

Middle School Common Schedule Work Group

Main points from meeting held Thurs., Dec. 13, 2012

- We reviewed the givens and parameters previously identified: trimester six period day, regular time for advisory, regular time for teacher collaboration outside the school day, four core content areas (math, science, social studies, language arts) taught daily, length of class periods approximately 55 minutes, and approximate start and end times of 8:55 and 3:21.
- We had a check-in to allow members to share their thoughts and perceptions since our last meeting.
- There will likely be a phased in implementation of advisory since the content of advisory has not been determined, nor has it been determined how long advisory could or should be.
- A smaller group is working on what a calendar could look like for 2013-2014 that reflects the concept of banking time to provide for longer blocks of teacher collaboration and potentially make more efficient use of resources.
- Principals reviewed why they recommended having a common schedule for middle schools.
- Individual schools shared what a schedule could look like at their sites following the givens and parameters above.
- Discussion was held around the need to keep classes at each school at the same amount of FTE for purposes of equity and maximizing resources.
- An informal survey was taken that helped the group identify issues needing refinement, which include the number of minutes per class (we discussed 53 plus or minus up to 2 minutes) and amount of FTE each class is worth on a six period day.