



Grade Configuration Implementation

April/May 2008 Update

Video answers middle school questions, schools submit readiness plans

How are middle schools and junior highs different, and how are they similar? Learn this and more by viewing a TV and online video on PSD's Middle Schools Transition.

Excitement is building and a tremendous amount of work has already been done to prepare for the transition of PSD junior highs to middle schools in fall 2009. In a video on PSD Channel 10 and online, three members of the PSD Middle Schools Planning Committee share information about the planning underway and essential components of successful middle schools that PSD is adopting.

Middle School Committee co-chairs Dr. Sandy Bickel, principal of Webber Junior High, and Joe Cuddemi, principal of Kinard Core Knowledge Junior High, and committee member Faith Swanbom, a 6th-grade teacher at Cache LaPoudre Elementary, address parent questions in the video.

The video will be broadcast on PSD Channel 10 (Comcast Cable) in April and May, and can be viewed online. Go to www.psdschools.org and click on Middle School video to view or check the schedule.

Future programs will answer parents' questions about the 9th grade transition to high schools.

Schools submitting readiness plans

In April, school teams are submitting drafts of their school readiness plans to guide the transition to new grade levels. Draft plans will be reviewed by the District Grade Configuration Implementation Committee (DGCIC) and members of the Superintendent's Cabinet. Final plans are due November 1.

Plans address academic and extra-curricular programs, student transitions, administration, communications, and school culture and morale. Planning is also underway by levels (elementary, middle school and high schools) and feeder systems (neighborhood schools that feed the next level). Planning groups are also discussing movement of materials, textbooks, and media and library materials.

Teachers attend middle school meeting

More than 80 teachers attended a middle school information meeting March 31, attending breakout sessions and talking with junior high principals about job openings for the 2008-09 and 2009-10 school years.

Information: contact Manny Ortega, assistant superintendent of secondary schools, at 490-3011, or email info@psdschools.org