



Grade Configuration Implementation

March 2008 Update

Grade level changes: middle school video, readiness plan being developed

What's new in March in the 2009 grade level change process? A TV and online video series on middle schools will be aired starting in April, school teams are continuing to work on their readiness plans, and teachers are beginning to consider options for moving to different schools.

Schools developing readiness plans

School teams are developing and submitting drafts of their school readiness plans to assist in the transition to new grade levels in fall 2009. Draft plans from all schools are due by April 30, to 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).

Middle school video series

Tune in to PSD Channel 10 (Comcast Cable) or the PSD website in early April and learn about middle schools—how they're the same as and different from junior highs, components essential to their success, and the planning and preparation underway to successfully make the transition. Members of the Middle Schools Study Committee will share insights in question and answer segments.

Teachers considering voluntary transfers

6th and 9th grade teachers impacted by grade level changes are considering voluntary transfer options starting spring 2008. The transfer program will help PSD staff transition smoothly to different schools.

Visit the PSD website at www.psdschools.org under District Committee Updates to access readiness plan templates, a link to the TV schedule, and other in-depth information.