

District 97

Middle School Master Schedule

Redesign Update

Board of Education Meeting
Feb. 11, 2025





Middle School Schedule Redesign

February 2025

DR. LUIS FERNANDO DE LEON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
MIDDLE SCHOOLS

MR. NICK FILIPOWSKI
PRINCIPAL
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS. APRIL CAPUDER
PRINCIPAL
BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL

MS. RAHWA CASSELLE
MTSS MATH
JULIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANNA KINNAMAN
SOCIAL SCIENCE TEACHER
BROOKS MIDDLE SCHOOL



2024-25 District 97 Transformation Goals

We Learn, Lead and Celebrate Together

Our District Culture
ALL Employee Professional Learning

We Design for ALL

Elementary Core Instruction Foundations
Middle School Redesign

We Align Resources

Master Facilities Plan
Comprehensive Safety Plan

We Learn Everywhere

Portrait of an Oak Park 8th Grade Graduate
Early Childhood Education



Middle School Schedule Redesign



Our Guiding Principles for Redesign

Guided by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE), D97's equity policy and Illinois State Board of Education standards, this project is based on creating a school experience that is:

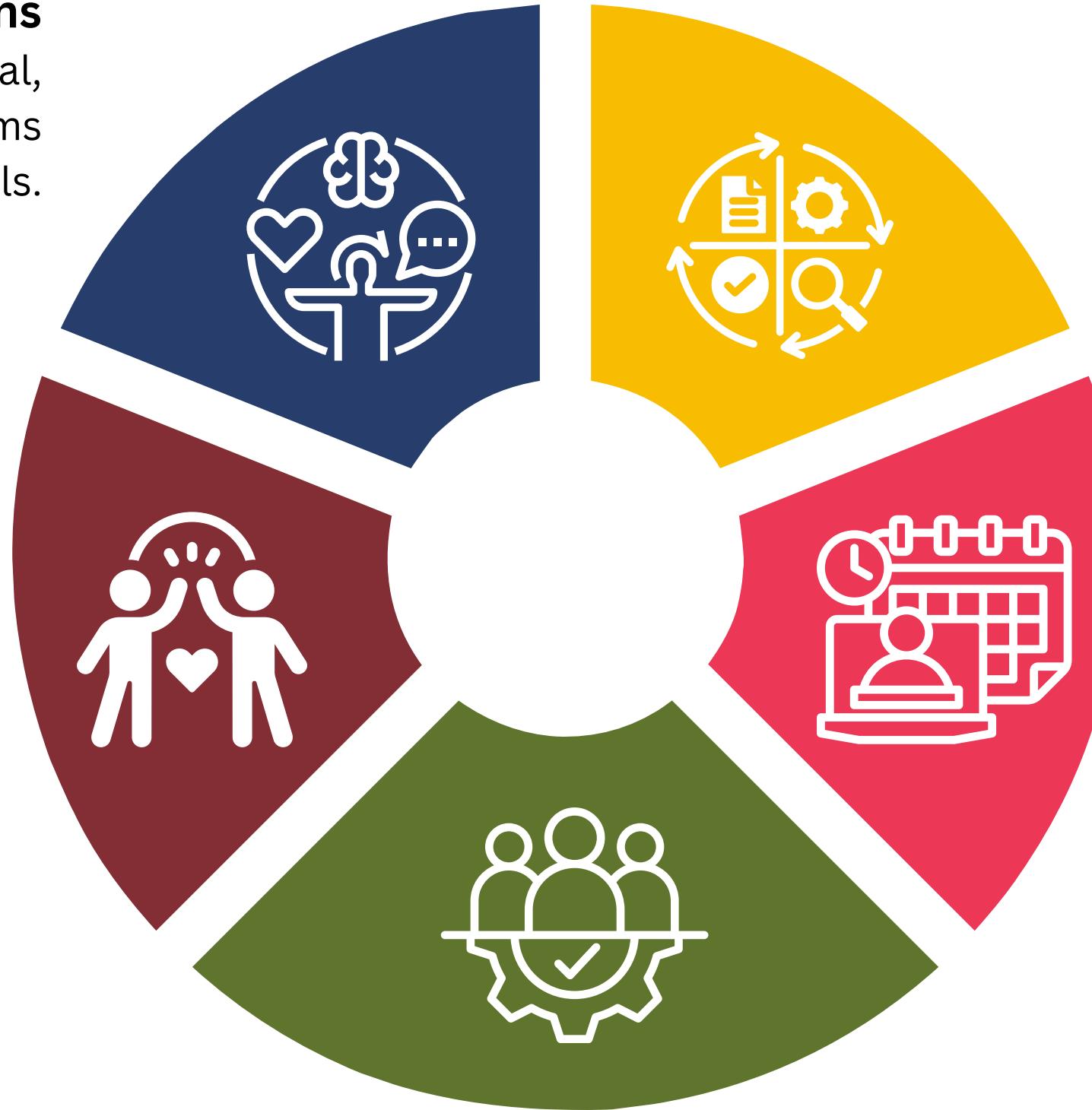
- **Responsive:** Centered on students' unique needs, identities, and voices.
- **Challenging:** Setting high expectations to support each student's growth.
- **Empowering:** Providing opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning.
- **Equitable:** Ensuring inclusive, just learning opportunities for every student.
- **Engaging:** Fostering a relevant, interactive environment that motivates and inspires.



Our Vision for Middle School Transformation

Tier 1 Practices/Behavior Expectations

Create alignment and clarity in social, emotional, and behavioral support systems across both middle schools.



Supportive Transitions

Ensure students are prepared for transitions to and from middle school (e.g., Middle School Connection).

School Improvement Logic Models

Engage school-level teams in identifying resources, adult practices, and professional learning opportunities that lead to high-quality core instructional practices.

Schedule Redesign

Collaboratively design schedule that aligns with best practices, as well as student and staff needs.

Staffing

Align resources to better support student success.



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Tonight's Update



Meet the MS Schedule Redesign Team

Jen Baldassarre - Julian ELA Teacher
Yael Berenson White - MTSS Teacher
Abby Berman - Social Worker
Cate Brinkman - Julian PE/Health Teacher
Michele Capio - Director of UDL
April Capuder - Brooks Principal
Fernando Carrillo - Julian/Brooks Orchestra Teacher
Rahwa Casselle - Julian MTSS Teacher
Emilie Creehan - Director of UDL
Adrianne Court - Julian Associate Principal
Angelica Degante - Brooks Multilingual Teacher
Dr. Luis Fernando De León - Assistant Superintendent of Middle Schools
Quinn Ebert - Brooks Math Teacher
Nick Filipowski - Julian Principal
Dr. Dawanda Fountain - Julian Associate Principal
Dr. Denise Gildon - Brooks MS Associate Principal
Tracy Hamm - Director of UDL
Liz Hill - Brooks Special Education Teacher

Katie Kelly - Julian World Language Teacher
Anna Kinnaman - Social Science Teacher
Dr. Tawanda Lawrence - Senior Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment
Casey Leiby - K-8 Science, Social Science and Special Areas Curriculum Coordinator
Donna Middleton - Senior Director of Student Services
Mallory Mowery - English Language Arts Teacher
Jennifer Nelson - Teacher Librarian
Veena Rajashekhar - 6-8 ELA/Math Curriculum Coordinator
Raul Reynoso - Julian Social Science Teacher
Patrick Robinson - Assistant Superintendent of Elementary Schools
Courtney Southward - Julian Math Teacher
Laura Stamp - Science Teacher
Nichelle Stigger - Student Success Coach
Sergio Torres - Julian Student Success Coach
Samantha Tracy - Julian Special Education Teacher
Lawrence Vincenti - Julian Science Teacher



MS Schedule Redesign Timeline



October 2024

Convene the Middle School Schedule Redesign Team



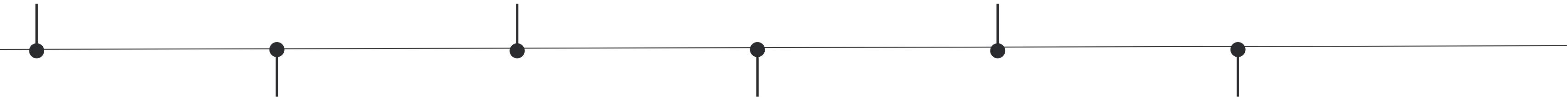
December 2024

Analyze survey data, and conduct focus groups to gain a deeper understanding of perspectives and priorities



February 2025

Shared proposed schedule structure with the middle school community and D97 Board



November 2024

Launch survey to students, staff and families



January 2025

Finalize priorities and key elements of the master schedule that will respond to the feedback

March - July 2025

Preparation for implementation during 2025-26

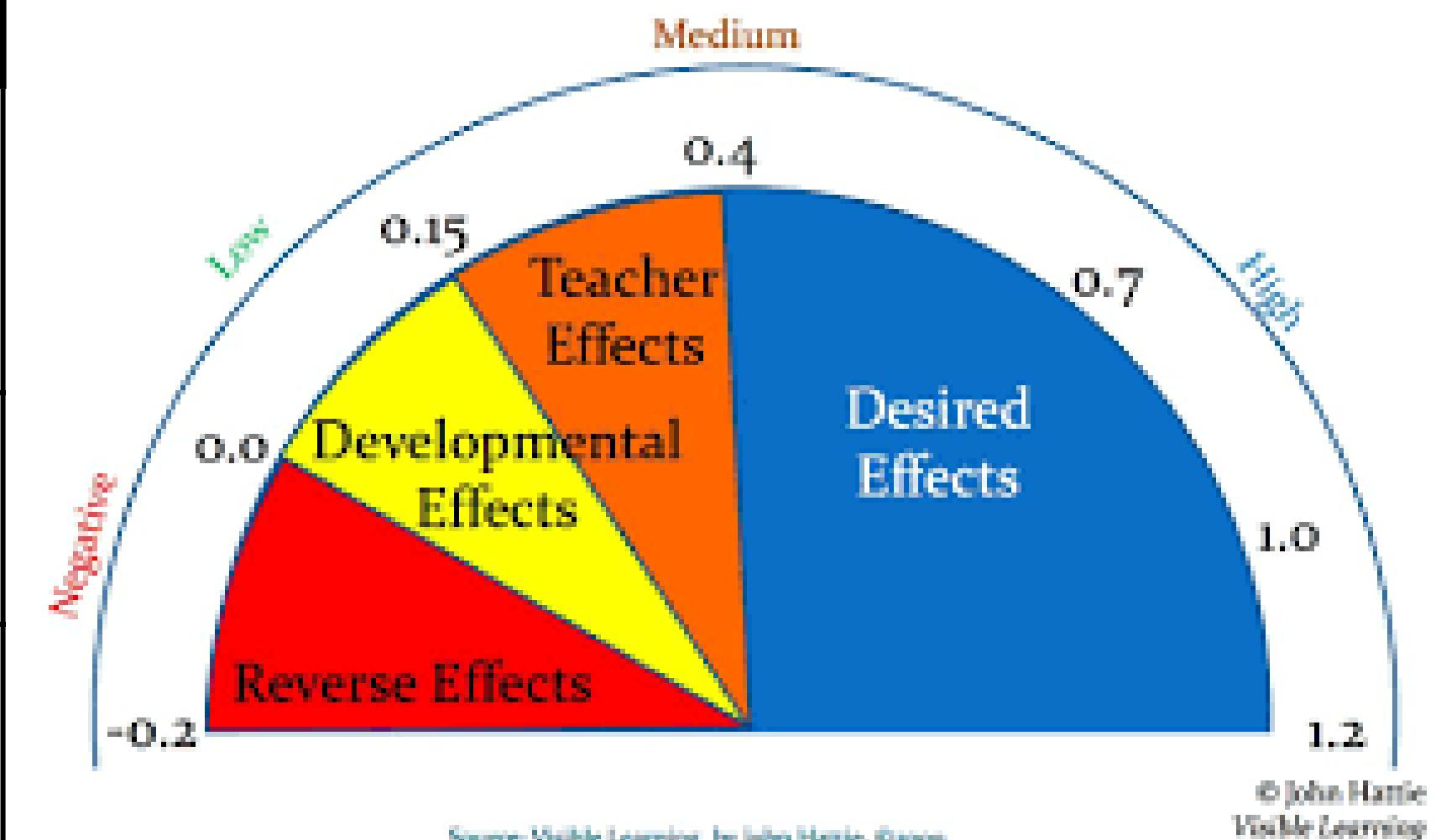
Building a Schedule: Logistical Considerations and Community Priorities





Effective Size Research

Effect Size	Mean Effect Size	What it can look like in our D97 MS Schedule
Teacher Collective Efficacy (2017)	1.57	Teaming and Professional Learning Communities
Response to Intervention	1.29	Intervention and enrichment periods
Teacher Relationships	.72	Advisory



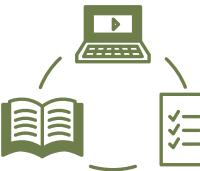
Hattie, John. (2014). *Visible Learning +Visible Learning for Teachers*. Corwin Pr.
McCarty Perez, Ann () *The Successful Middle School Schedule*. AMLE



Logistical Complexity of Scheduling



Time: Balancing instructional minutes, passing periods, and additional activities within the school day.



Classes: Organizing course offerings to align with curriculum priorities and student interests.



Staffing: Allocating sufficient personnel to meet student needs, ensuring appropriate class sizes and support staff coverage.



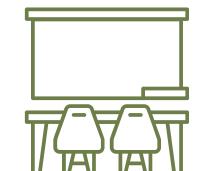
Teacher Assignments: Assigning teachers to courses that align with their expertise and maintaining equitable workloads. Ensuring 300 minutes weekly, including 30 consecutive minutes daily, with planning time aligned to elective schedules.



Special Populations: Supporting the unique needs of special education, English learners, and accelerated students through inclusive scheduling practices.



Lunch: Coordinating schedules to provide adequate lunch periods for all students while managing space and supervision needs.



Space: Maximizing classroom and common area usage to accommodate all students and programs effectively.



Mandates: Ensuring compliance with state and federal requirements, including physical education, health, and advisory programs.



Community Priorities

- **Adjusting the length and structure of class periods**, with an emphasis on daily schedules for core subjects.
- **Expanding elective opportunities to better meet diverse student needs**, including cross-team or mixed-grade level options and unique offerings.
- **Exploring options for a soft start to mornings**, including social-emotional learning.
- **Designing a lunch experience** that is more structured and supportive.
- **Consistency and alignment** across both middle schools.
- **Re-evaluating and clearly defining the purpose and goals of SOAR and Advisory** to maximize their impact.
- **Smoothen transitions** between fifth to sixth grade and 8th to high school to ensure alignment and continuity.

Refining the Vision: Developing Options and Finalizing Our Schedule





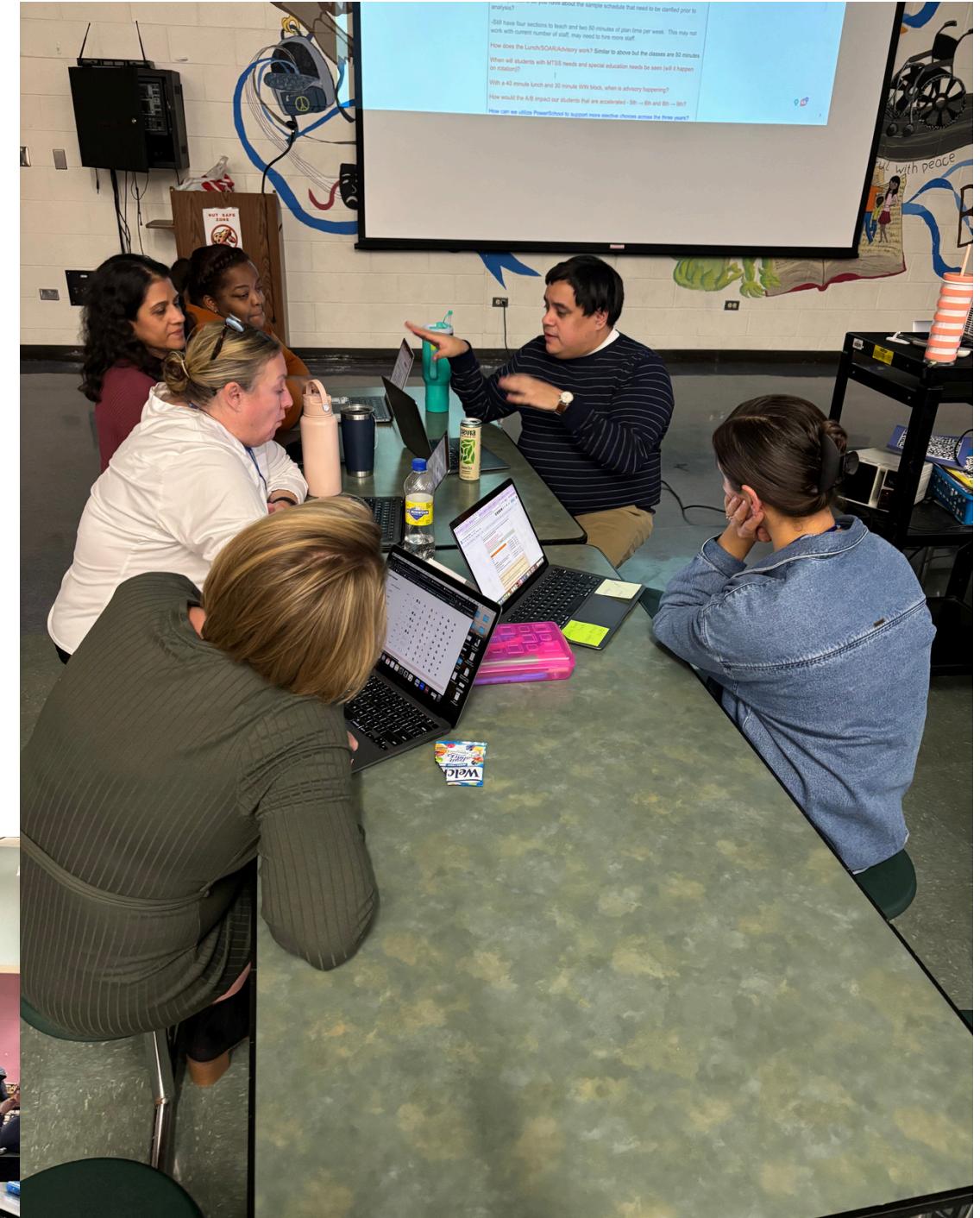
Progress since January Board Meeting

Community Feedback to Action

Following the last board meeting, we used community feedback and our D97 priorities to develop multiple sample schedules aligned with our shared goals.

Team Review on February 6, 2025

Three viable sample schedules were presented to the Middle School Redesign Team, each reflecting aspects our identified priorities. A tentative preferred schedule has been identified by the team.



Next Steps





February - March: *Finalize the new schedule*

- **Conduct instructional viability checks**

- We are currently checking our thinking on the tentative preferred schedule from different instructional perspectives. We aim to ensure that final schedule design is attentive to how we can best meet the needs of all of our students.

- **Finalize and Build the Schedule**

- We will then need to operationalize the new schedule within the PowerSchool platform. New technology transitions always come with adjustments so we will enter this process with a troubleshooting mindset.

- **March Updates to Board, Students, Staff, and Families**

- We will continue to provide updates to foster understanding and engagement.



March - May: Prepare to implement

- **Course Selection and Scheduling**
 - Collect and input course selections for rising middle school students.
- **Plan for Staff Time**
 - Reallocating staff time to align with the new time allocations
- **Prepare Student and Staff Schedules**
 - Generate student schedules and ensure courses and classes are balanced effectively.



May - August: *Implement the new schedule*

- **Student and Family Communication**
 - Share confirmed schedules with students and families.
 - Provide clear guidance and resources to help students prepare for the transition.
- **Support and Transition Programs**
 - Support rising sixth-graders with changes during Middle School Connection August 12-14, 2025
 - Host site-based “Welcome Back” events to build community and provide an overview of the new schedule.



SY26: Evaluate and Improve

- **Collect feedback**
 - Collect SY26 mid-year feedback from students, families and staff
 - Use insights to make adjustments and ensure continuous improvement.
- **Ensure consistent access to learning experiences between Brooks and Julian**
 - Equitable course offerings and access for all our students in both middle schools
 - Increase and improve instruction and curriculum alignment through teacher collaboration across both middle schools



Thank you!
Any Questions?