




WFB Middle School Elective/Exploratory Wheel Update

Board of Education
December 13, 2017



MSEW Process to Date

- Summer 2017- Committee Charge from the Board to Review the Wheel
- Summer 2017-Present- Committee Meetings and Learning
- Create and Update MSEW District Website
- Monthly Board Updates in September, October, November at Curriculum Committees
- Monthly Updates to the Teaching and Learning Council
- Current MS Student Survey
- Alumni Student Survey
- Family Survey
- Host Board Community Listening Session

What we have learned...

- Timeline established of our current MSEW offerings
- Research related to the adolescent learner and person
- Analyzed market comparables
- Reviewed State of Wisconsin and Federal requirements applicable to the elective wheel
- Analyzed survey data for themes

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

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

MS Student Data Review

General Themes Noted:

- Most kids are taking World Language and Performing Arts, and they are listed as most interesting to them. At times they are in conflict of one another.
- The three strands that we are not offering of high interest: Business, Family and Consumer Science Education (FACE) and Informational Technology
- Health is saturated and is shown in the comments; especially our eighth graders
- Study Hall
 - Time of day matters
 - 190 kids said it was helpful, only 13 kids were around the NOs
 - If I had the opportunity, it would help me
 - Some stated they need it to reduce stress
- What to add:
 - A cooking class was mentioned often- 10% (60 of 539 comments) of the comments added here
 - Lots of comments on theatre, gaming/coding and business

MS Student Data Review

Reasons students stated that they liked a class or wanted to add a class:

- Their reasons are personal
- Hands-on (cooking)
- Choice
- Got them away from stress and anxiety
- Active
- Movement
- Participation
- Creativity
- Learning something new
- Break from academics
- Time to socialize or connect- Relationships
- Fun
- Outside
- Freedom
- It seems like the reason was evenly distributed
- They like it...they pursue what they are interested

MS Student Data Review

Reasons students stated that they didn't liked a class:

- Not active enough
- I am not good at it
- No choice/lack of choice
- Not interested
- Boring
- Class size (too large)
- Hard
- Not valued (not relevant)
- Repetitive learning
- Does it "feel" like a core course
- Not engaging
- Too much stress and anxiety

MS Alumni Data Review

General Themes Noted:

- Amount of health was unpopular
- Offer business classes
- Common new courses suggested: home economics/cooking, world cultures
- Visual art courses
- Dislike how physical education is taught
- Study hall responses are all over the place
- They needed to make some difficult decisions, don't have enough time to take everything they would have liked to take
- Several comments about being unable to take courses because of the schedule
- Scattered interest based on personal interest

MS Family Data Review

General Themes Noted:

- Classes to be included were all over the place, really based on personal interest
- Comments split on study hall
- Lower interest in health and wellness classes
- High interest in IT and applied technology classes
- Low response rate did not meet statistical significance
- Responses from this stakeholder group is very different than current MS students and alumni
- Responses are all over the place...hard to find too many themes

Legal Requirements

State Law Requirements:

Grade	World Language	Music	Art and Design Education	Physical Education	Health/ HGD
6	None	Required- under direction of licensed teacher	Required- under direction of licensed teacher	Required- under direction of licensed teacher Three times a week or 90 minutes	Required- under direction of licensed teacher Once a week for the entire school term HGD- Not required by law
7-8	receive regular instruction in sufficient frequency and length to achieve objectives of OUR curriculum **Note that our current curriculum is more rigorous	Music instruction including general music, vocal music and instrumental instruction shall be available and taught by a licensed teacher	Art instruction shall be available and taught by a licensed teacher	Each week for the entire school year taught by a licensed teacher. Minutes and amount of time is not specified	.5 health credit requirement in grades 7-12 (**CPR Requirement) HGD- Not required by law

Legal Requirements

Additional Law Requirements for Consideration

Topic	Information/impact
Instructional Minutes:	Grade 6: 1,050 hours Grades 7-8: 1,137 hours You can include up to 30 minutes a day of recess.
Vocational Skills	Need to teach them in some type of program and does not specify what grade, level, etc...
Personal Development	Need to teach them in some type of program and does not specify what grade, level, etc...
Reading Instruction	Developmental reading program for all grade levels at all levels. You need to have a comprehensive reading program, etc...

Structural Brainstorming

- Maximize more opportunities through an A/B (every other day) structure for all electives (music, physical education are already this way)
- Look to offer a “block” elective slot for art and PLTW (it is tough getting through labs at 41 minutes)
- MS should have a more robust exploratory wheel at 6th grade, transitioning to a more robust elective selections in grades 7-8
- Reduce the amount of health, and embed in physical education and reduce health course to be offered one (1) time in either grade 7 or 8
- Add some more elective courses; informational technology, business, world cultures, home economics?
- World Language- should it move to every-other-day similar to sixth grade in grades 7 and 8 to open up for more electives, but add it as a “required” offering for students.