

RECONFIGURATION - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

It was reported that a District administrator toured schools with a contractor to discuss turning specialty spaces (sewing, shop, band...) into regular classrooms.

District staff are visiting schools, with invitation for Principals to also attend, to walk through Middle School sites. In order to accommodate extra students that will arrive fall 2018, "walk throughs" are beginning to take place. These site visits look very similar to the visits made for Elementary Schools this past spring when the School District prepared for smaller classes and space constraints.

The source also indicated that this "Renaissance Model" for Middle School is what we are using going forward as "The Model" for our Middle Schools.

The term Renaissance Model is being used by some to describe a teaching situation where one classroom teacher is with the same students all day long – similar to our elementary schools. As per our Mission, Vision and Belief Statement (following on the next page) our students and teachers will be "teamed" at grade 6 & 7 with two or three teachers.

Teachers have indicated they fear that they will be losing the Band/Music Program and other specialty programs as well in Middle schools.

Our Middle Schools should have vibrant Band programs next year recognizing that some of the programs that are currently offered are teacher dependent. We anticipate schools will be able to offer a number of Fine Arts courses and Applied Design, Skills & Technology courses for our students, as per BC Ministry of Education Curriculum guidelines.

Is there is any truth to changes to Middle School programming where they would be losing specialty programs like band/music, sewing, shop, drama, etc?

Middle School programming will focus on "Exploration" courses at grade 6 & 7, as per the BC Redesigned Curriculum. Exploratory courses are designed as starter courses where students have a chance to "try out" new learning opportunities. This exposure to a range of courses at grade 6 & 7 can help a student make an informed choice when they have Elective opportunities in grades 8 to 12.

Why aren't all the details worked out?

Change can be difficult. We can fear the unknown, and that makes it a challenge as we work together through a change process to improve the school experience and learning outcomes for our students. We continue to plan with staff and will clarify understandings and details of the changes as decisions are finalized.

Any questions can be referred to the Superintendent.

SD 33 MIDDLE SCHOOL VALUES, VISION AND MISSION STATEMENT

In Chilliwack, we believe that all young adolescent learners will succeed through developmentally appropriate educational experiences. Our Middle Schools are committed to high quality instruction through a variety of meaningful learning experiences, creating strong connections within a safe and inclusive community and providing access to multiple support systems to meet the diverse needs of young adolescents.

To achieve this, we commit to:

STRUCTURES

- Teaming
 - working with one or two other teachers to support a core group of students
- Exploratory
 - providing students with the opportunity to sample high interest courses
- Advisory
 - dedicated instructional time with students to foster connectedness and positive relationships
- Collaboration
 - ongoing inquiry based team work

SUPPORTS

- Family and Community partnerships
 - remain critical to the success of every student
- School Based Team
 - specialist and core educators meeting to support individual students
- Response to Intervention
 - instructional interventions to support diverse student learning needs
- Quality and focused professional development
 - to further delve into middle learning and support evidence based practices