



Middle School Elective/Exploratory Wheel Recommendations (MSE²W)

January 10, 2018



What we are learning....

Defining the Qualities of a Middle School Person

Need 9 hours of sleep
Social
Puberty- body changes, brain growing
Impulsive
Identity- who am I?
Honesty
Positive Role Models:
Role in decision making (Gradual release of responsibility)
Need to feel a sense of belonging
Be heard
Self-expression without rejection
Autonomy- develop their own individual voices
“Right of passage”
Sense of invincibility and/or invisibility
Present moment thinking

What we are learning...

Defining the Qualities of a Middle School Learner

Scaffolding/ Modeling

Engage emotions (emotional content; link to feelings, memories or personal association) and social structures

Think about their thinking....

Relevance- Real life pursuits

Make mistakes in a safe space

Active

Positive Social Relationship

Small group

Initiate their own learning: if given a significant role in determining the learning, it will fuel the motivation to learn

Opportunities of self-expression

Metacognition: Shift in their ability to think- Into the formal operational stage of cognitive development: They can think about thinking themselves.

Integrated curriculum

Health and wellness: How to stay healthy rather than how to avoid disease?

Setting goals- Connecting your present-self to a future-self



Scheduling Priorities

Key Considerations in Schedule Design

Expanded opportunities for students to explore potential areas of interest and/or strength.
Provide course offerings that are both robust and relevant.
Maintain wellness courses as year-long, every-other-day offerings.
Eliminate the eighth grade issue between world language and music.
Improve course alignment with high school offerings when developmentally appropriate.
Emphasize and embed the seven thriving dispositions.
Keep our learning about the unique characteristics of the middle school student at the forefront of decision making.



A few notes of caution on our DRAFT work...

- The committee has “placeholders” or broad topics for exploratory offerings. We would work with the appropriate 9-12 CERTIFIED elective teachers to design the course name, course descriptions and the curriculum. Our current staff in these departments are certified and many taught at this level in the content area.
- Some exploratory courses may need to move within the grades they are being offered (6 or 7), based on staffing and other scheduling needs. The committee was just recommending based on our learning, that all MS students should “explore” the elective programming at WFBHS.
- The committee felt strongly that MS is a place to offer a more robust exploratory AND make it possible for choice and voice **based on our community feedback**.
- We did not look at staffing implications, schedule practicality, etc...we believe we may need to be flexible with staffing models until fully implemented.



2018-2019 and Beyond: Sixth Grade

*Administration may have to adjust when the offerings in the wheel takes place, based off of shared staffing.

* Course title may also change once created.

* Based on what most students will select.

Grade 6				
Period 1- Required	Physical Education Wellness Course		World Language	
Period 2- Required	Band, Orchestra, Choir OR Study Hall (General Music for one quarter for NON BOC)			
Exploratory Wheel	Introduction to Business	PLTW	Art	Introduction to Computer Science



2018-2019: Seventh Grade

Grade 7				
Period 1- Required	Physical Education Wellness Course		World Language	
Period 2- Required	Band, Orchestra, Choir OR Study Hall			
Exploratory Wheel	Drama	Health	Art	PLTW



2019-2020 & Beyond: Potential Seventh Grade

Grade 7				
Period 1- Required	Physical Education Wellness Course		World Language	
Period 2- Required	Band, Orchestra, Choir OR Study Hall OR Shared Electives			
Exploratory Wheel	Drama	Health	Art	PLTW

This requires many additional pieces to a puzzle that may or may not work between theory and implementation. Specifically, to open up shared electives with eighth grade electives. This is highly dependent on staffing, course design, student interest, and requires us to have eighth grade changes and electives implemented.



2018-2019: Eighth Grade



Grade 8				
Period 1	World Language			
Period 2	Physical Education		Health	
Elective Options	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

No changes are being recommended for next year at this grade. We will take the school year, to create new electives, complete the physical education and health review, and revise old electives, etc....



2019-2020 & Beyond: Potential Eighth Grade

Grade 8				
Period 1	World Language			
Period 2	Physical Education Wellness Elective Courses		Elective	Elective
Elective Options	Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective

This requires many additional pieces to a puzzle that may or may not work between theory and implementation. Specifically, until the physical education and health review are completed, specific wellness courses as potential electives, as well as if we have enough time for health, is yet to be determined.



Sample of Electives

Elective Options

*Below are examples of current or potential new elective options created by the administration.

Health Science, Physical Education, Wellness Courses	Performing & Visual Arts	Applied Technology and Entrepreneurship	Additional Electives
Leadership	Video Production	Design Challenge	World Cultures
Life Skills	Band *	Business Design	Genius Hour
Personal Fitness and Nutrition	Orchestra *	Marketing	Study Hall
Yoga	Choir *	Computer Design	Language Lab
Medical Detectives (PLTW)	3D Art	Personal Finance	Makerspace
Team Sports	2D Art	Game and Web Design	
Individual Sports	Pop Art		
Exercise and Physiology	Hands-on Guitar		
	Hands-on Drumming		

*= Year Long