

Brunswick School Board
5-8 Presentation
May 7, 2014

5-8 PRESENTATION

**A REVIEW OF BEST PRACTICES, 5-8 SCHOOLS,
AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BRUNSWICK
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE MIDDLE LEVEL LEARNER

- Smaller learning communities
- Common knowledge and skills (standards)
- Interdisciplinary teams
- Educators who value young adolescents
- Safe, inclusive and supportive environment for all learners
- Adults who know them well and will advocate for them
- Opportunities for activities of interest and exploration
- Organizational structures that foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships

REVIEW OF 5-8 SCHOOLS IN MAINE

- (23) 5-8 Schools
- (47) 6-8 Schools

- Survey/Visitations
- 23 Surveys sent out
- 12 Responses
- 2 Visitations

SURVEY RESULTS

- School Population:

190, 220, 600, 175, 225, 471, 91, 225, 315,
650, 267, 117

- How many years have you been a 5-8 school?

14, 5, 13, 9, 20, 21, 6, 2, 11, 10, 14, IDK

SURVEY RESULTS

- What was the major reason for going with a 5-8 configuration?

Space Needs (12)

Philosophy (2)

Consolidation (1)

- How is your 5th grade configured?

Teams (11 with many variations)

Self Contained (1)

SURVEY RESULTS

- Are your 5th graders separated from the other grades in the physical plant?

Yes (6) No (2) 5/6 together (4)

- Do your 5th graders follow the same daily schedule as the other students?

Yes (6) No (3) 5/6 (3)

(All have same start and end time.)

SURVEY RESULTS

- The bus:

5-8	5-12	K-12	PreK-12
(5)	(2)	(4)	(1)

- Recess:

None	5th	5-6	5-8
(1)	(1)	(2)	(8)

SURVEY RESULTS

- What extra curricular activities do you offer for 5th graders?

Cross country (6), Track (3), Chess (2), Student Council (2) Band (3), Chorus (3), Wrestling (2), Math Team (3), Drama (6)

Basketball (2), Robotics (2), Cheering (2)

Yearbook, Science Club, Craft Club,

Jazz Band, Show Choir, Builders' Club, Speech/ Debate, Strings

POSITIVES

- 5th graders ready for more variety in their day
- Promote independence, organizational skills, and responsibilities
- Know the middle level goals, routines and procedures
- 5-6 grouping possibilities
- 6th grade year is smoother
- Leadership opportunities for older students
- Fits the facilities needs
- More extra-curricular opportunities
- Eases students into the middle school
- Academic and behavioral expectations strengthen over 4 years
- Fun to have age range
- 5th graders are great!

CHALLENGES

- Some 5th graders have difficult time with transition to teams
- Bus (1 school reported)
- Training for 5th grade staff on middle level education
- Educating parents and community
- Easing parent concerns
- Making sure 5th grade is a part of the larger school
- Providing opportunities for 5-8 to get together
- Scheduling
- Earlier start time
- Shorter recesses
- Space
- Curriculum focus

DISCUSSION ITEMS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Staffing
- Schedule
- Staff/Student/Parent input and transition
- Configuration
- Facilities
- Transportation
- Technology
- Extra-curricular
- Equipment and furniture

STAFFING

Recommendation:

- 8 Classroom Teachers
- 1 Special Education Teacher
- 1 Special Education Education Technician
- Part Time PE, Art, Music
- Part Time Library Support
- Part Time Gifted and Talented
- Part Time Guidance Counselor
- Rtl/Support Teachers
- Custodial
- Lunch duty assistance
- Part Time Secretary
- Part Time Technology Integrator

SCHEDULE

Recommendation: 5th grade starting and ending at the same time as 6-8.

- Add a lunch time
- Add a recess time
- Ensure 1.5 hours for literacy and 1 hour for math

STAFF TRANSITION

Recommendation: 3 half-day sessions for staff transition, with multiple visitations throughout the year.

- Professional development on Middle Level Model- (*This We Believe and Bright Futures*)
- BJHS Administration attend staff meetings/5th grade team meetings
- 4 Visitations to HBS by BJHS staff
- 4 Visitations to BJHS by HBS staff

PARENT TRANSITION

Recommendation: A year long plan with multiple opportunities for parents to learn about Brunswick Junior High School.

- Survey: Early October
- 4 “Meet in the Middle” offerings during the day for parents to come and see the school in action throughout the year
- 3 Parent Informational Evenings

STUDENT TRANSITION

Recommendation: A year long plan with visitations to and from Harriet Beecher Stowe.

- BJHS staff visit HBS to talk with students
- BJHS students visit HBS to talk with students
- Step up day
- Informal visitations for various reasons
- HBS and BJHS classes pair up for activities
- Peer Partners

CONFIGURATIONS

Recommendation: Multiple class configurations for staff and students.

- Self Contained
- 2 person teams
- 3 person teams
- 4 person teams

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Recommendation: Add 6 extra-curricular stipends to provide more offerings for 5th graders. Most extra-curricular activities to be structured 5/6 and 7/8.

FACILITIES

Recommendation: Provide 5th grade with a separate space at Brunswick Junior High School.

- Long term portable unit-preferably connected to the school (4 unit)
- Wholesale review of school layout
- Consolidation of current support classrooms
- Storage
- Location of additional diversified studies classes
- Bathrooms
- Special education needs

TRANSPORTATION

Recommendation: Study on the following transportation items:

- More buses or longer runs
- Parking for staff, parents, and visitors
- More parents at drop off or pick up
- More bike racks

EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE

Recommendation: The following equipment and furniture for the 8 classrooms:

- Student desks and chairs
- Teacher desks and chairs
- Storage cabinets
- Bulletin Boards/Whiteboards
- Bookshelves
- Phones
- Large tables
- Sink
- Cubbies
- *Technology listed separately*

TECHNOLOGY

Recommendation: The following technology to assist 5th grade students and staff:

- Projectors
- Document Cameras
- Mobile Laptop Cart(s)
- Interactive whiteboard with speakers
- Computers for teachers
- Report card technology

POSITIVES

- Relieves crowding at HBS
- Provides opportunities for different configurations (teaming)
- More opportunities for extra-curricular activities
- Less space needed at a new elementary construction
- Integrates students into a middle level model that meet many developmental needs of this age group

CHALLENGES

- Old building-adding another grade level with increase wear, tear and crowding
- Need for additional space for multiple years
- Transition planning for staff/students/parents
- Transient staff-location and schedule of classes
- Moving Logistics
- CHANGE

QUESTIONS
