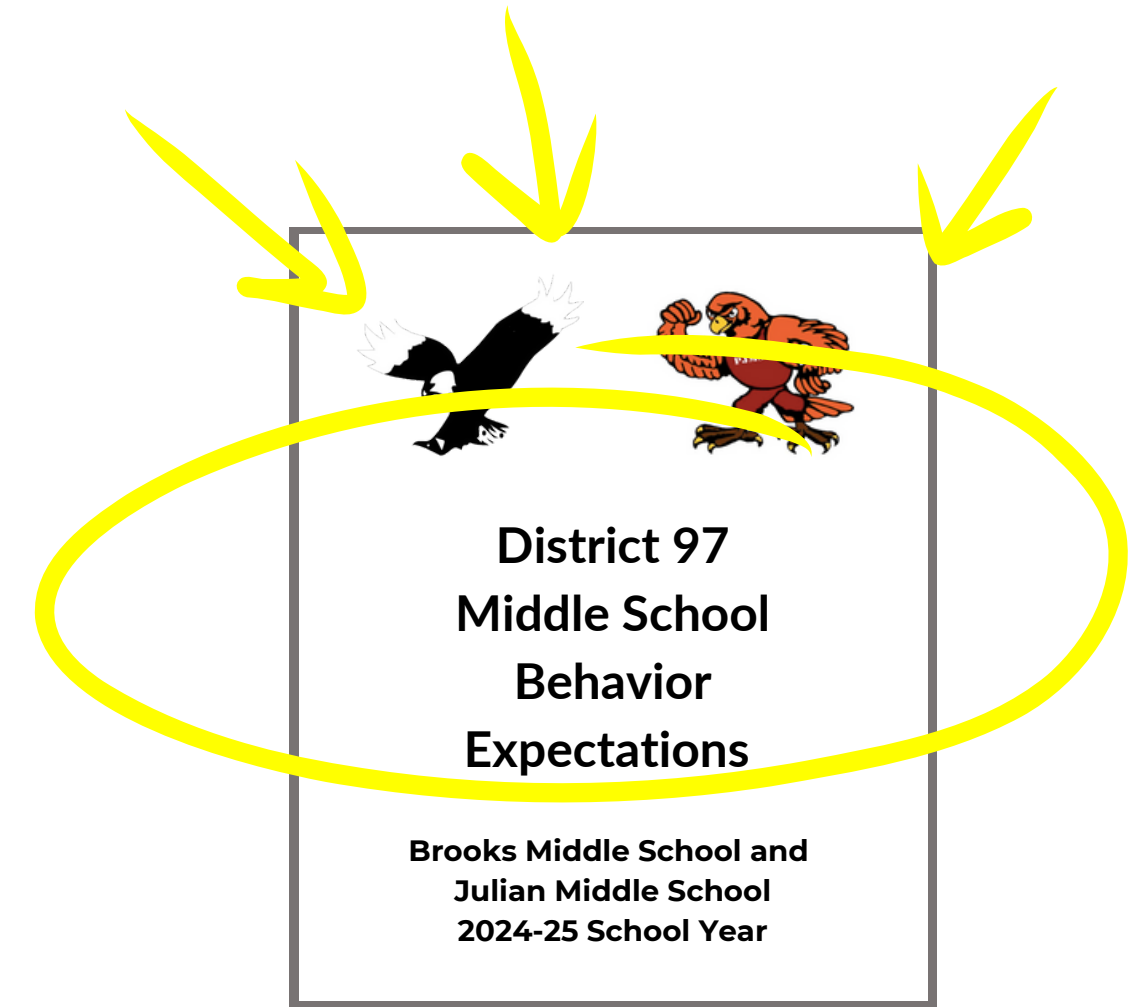
Rooted in D97 Policies and Procedures



District 97
Board Policy



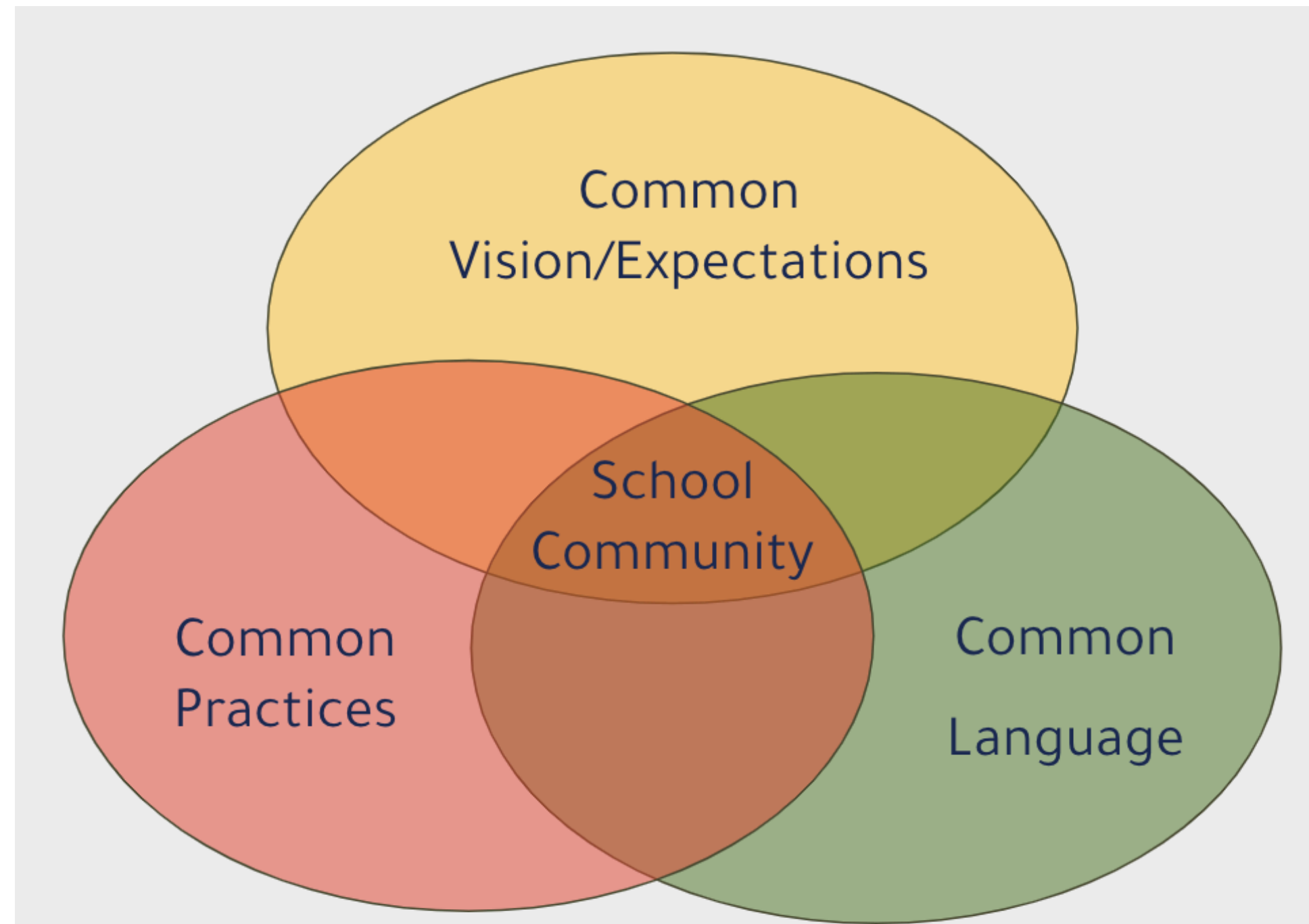
District 97
Student and
Family Handbook



District 97
Middle School
Behavior Expectations

How will the June 5 planning session improve the culture and climate at District 97 middle schools?

Clarity and Consistency Matter



D97 Middle School *Behavioral Expectations*

5 Focus Areas for the 2024-25 School Year



Cell
Phones



Bathroom/
Hallway



Lunch/
Social Time



IDs



Lockers

Cell Phones



Middle school teachers, staff, and administrators establish expectations for student cell phones in accordance with District 97's Away for the Day policy, so that staff and students can concentrate on teaching and learning.

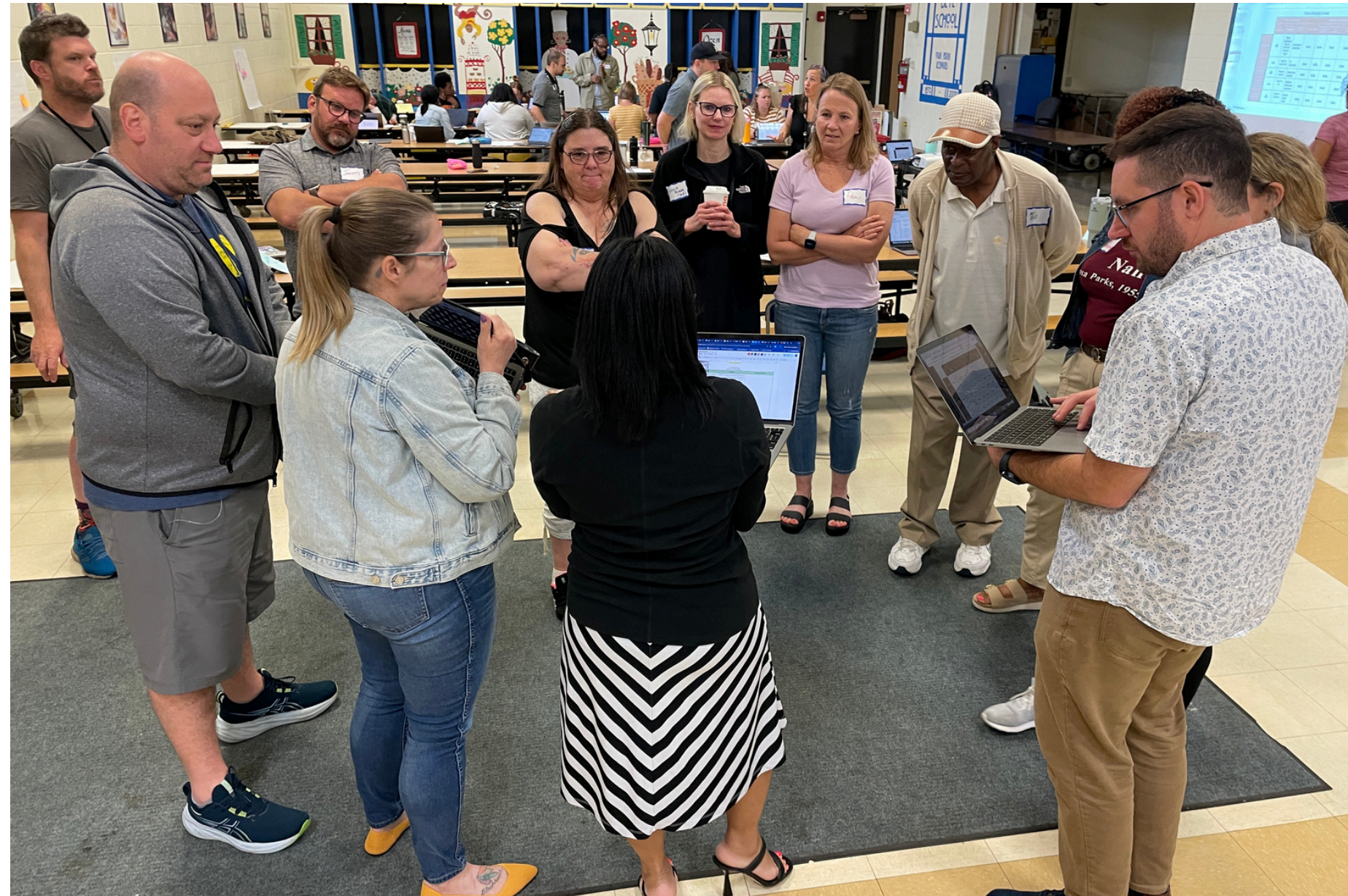


Bathroom/Hallway

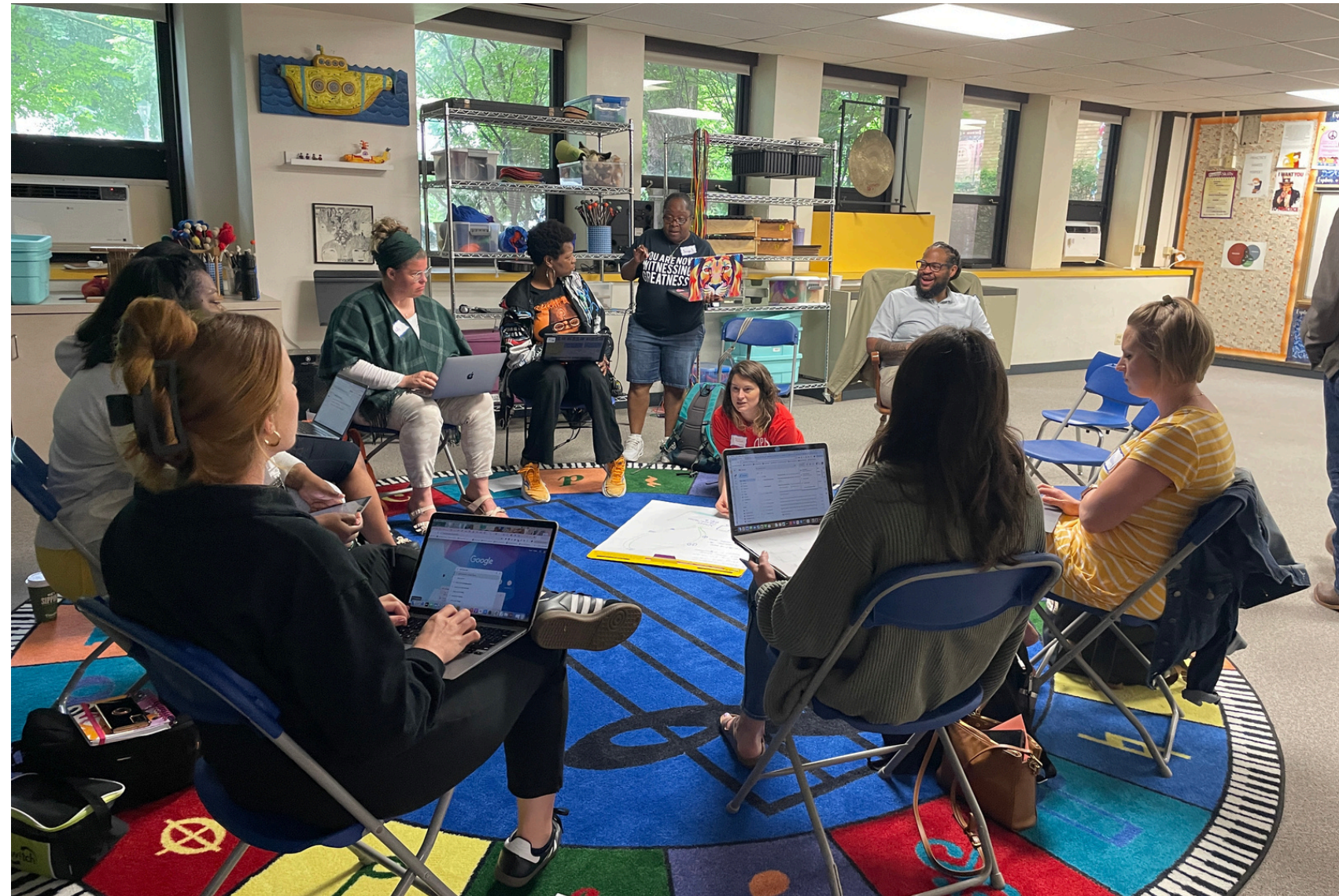


Middle school teachers, staff and administrators determine expectations for bathrooms and hallways so students can maximize in-class learning and increase safety during transitions.

Lunch/Social Time



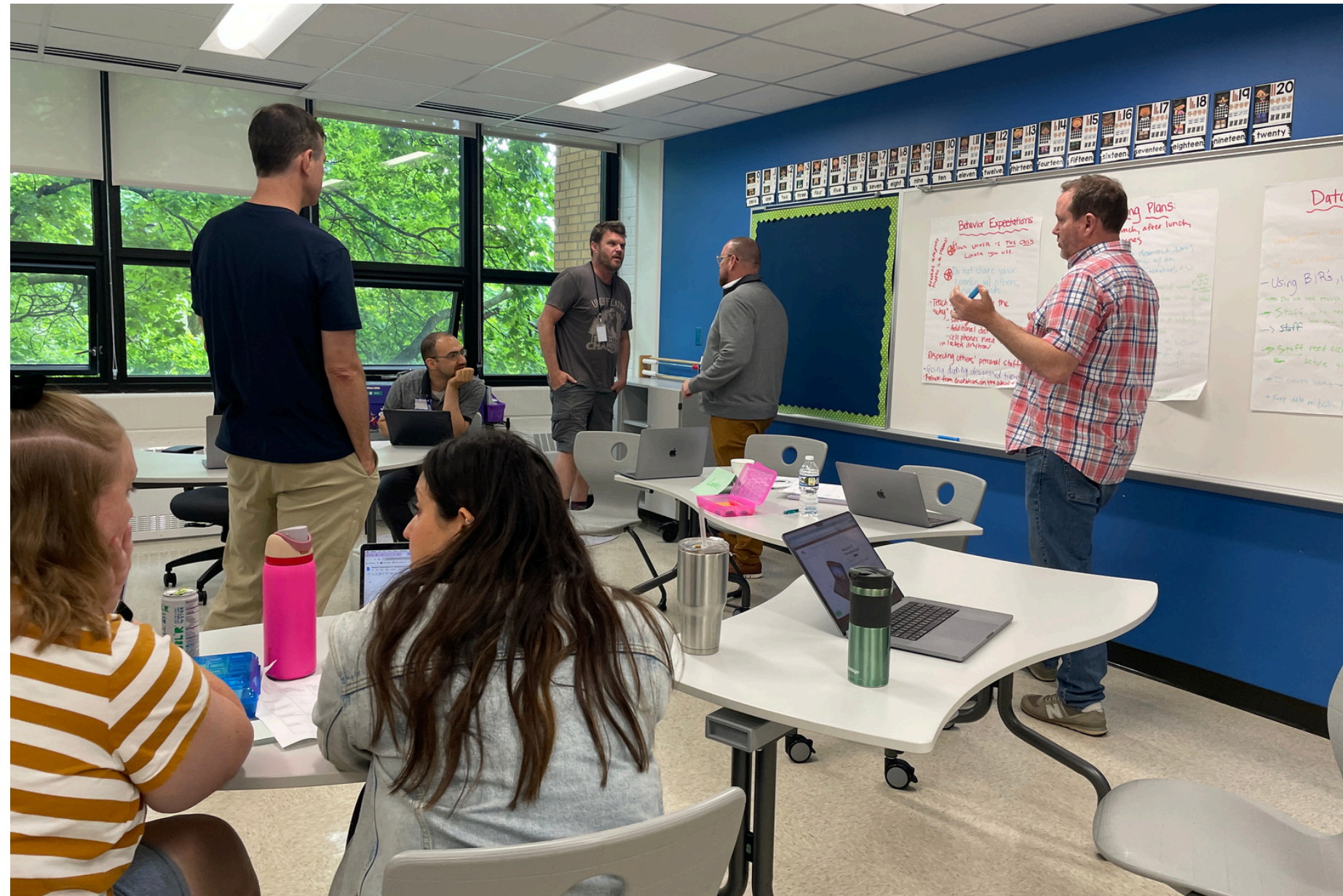
Middle school teachers, staff and administrators establish clear expectations for lunch and social time behavior to ensure that students understand the procedures and can enjoy these times safely and responsibly.



Middle school teachers, staff and administrators set expectations for IDs to ensure that students are clearly identifiable as District 97 students, promoting their safety and well-being.



Lockers



Middle school teachers, staff and administrators establish expectations for locker use to ensure that students can safely store their belongings, including backpacks

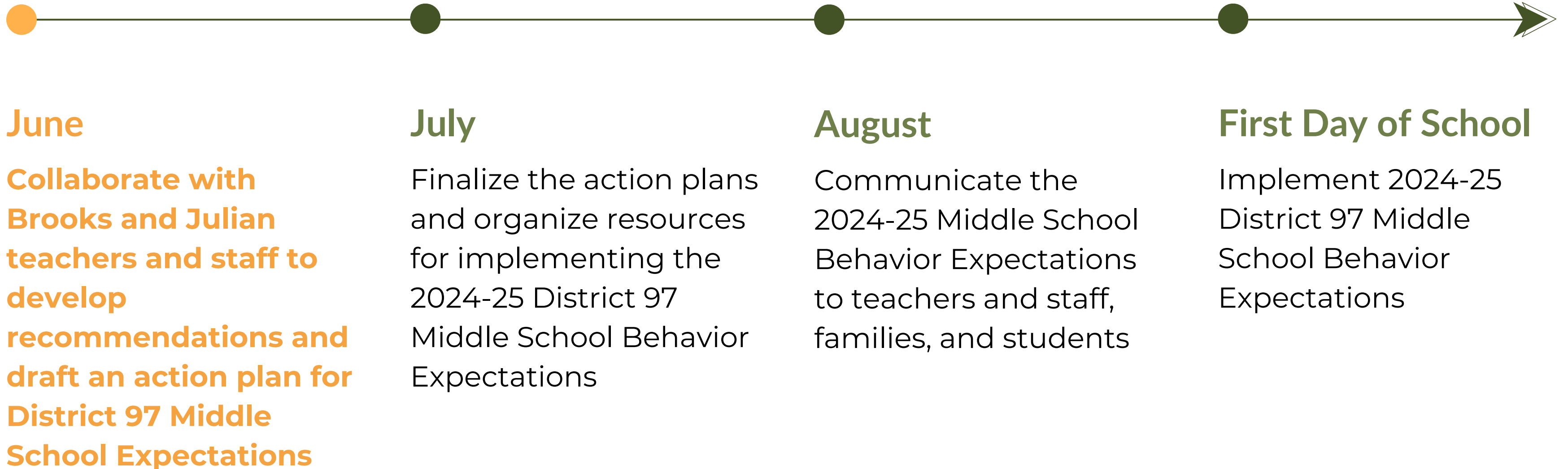
Team Tasks and Work Products

	Expectations Matrix	Teaching & Comms Proposal	Acknowledgement Proposal	Consequences Proposal	Progress Monitor/Data
CELL PHONES	MATRIX	Away for the Day Slide Deck Staff-Facing Lesson PBIS Behavior Lesson Plan – Stay Focused, Stay Connected: Embrace a Phone-Free Day!	Cell Phone Acknowledgement Matrix	Cell Phone Consequences Proposal	
IDS	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck	Deck
BACKPACKS IN LOCKERS	Locker Expectations Matrix	Locker Lesson Plan Locker Lesson Slides	Locker Acknowledgment Proposal	Discipline Plan-Lockers	School Culture & Climate BIR & Team Response
HALLWAY/ BATHROOM TRANSITIONS	Matrix	Hallway Flyers Hallway/Bathroom BOY Lesson Plan Student PowerPoint Presentation			Electronic Pass or Sign Out Sheet
LUNCH/SOCIAL TIME	Lunch/Social Time Expectations Capture Sheet Presentation	Lunch/Social Time Teaching Comms capture sheet Presentation	Lunch Acknowledgements	Consequences Proposal	Consequences Proposal

When will all staff, families and students receive the 2024-25 District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations and when will they take effect?



Implementation Timeline for 2024-25 D97 Middle School Behavior Expectations





Communication and Engagement



Teachers and Staff

District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations will be shared with ALL middle school teachers and staff:

- First Week of August
- Institute Days
- Throughout the year
 - The MTSS Team will be improving systems, data, and practices to support 2024-25 behavior expectations



Communication and Engagement



Families

District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations will be shared with ALL middle school families in:

- Back-to-School Communication
- Weekly newsletters
- PTO Meetings and Communication
- Back-to-School Night
- Curriculum Night



Communication and Engagement



Students

District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations will be shared with middle school students in:

- Back-to-School Communication
- D97 Middle School Connection
- Back-to-School Nights
- School-Wide Assemblies
- Advisory

**Where will staff, families and
students see the 2024-25
District 97 Middle School
Behavior Expectations?**

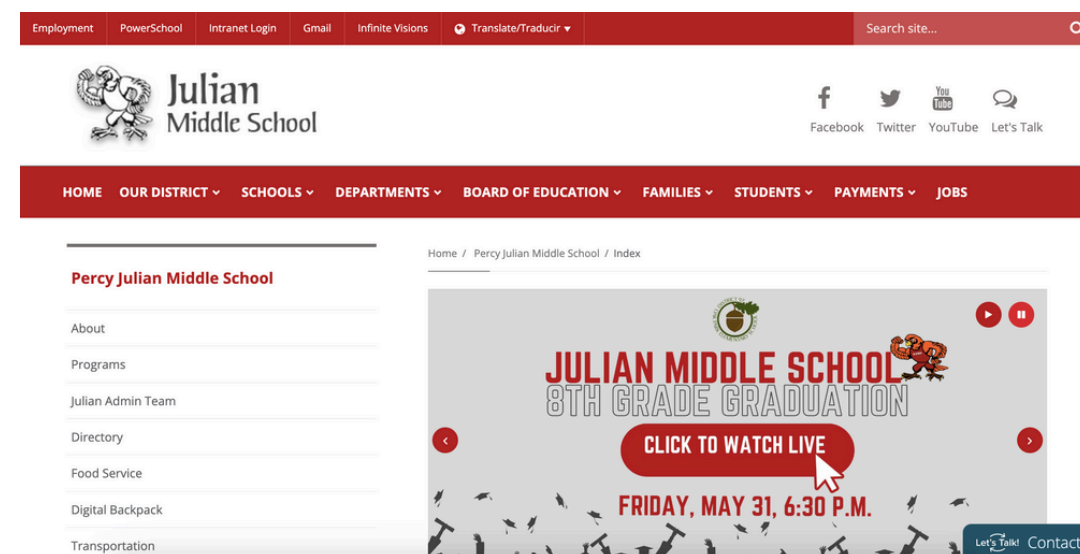


Communication and Engagement

2024-25 D97 Middle School Behavior Expectations

District 97 Middle School Behavior Expectations will be visible in:

- Classrooms and common areas
- School newsletters
- School websites



»»» Together

Collaboration

Optimistic

Together

Hopeful

Informed

Insightful

Connected

Empowered

Great

Passionate

Optimistic

POWERFUL

Overwhelming

Consistency

FORWARD-THINKING

Supportive

Cautiously Optimistic

Clarity

Interconnected

Layered

WORK-IN-PROGRESS

COMMUNITY

No Cellphones

Dreamwork

INSIGHTFUL

Hopeful

Dialogue

Valued

Positive

Necessary

Invigorating

Compromise

Clarity

Possibility

Encouraged

Inspiring

Dedicated

Refreshing

Encouraged

Committed

MOTIVATED





Questions and Feedback