

# Creating a World Class Middle School Program in Waukesha

Updates, conversation and  
sharing

# Why restructure from 7-8 to 6-8?

- Global SDW reorganization for efficiency and effectiveness
- 70% of districts: 6-8 or 5-8
- Recommended configuration by National Middle School Association
- Opportunity to revitalize middle level programming to ensure we offer rigorous and relevant coursework

# What will drive our decisions?

- Personalization
- Flexibility in schedules to allow for fluid intervention
- Rigorous, relevant curriculum
- Parent and community involvement
- Collaboration
- Consistent support to students
- Opportunities and choice
- Powerful instruction responsive to the adolescent learner

# Our planning began in April...

- Mixed group of SDW professionals
- Activities
  - “What does a World Class Middle School look like?”
  - Analysis of current 6<sup>th</sup> grade and 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> curriculum, schedules, rituals, etc.
  - Wishes, hopes, research-based recommendations for the future

# Working committees

- Schedule
- Curriculum
- Co-curriculars
- Rituals and celebrations
- Intervention and acceleration
- Climate and culture



Emerging priorities...

# With respect to schedule...

- Extended instructional periods to allow for depth of content
- A daily way to formally connect with kids
- Daily intervention/acceleration opportunities
- Adherence to district expectations for 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading, writing and math instruction

# With respect to support to students...

- Daily intervention or enrichment opportunities
- Philosophy of “meaningful exposure” to a variety of courses so students begin to self-assess and learn about personal strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes expanded to our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

# With respect to curriculum...

- Focus on content knowledge: mathematics, literacy, social studies and science
- Course options in Physical Education, Technology Education, Family/Consumer Science, Art, Business Education, Music, and World Languages
- A full banquet of rigorous and relevant elective course options
  - “wheel” of required electives in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades
  - Student choice in 8<sup>th</sup> grade

*“The level of academic achievement that students attain by eighth grade has a larger impact on their college and career readiness by the time they graduate from high school than anything that happens academically in high school.”*

“The Forgotten Middle”: Ensuring that All Students are on Target for College and Career Readiness before High School. *ACT (2009).*

# What are the benefits for our students?

- Three years of support and instruction in a middle school setting
- Increased curricular and co-curricular opportunities for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students
- Alignment of curriculum will allow for greater depth of course experiences
- Increased connection to middle school for students and families



# Next steps...

- ✓ Continue study of space utilization
- ✓ Continue discussion of schedule and curriculum options for each grade level
- ✓ Continue discussions about rituals and celebrations and co-curricular offerings
- ✓ Make formal recommendations to our School Board in July and October
- ✓ Offer a variety of opportunities to parents and students during the second semester
  - ✓ Guided school tours
  - ✓ More defined curriculum and schedule information
  - ✓ Formal discussions with current 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade students

**This is a tremendous  
opportunity for our students, our  
families and our district!**

