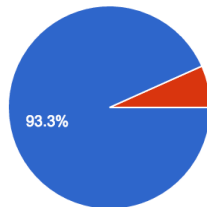


Middle School Teacher's Summary Results

Summary

Do you believe our students would benefit from being together in a middle school setting?



Yes	14	93.3%
No	1	6.7%

Why do you feel this way? (15 responses)

When a teacher is able to focus on two or three "preps" instead of six or seven, they can provide a much better learning experience for the student. More teachers of the same subject could collaborate. Students would be better prepared to enter Northwest and better prepared for the demands of high school in general. Right now, having three middle school teachers in St. Libory, Chapman, and 1R is extremely restrictive for our students. This limits the opportunities for exploratory classes, since there is not enough flexibility in the schedule.

Band & Choir would be bigger

They already are in a middle school setting.

I believe that most students would thrive when given the opportunity to take at least one elective course. Also, I think it would help students develop in all areas, especially socially. Students will have the opportunity to interact with more people (especially peers) and this will help them to be more ready for high school as well. Overall, I believe that the middle school setting would be a very beneficial stepping stone for our students as we prepare them for high school.

Our kids from Chapman would be left behind. Our kids do not have the same background as many of the other students in the district, therefore they come to us at a disadvantage. We are aware of that here and do many things to try to level the playing field. In a school of 80 students per class, though, they would be in the minority and I highly doubt many teachers would do things to help level the playing field for our kids. I'm sure there would be a benefit to exploratory classes, however, this can be done at our schools. We had explore classes years ago in Chapman - it's a scheduling issue. As far as wood shop goes, I've asked around and few middle school students are being offered wood shop as an option. Art, family/consumer science, yes. But these could be

integrated into our day without consolidating into one middle school. Currently, our NeSA scores for our district are above state averages. And this is without having explore classes. Adding explore classes would shorten the educational time for students in core classes. How would that affect our NeSA scores? For Chapman kids, shortening their time would, I believe, have a detrimental effect on learning vital skills that are required by standards. Explore classes are not required by standards.

So many reasons!!! Transitioning to high school may be easier, more options for electives, sports, better teacher support and PLC time together. K-8 scheduling is a nightmare.

It can be difficult to branch out if you are in class with the same group of students. Depending on the class size some students struggle to fit in and make friends.

More choices for students, more electives for students to soar in their area of enjoyment (art, hands on, choir, etc), kids can participate with the kids you will be going to HS with in sports...two more years of playing time together, more teacher PLC time, teachers would be available to discuss things at the school instead of emailing or waiting to talk at NW, more friends/social groups for kids, more extra curricular possibilities, more teachers to explain things in a different manner for struggling students or students that don't understand a concept, small class sizes that are still manageable...might be more than 5 or 7 kids in a class, kids would know each other going into high school, each grade would be their own "wing or unit" to work together, teachers could work closer together on work projects cross-curricular, etc. etc. etc.

because they need more opportunities for exploratory classes.

There are numerous reasons as to why the students would benefit from being all together in one middle school. The first reasons are an academic standpoint. I feel that it would greatly help to have those lower achieving students being partnered up with some of the higher achieving students. Those that struggle will have someone to help them. Those that do well will do even better when they are explaining to someone else. This is a win-win situation. Another academic reason is there would be more than one teacher in the content areas to give assistance to those that need the extra support. Interventions would run a lot smoother and with more purpose.

The following reasons would be from an extracurricular standpoint. Yes, the exploratory classes would be great to offer and I know that some are saying they are not necessary. However, those classes might be where a student can really succeed and flourish. Not to mention, they might see how it could relate to the core content areas and realize why they need to know and use those subjects. Sport wise, it would be awesome if we had all of our middle school students together to know how to work together as a team instead of the individual schools having a team. Also, it would eliminate one school vs. the other three schools in volleyball and basketball. There would still be opportunity for any and every student to go out for the sport of their choice.

If there was a Middle School, there wouldn't be the need to eliminate Wednesday practices since we would have our PLC meetings at the middle school and could have a staff member help cover the study hall. MathCounts is something the district pays for. As of now, only 1-R and Cedar Hollow are the schools that participate in this. Other middle schools have taken more than one team, this seems like NW should/could be able to as well. Putting all of our best math students together could help to make a more successful competitive team. Quiz Bowls would be down to one team, but maybe we can do an inner-school Quiz Bowl competition? There could be an

actual "Band" class instead of pulling students away from having a study hall. They would be able to start learning the marching process and may even compete in parades. Honor Choir could be held during the school day instead competing with practice time with sports.

I feel the list goes on and on for all the reasons why it is beneficial for NW to have a middle school. I can understand the financial issues the farmers are bringing up. If we could get across to them how things have changed in the farming world, then they should understand things have changed in education too. Would they really want to go back to the "old way" of farming? Just because it was good enough for them in school does not mean that it is what is best for students today.

I feel that a middle school setting would be most beneficial to students in their social development. During these formative adolescent years, students in their preteens and early teenage years experience a lot of personal discovery, and are forming their identities. While students are building close friendships within their small classes, they are also missing out on the important social aspect that would be present at a middle school full of students their own age. Though a larger setting may initially present itself as overwhelming, especially for students who are used to a much smaller setting, the larger setting can provide more opportunities for students to form a variety of friendships, and help to find a sense of belonging. For example, a student who has very particular interests may feel left out in his or her current setting; but in a larger middle school setting, there may be an entire group of students who share those same interests.

One of the big reasons a middle school would be beneficial to our school system would be to allow students the opportunity to explore and experience different subject areas that they normally wouldn't be able to. A few subject areas students could try out would be, fine arts, industrial arts, drama, journalism, musical performance ect. The great thing about these programs is that they would be beneficial to everyone. What I see as a middle school teacher is students having a hard time staying connected to the general education classes. They don't see how they are useful to them. There's no connection. They see math, reading, and writing as a class but not as something they could use in the future. By having an industrial arts class, students would understand the importance of math, students interested in journalism would see the importance of reading and writing. The truth is, not every student we see goes on to school after they finish middle school and high school. However, an industrial arts class might spark an interest and be the thing that gets them a job when they graduate high school.

Another positive would be the students would be able to work in different groups. Right now our students are with the same kids from the time they're in kindergarten until they leave for high school. That is a positive but also a negative. By allowing the students to be together, as a whole, they would be able to work with different kids throughout their day. Also staff would be able to collaborate with on another. It will help communication across the board.

Because we could offer our students more opportunities such as art, FCS, industrial arts, etc. I feel our students are missing out on stuff because our buildings can't accommodate these subjects.

Yes, I believe it would benefit our students to be together in one middle school. Mostly, I would say the reasons are because of more encore opportunities and richer teacher to teacher interaction.

First, we fail our students in the area of core and exploratory areas. Speaking from Cedar Hollow anyway, our students have no direct classes that deal with art, industrial technology, world language, or family and consumer science. We have kids that are in their very formative years, and we don't provide the opportunities for them to explore these other sides. For one, we take away the chance for more active and hands on learning. Think of the school day for a middle school kid. Move from one seat to another seat. Teachers in the core areas do their best to make the learning interactive, but the classes that are interactive by their very nature are absent. Also, the creative piece is limited. In both art and industrial technology classes, kids get to make and build things. Their ideas come to life. Many kids are interested in this, but they are missing someone to teach them techniques to do well.

In addition, the professional opportunities that a middle school would allow for teachers would trickle down for student benefit as well. As a science teacher at Cedar Hollow, I am literally closer in travel time to Wood River science teachers than I am to fellow teachers in my own district. Professional Growth does NOT happen at meetings, particularly meetings at the end of the day. Growth happens when professionals can easily share cool things they are doing or ask tough questions as they come up. Certainly, I can email other teachers in the district, but in all reality, that interaction isn't a whole lot richer than what I could get from posting a question or thought on Facebook or Twitter group. The rich experiences for teachers happen when I can go down the hallway and ask a question or share a thought. Having teachers together would benefit students because of richer experiences that would naturally push growth.

I feel that our students are missing out on opportunities that could benefit them such as: Family Consumer Science, Shop, Ag, etc. I also feel like students who need extra help with reading and math could be grouped better if all of the Middle Schools were together. The main reason is that I feel our advanced kids (HAL as well as just the ones who don't need the extra reading and math) could have more opportunities and start to prepare for AP classes if they were in a Middle School setting. I feel that we could help prepare all Middle School students for High School better in a Middle School setting.