

Concerns about 7/8 grade moving to HS

How do we integrate / separate grade 7/8 effectively?

- Locker issue: Are there enough? Where would you put more? junior high upstairs?
- Lunch - 7th/8th graders eating with upper Classmen would be potentially problematic. Can a separate lunch be scheduled?
- Social consequences: 7th/8th graders interacting with seniors could be problematic
- LINK crew orientation? How does this work the first year with three classes of new students? Do the 8th and 9th graders end up getting lost in the shuffle?
- Staffing: Who is going to leave? What does the 3 section school look like?
- Homecoming/Snowdaze: Are 7th/8th grade included? How?
- Language: Are they going to take a language?
 - * Are they going to be in a Class with upper Classmen?
 - * It would be nice for them to start early (8th grade) with a language because they could potentially take 5 years. It would allow them more flexibility in scheduling to take it for 3 to 4 years.
 - * College credit: How to we address that issue? (since by starting in 8th grade a student could be in a college class in 10th grade)
 - * Some students will have gaps in their sequence of language instruction.
 - * Our proposal for World Language for 8th graders is this:
 - 8th graders would be eligible to register for German 1 or Spanish 1 provided that there is space available (after grades 9-12 have registered) and provided that their overall GPA is 3.0 or better.
- Class size: Studies have proven that smaller class sizes are more conducive

to learning, especially with a language. With the fact that we are on a AYP plan, increasing class sizes will not help us improve scores.

- Co-curricular activities: In the whole scope of a school budget, co-curricular activities seem to be a small piece. Rather than cutting programs, we should reduce where possible within our existing programs. By cutting programs, we risk losing students to other schools through open enrollment. Many students come to school because they participate in co-curricular activities, and those are the experiences that give the most meaning to their school year.

- Maintaining the college courses and other electives make us unique and help us retain students in our district. Cutting these academic offerings would also risk us losing students.

Respectfully submitted by
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