

**DRAFT**

12/11/07

**Instructional Methods**

- Varied & differentiated learning and teaching approaches
- Students and teachers engaged in active learning
- Continually improving learning opportunities so all students can achieve growth and high standards
- Authentic, student-centered formative & summative assessments

**Organizational Structures**

- Supportive, meaningful relationships
- Teaming and collaboration
- An adult advocate for every student
- Multi-faceted guidance and support services
- Systematic interventions for remediation & enrichment

**Courageous Collaborative Leadership**

- Shared vision to guide decisions
- Shared decision making among all stakeholders
- High expectations for every member
- Extensive communication plans

**Educators**

- Developmentally responsive, developmentally respectful & flexible
- Value working with young adolescents
- Student advocates & role models
- Lifelong learners

**Essential Components  
For Successful Middle Level  
Professional Learning  
Communities in PSD**

**Curriculum**

- Grounded in agreed upon essential learnings
- Skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
- Relevant, challenging, integrative, exploratory
- Core instruction a high priority
- High quality encore classes for enrichment of the whole child
- Open, equal access

**Partnerships**

- School – initiated family & community partnerships
- Feeder articulation for transitions in and out of middle level
- District partnership for scope & sequence and vertical & horizontal articulation

**School Environment**

- School-wide efforts to foster health, wellness & safety
- Welcoming, attractive, reflects a sense of pride
- Members interact comfortably & respectfully
- Students known by the adults in the building
- Systematic opportunities for recognition & celebration