

## Prairie Creek Intermediate Structures

The 5/6 Steering Committee has been working on recommendations for various aspects of the structures and programs at Prairie Creek Intermediate Building. They have presented their recommendations to the Advisory Committee and received feedback, suggestions, and questions. In an effort to keep staff informed of these recommendations we would like to share them with you now.

### 1. General Music, Band, and Choir

- All students at Prairie Creek will have a music experience through a general music class.
- Music supports learning across the curriculum, provides multi-cultural connections, and is important for brain development.
- 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders will have the option of participating in Band, which will meet on 3 out of 6 days.
- 6<sup>th</sup> grades students have the option of participating in Choir, which will meet opposite Band.

### 2. Specials/ Encore classes - Prairie Creek will have six *Special or Encore* classes for students in addition to core instruction.

- These classes will be grouped together into sets of three and will alternate across the year.
- One set will include Art, World Language, and PE
- The other set will include General Music, Technology/Media, and PE.
- Students will have PE all year long to address health and fitness needs.

### 3. Time Specifications and Scheduling - Core instruction is the focus of the Intermediate Grade experience. Daily time specifications are as follows:

- Literacy - 90 min.
- Math - 60 min.
- Social Studies - 30 min.
- Science - 60 min.
- Integration (Gr. 5) - 45 min. 3 out of 6 days opposite Band
- Lunch 40 min. including recess
- Band 5<sup>th</sup>&6<sup>th</sup> 45min. 3 out of 6 days
- Choir 6<sup>th</sup>- 45 min. 3 out of 6 days
- Special Subjects/ Encore - 45 min.
- Homeroom - 20 minutes
- \*\*\*Sample schedules are attached

### 4. Teams/ Neighborhoods

- Teams in both grades will be organized in pairs to deliver core instruction. One teacher in the pair will teach Literacy and Social Studies and one teacher will teach Science and Math. Each teacher will work with approximately 50 students.
- There will be Three Neighborhoods in each grade. Two Neighborhoods in each grade will have 4 homeroom classes and one neighborhood in each grade will have 6 homeroom classes.

- Students in a Neighborhood will have common Specials/Encore times and a common Lunch/recess period.
  - Neighborhood teachers will have common planning time and will each have an assigned Homeroom.
  - 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade Neighborhoods will be mixed across the building to encourage collaboration between the two grades.
  - Facilities in the building include science lab classrooms, computer labs, spaces for 7 special education classrooms, and classrooms for Encores, ELL, and ELP.
  - For the first year, there will actually be unassigned classrooms in the school that may be used for small groups, projects, or other creative purposes!
- 5. Looping** - Looping is the practice of advancing a teacher from one grade level to the next along with his or her class.
- Looping structures will be in place as an option for teachers and parents for the 2010/11 school year.
  - We believe that a two-year school will need structures to enhance a sense of belonging and connection for students who will be in the building for a short time.
  - We believe that Looping can support personalization of learning by eliminating the “getting to know you “ period at the beginning of the school year.
  - We believe that looping can support parent/teacher relationships that could grow across two years of working together.
  - We believe that options should be provided for teachers (and families) so that everyone feels comfortable and confident with their assignment and their personal preparation.

Both the Steering Committee and the Advisory Committee are becoming more and more excited about the possibilities that our new building presents. We are confident we can work together to create a school that meets the educational, social, and emotional needs of our students in new ways.