

Appendix B: Middle School Task Force Report to the School Board April 2006

Recommended Middle School Mission Statement

Our mission is to meet the unique developmental, academic and social-emotional needs of early adolescents in a safe, inviting, child-centered environment utilizing the best middle school educational and organizational practices implemented by teachers and administrators who are knowledgeable and passionate about working with middle school students.

Recommended Middle School Vision Statement

Our vision is to develop middle school students of good character, who are:

- intellectually curious and engaged in learning,
- prepared to succeed in high school and beyond, and
- participatory members of their community and the world around them.

Middle School Quality Indicators

The Middle School Task Force recommended that the district adopt the 14 National Middle School Quality Indicators as they embody the middle school spirit and are compatible with our current district philosophy. It is recommended that the district measure the work being done in our middle schools against the implementation of these indicators.

1. A shared vision that guides decisions
2. Courageous, collaborative leadership
3. Educators who value working with this age group and are prepared to do so
4. Curriculum that is relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory
5. Assessment and evaluation that promotes quality learning
6. Organizational structures that support meaningful relationships and learning
7. Multiple learning and teaching approaches that respond to diverse learning styles
8. Students and teachers engaged in active learning
9. An adult advocate for every student
10. Multifaceted guidance and support services
11. School-wide efforts that foster health, wellness and safety
12. High expectations for everyone in the learning community
13. An inviting, supportive, and safe environment
14. School-initiated family and community partnerships