

# Qualters Middle School

## Master Schedule Restructuring 2017-2018



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# Agenda and Objective

## Agenda:

1. Explain the process and rationale behind the QMS restructuring initiative
2. Describe work done up to this point
3. Compare the existing schedule with the proposed schedule
4. Describe the next phase of this project

## Objective:

To restructure the day to provide a more robust, well-rounded middle school experience for all students while also responding to the decline in student enrollment in a fiscally responsible manner.



# Acknowledgements

QMS School Council

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MEA Building Representatives

*Tim Carpentier, Beth Herlihy, Daryl Webster*

Mansfield Public Schools' Secondary Leadership Team

*Administrators and Department Heads/ Directors*

QMS Faculty and Staff



# Mansfield Public Schools

## District Strategic Goals

**EXPANDING OFFERINGS:** Examine, evaluate and expand our non-core and core offerings/programming to provide diverse educational opportunities for students, to meet individual needs and allow them greater ownership of their learning.

**Teaching all students:** To create and implement a culture of unified and shared instructional practices that advance the belief that we share the responsibility for teaching all students utilizing strategies that include authentic, relevant, student centered research based tools.



# The Effective Middle School Model

Middle School is a period of tremendous growth and development - physical, intellectual, social, and emotional. To meet the unique needs of our students developmental level, we aim to establish a strong foundation in all content areas while also developing students social and emotional skills.

## Key Components of an effective Middle School:

- **Interdisciplinary Teams**
  - *create a safe, smaller community of peers and supportive adults; establish positive relationships; allows for flexible scheduling; common planning time to enhance instruction and student support*
- **Engaging Curriculum**
  - *emotionally meaningful, real-world relevance, provides opportunity for collaboration, facilitates the social/emotional growth of students*
- **Enrichment opportunities**
  - *arts, health and wellness, real world courses*



# Our Process and Timeline

**2015- 2016 SY:** Analyzed current schedule and course offerings

**Fall 2016:** Worked with staff, department chairs, school council to Identify “must haves” in a new schedule

- Increased access to enrichment courses for all students, especially 8th graders
- Increased Common Planning Time (Team/Department)
- Increased flexibility to meet needs of all students (more effective opportunity to provide intervention; lunch by grade level; all grade level classes on team and off team at the same time)

**December - January:** Identified need to take advantage of enrollment reduction to restructure schedule

**January - February:** Worked with staff, department chairs, school council, and MEA Building Representatives to identify schedule structure and determine course offerings

**March - August:** Staffing decisions, team assignments, curriculum development, parent information sessions, student/staff scheduling



# Current Schedule

2016-2017 SY

- 6 fifty-eight minute periods
- Budget based schedule
  - NOT program based
  - Goal was reduced class size
- 4 Core Academics/ Day
  - ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
- Grade level specials (varies)
  - Each grade - Health (30)/PE (60) & ASB or Ensemble (90)
    - 6th - Art (3Q,135 days); Computers (1Q,45 days); 4 specials per year
    - 7th - Theater (2Q, 90 days); Foreign Language (2Q, 90 days); 4 specials per year
    - 8th - Foreign Language (4Q,180 days); 3 specials per year



# Proposed Schedule 2017-2018 SY

- 7 Fifty-minute Periods / Day
- Programmatic Schedule
- 5 Core Academics / Day
  - ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies
    - Grade 6 - Literacy Across the Curriculum
    - Grades 7-8 - Foreign Language
- 2 Grade Level Specials/ Day
  - Specials rotate each trimester
    - 2 specials / trimester
    - 6 specials / year





# How Restructuring Benefits Our Students

## Advantages of New Schedule Proposal:

- Maintain Interdisciplinary team structure
- Maintain appropriately low class size
- Increase enrichment offerings for all students
- Increase opportunity for common planning time (team/department)
- Increase flexibility of schedule
- Improve effectiveness of remediation opportunities

## Limitations of Existing Schedule:

- Limited enrichment opportunities
- Limited common planning time (team/department)
- Rigid schedule



# Proposed Offerings

Grade	Grade Level Added or Enhanced Offerings	Enrichment Courses	Based on Want/ Need
6	Math Enriched Literacy Across the Curriculum	PE/Health A PE/Health B Performing Arts  Art Computers Successful Student	Band Orchestra Chorus Academic Intervention
7	Full year Foreign Language	PE/Health A PE/Health B Performing Arts  Science and Engineering Art Current Events	Band Orchestra Chorus Academic Intervention
8		PE/Health A PE/Health B Artistic Design  Science and Engineering Civics Computers	Band Orchestra Chorus Academic Intervention



# Sample Student Schedule

1	7:25 - 8:15	T1 PE/Health A T2 PE/ Health B T3 Performing Arts
2	8:17 - 9:07	Math 6
3	9:09 - 9:59	Science 6
4	10:01 - 10:51	T1 Successful Student T2 Art T3 Computers
	10:53 - 11:13	Lunch
5	11:15-12:05	ELA 6
6	12:07 - 12:57	Social Studies 6
7	12:59 - 1:49	Literacy Across the Curriculum 6



2017-2018

# Enrichment & Enhanced Course Descriptions



# Grade 6

## New Offerings

### **Literacy Across the Curriculum**

This sixth grade course will expand upon and enrich the literacy and content literacy standards prescribed in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for the English Language Arts. The units will include some of the following: speech and debate, research skills, media studies, drama, personal reading using the STAR/Accelerated Reader program.

### **Performing Arts 6**

This course will allow students to learn about and experience different facets of the performing arts with a focus on music. Students will enforce basic note reading and begin to work on classroom made instruments with a possibility to add stringed instruments such as ukulele. Students will work on singing and music as it relates to theater performance.

### **Art 6**

This course will allow students to learn about and experience creating different styles of visual art.



## **Computers 6**

Student will gain the fundamental computer skills required throughout their secondary education. Students will learn about the district's responsible use policy, keyboarding, their role as digital citizens, and how to implement a wide variety of Google Applications.

## **Successful Student**

This sixth grade course will provide a foundation of strategies for students to employ throughout their secondary level schooling. Topics to be covered may include time management, long and short term planning, goal setting, the growth mindset, and the investigation of post-secondary career options.



## **Grade 6**

### Enhanced Offerings

#### **PE/ Health A and B**

In addition to the existing PE and Health curricula, additional time will be used to cover new mandated topics including mental health, drug abuse, as well as other high risk behaviors. Qualter's guidance counselors will also push into this class to implement their curriculum. Health curriculum will also include more lab-based activities when appropriate.

#### **Math 6 Enriched**

Similar to courses offered in seventh and eighth grade, students enrolled in Math 6 Enriched will cover the Math 6 standards at a more accelerated and rigorous pace than Math 6, and will delve deeper into mathematical concepts. By including this offering off team, it will allow for smaller math class sizes for all sixth graders.



# Grade 7

## New Offerings

### **Current Events**

In Current Events, students will analyze different issues impacting people locally, statewide, nationwide, and worldwide. News topics will examine issues impacting the environment, politics, trade, culture, migration, and technology. Students will learn how to determine the point of view presented by a source, and whether the source contains reliable information.

### **Performing Arts 7**

This course will allow students to learn about and experience different facets of the performing arts with a focus in theater. Students will work toward stronger public speaking skills, playwriting, acting, and basic directing. Students will consistently perform in class.

### **Art 7**

This course will allow students to learn about and experience creating different styles of visual art.

### **Science and Engineering 7**

The Massachusetts Science, Technology and Engineering frameworks call for active engagement of middle school students with science and engineering practices. Students will develop skills in the engineering practices of defining problems, developing and models, planning and carrying out investigations and designing solutions.





## **Grade 7**

### Enhanced Offerings

#### **French grade 7**

Students can expect to learn the basic skills of a foreign language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French/Spanish-speaking world.

#### **Spanish grade 7**

Students can expect to learn the basic skills of a foreign language (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) as well as cultural exploration. Emphasis on the aural/oral skills is encouraged, in addition to stressing the basic grammatical patterns of the language. The student acquires these skills by in-class and online activities. Diverse sources introduce the student to the culture, customs, and civilization of the French/Spanish-speaking world.

#### **PE/ Health A and B**

In addition to the existing PE and Health curricula additional time will be used to cover new mandated topics including mental health, drug abuse, as well as other high risk behaviors. Qualter's guidance counselors will also push into this class to implement their curriculum. Health curriculum will also include more lab-based activities when appropriate.



# Grade 8

## New Offerings

### **Civics**

In Civics, students will learn about the powers, roles, and responsibilities citizens have in a democratic society. Through in class simulations the students will examine how citizens participate in government and how they can propose and initiate changes to society through their local, state, and national government.

### **Science and Engineering 8**

The Massachusetts Science, Technology and Engineering frameworks call for active engagement of middle school students with science and engineering practices. Students will develop skills in the engineering practices of analyzing and interpreting data, constructing explanations and designing solutions, obtaining, evaluating and communicating information and engaging in argument based upon evidence.



## **Computers 8**

Eighth grade students at the Qualters Middle School will learn the basic principles of computer coding and software development and they will continue to learn more advanced Google Applications in preparation for high school. They will also learn how to conduct internet research appropriately by evaluating content and properly citing their sources.

## **Artistic Design**

This arts class is an exploration of methods of creative thinking and creative process. Emphasis will be on idea generation, design, and projects that reflect varied student interests. Focus is on collaboration and developing applicable skills to achieve the intended outcome.



## Grade 8

### Expanded Offerings

#### **PE/ Health A and B** (Health/PE/ Business Department)

In addition to the existing PE and Health curricula additional time will be used to cover new mandated topics including mental health, drug abuse, as well as other high risk behaviors. Qualter's guidance counselors will also push into this class to implement their curriculum. Health curriculum will also include more lab-based activities when appropriate.



# Going Forward

- ❑ Determine staffing implications
- ❑ Provide professional development time and funding to develop comprehensive and educationally enriching curriculum documents for new offerings
- ❑ Finalize scheduling logistics
- ❑ Inform all stakeholders about upcoming changes (including parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members)
- ❑ Build new schedule in ASPEN

