



Einstein Middle School

2008 National Blue Ribbon Middle School

"Growing Today, Preparing for Tomorrow"

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David M. Boden, Principal
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

For the past two years, our district has been working on making changes to the middle level day that would allow us to better serve all students. With this in mind, the district formed the Middle Level Reform Committee, a group made up of parents, teachers, and administrators, to look for ways to enhance our middle level programming.

Below are the board approved changes for the upcoming 2011-12 school year surrounding the middle level day. The resulting schedule and increased minutes of instruction for middle level students will provide all of the opportunities that the Middle Level Reform Committee and middle level administrators had hoped would become a reality for our students during middle level reform discussions in 2009 - 2010. The model will provide for the following:

- Interdisciplinary Team Structure:** Teams of students are assigned to one, common group of Core teachers
 - *Allows students to make connections with one group of teachers who know them and their skill levels very well
 - *Allows for increased personalization of instruction to meet student needs through flexible grouping and differentiation of instruction
 - *Allows Core teachers to develop personal relationships with students, fostering academic, social and emotional development
- Flexible Blocks of Team Time:** Curriculum integration
 - * Helps students make connections between core subject areas and their interrelated concepts
 - *Creates the opportunity to use longer blocks of time for science exploration, research projects, and writing projects across curricular areas
- Common Planning Time for Teachers:** Collaboration
 - *Core: Plan integrated units, meet to share student assessment data, and target needs of individual students
 - *Encore: Opportunity for integration, as desired
- Encore Choices Remain the Same:**
 - 7th grade: World Language Every Day, PE/Music Every Other Day
TE – one semester; FACE/Art – one quarter each
 - 8th grade: World Language Every Day, PE/Music Every Other Day
FACE – one semester/Elective Choice – one semester

Using priorities of best practice, staff and administration collaboratively developed a model that will provide the best possible scenario for our middle school students and staff by providing **all** of the current Encore choices with only a slight decrease from 46 minutes to 40 minutes per period of Encore instruction. In addition, a Middle Level Summer Institute will be provided in August 2011 so that all staff members have the opportunity to learn together and to plan for highly effective new team structures to ensure increased differentiation of instruction and integration of subject areas for all students.

The registration cards that you filled out earlier this year provides all of the information that we need to schedule your students within the new team structure. Again, Encore choices will remain the same.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

David M. Boden

Principal