Parent Teacher Organization Meeting

Wednesday, 7th December 2016

THE AMERICAN School of Bangkok

Creating a Stronger Middle School

1. Qualities of effective middle schools
2. Project-based learning
3. An effective middle school schedule
4. Upgrades for semester 2

Qualities of Effective Middle Schools

1. Teachers with vision, passion, and compassion, who coach and guide rather than lecture.
2. Use of different teaching styles to reach and challenge all types of learners.
3. Thematic curriculums that link several subjects.

Qualities of Effective Middle Schools

4. Innovative scheduling that allows more time for in-depth study and fits the pattern of middle school minds.
5. An exciting, meaningful learning experience that challenges all students to use their minds well, regardless of ability.
6. Creation of schools-within-schools

Qualities of Effective Middle Schools

7. An understanding of what it's like to be an adolescent and the ability to respond well to students' needs and concerns.
8. A thriving after-school curriculum

Source: Scholastic – Model Middle Schools
http://www.scholastic.com/parents/resources/article/choosing-schools-programs/model-middle-schools

Project-Based Learning

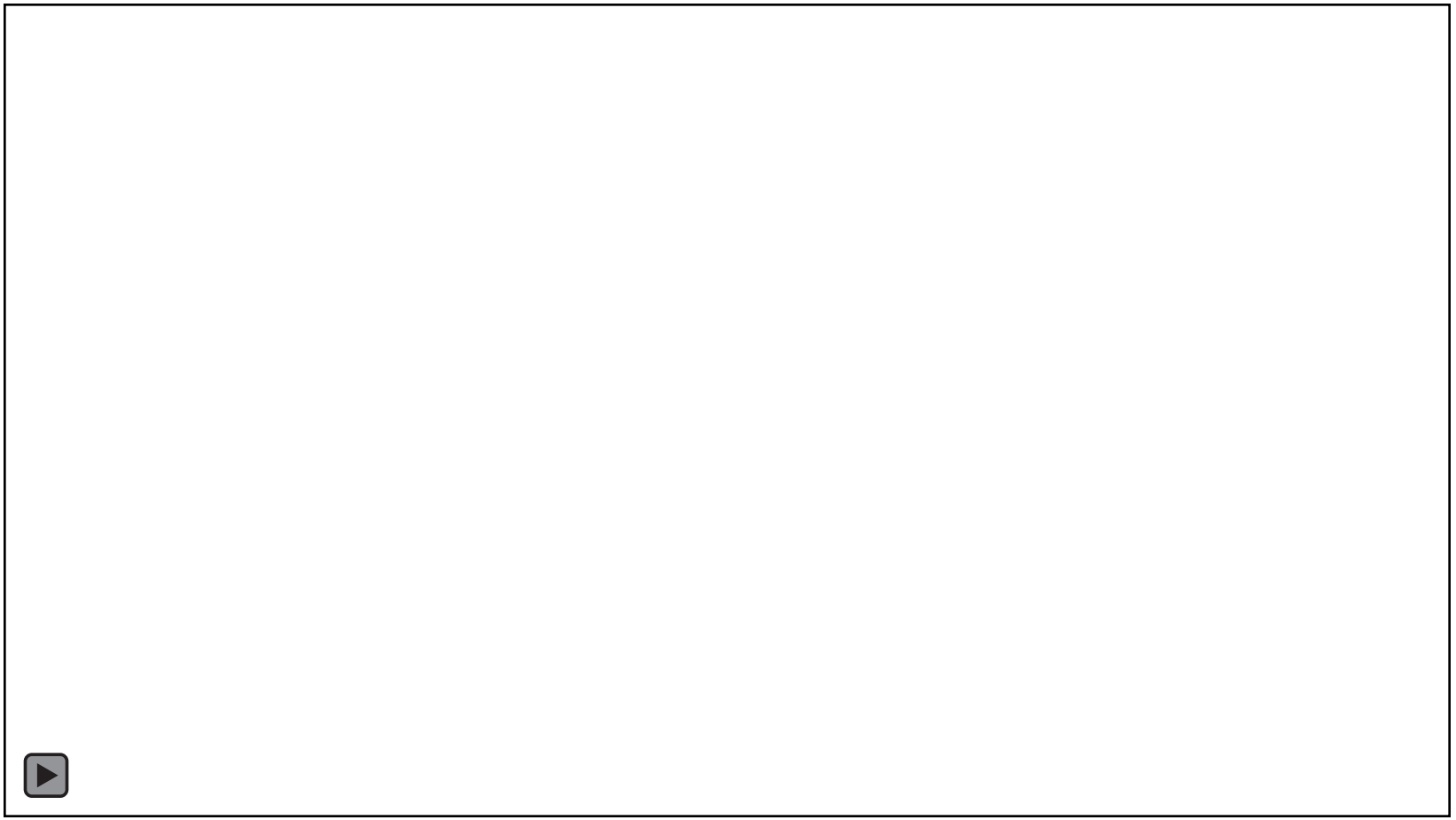
What is Project-Based Learning?

- Project-based learning is a dynamic approach to teaching in which students explore real-world problems and challenges. With this type of active and engaged learning, students are inspired to obtain a deeper knowledge of the subjects they're studying.

Source: Edutopia: Project-Based Learning

https://www.edutopia.org/project-based-learning

Project-Based Learning



Designing an effective Middle School schedule

Middle School Journal, Volume 29, Number 5, May 1998

The schedule should support…

- interdisciplinary team organization
- an appropriate curriculum
- quality instruction in the disciplines through the expanded and flexible uses of time

Designing an effective Middle School schedule

The schedule should promote…

- student development and supportive relationships
- quality teacher collaboration
- teacher empowerment

UPGRADES FOR 2nd SEMESTER

Concern	Solution
Core subjects have too many single-period class meetings compared with multi-period blocks (2:1)	Decrease the frequency of single-period meetings and increase the frequency of multi-period blocks for core subjects (1:2)
Language Arts and Social Studies instructional hours need to be increased (9/week)	Increase LA/SS hours for all grade levels (12-14/week)

UPGRADES FOR 2nd SEMESTER

Concern	Solution
Math Instructional hours (5/week) need to be increased	Increase math hours for all grade levels (8-10/week)
LA and SS classes have different teachers, leading to excessive number of classroom changes throughout the day	LA and SS are combined into a Humanities class with a single teacher, providing additional stability, flexibility and instructional time

UPGRADES FOR 2nd SEMESTER

Concern	Solution
PBL as its own separate class isn't fitting with evolving expectations for academic rigor	PBL will compliment and follow curriculum standards for core subjects and be more relevant to students
Some classes meet too infrequently (e.g. grade 8B math: M-T-W)	More frequent class meetings (e.g. grade 8B math: M-T-Th-F)

Grade 8

Homeroom	Class	Semester 1 Teacher	Semester 2 Teacher
8A	Homeroom	Mr. David S.	Mr. Nino
	8A LA	Ms. Grace	Ms. Grace
	8A SS	Mr. Nick	
	8A Math	Ms. Kaye	Ms. Kaye
	8A Science	Mr. Nino	Mr. Nino
	8A ELL	Ms. Agnes & Ms. Katherine (SS); Ms. Manika (Sci); Mr. Jim (LA)	Ms. Manika (Sci); Mr. Jim (Hum)
8B	Homeroom	Mr. Lee	Ms. Grace
	8B LA	Mr. Lee	Ms. Grace
	8B SS	Ms. Grace	
	8B Math	Mr. David A.	Mr. David A.
	8B Science	Mr. David S.	Mr. David S.

Grade 7

Homeroom	Class	Semester 1 Teacher	Semester 2 Teacher
7A	Homeroom	Ms. Grace	Ms. Kaye
	7A LA	Mr. Lee	Mr. Lee
	7A SS	Mr. Lee	
	7A Math	Ms. Kaye	Ms. Kaye
	7A Science	Mr. Nino	Mr. Nino
	7A ELL	Mr. Richard (SS); Ms. Manika (Sci); Mr. Jim (LA)	Mr. Richard (SS); Ms. Manika (Sci); Mr. Jim (LA)
7B	Homeroom	Mr. Nino	Mr. David S.
	7B LA	Mr. Nick	Mr. Nick
	7B SS	Ms. Grace	
	7B Math	Mr. David A.	Mr. David A.
	7B Science	Mr. David S.	Mr. David S.

Grade 6

Homeroom	Class	Semester 1 Teacher	Semester 2 Teacher
6A	Homeroom	Mr. Nick	Mr. Lee
	6A LA	Ms. Grace	Mr. Lee
	6A SS	Mr. Nick	
	6A Math	Ms. Kaye	Ms. Kaye
	6A Science	Mr. Nino	Mr. Nino
	6A ELL	Ms. Manika (Sci, LA); Mr. Jim (SS)	Ms. Manika (Sci); Mr. Jim (Hum)
6B	Homeroom	Ms. Kaye	Mr. Nick
	6B LA	Mr. Nick	Mr. Nick
	6B SS	Mr. Lee	
	6B Math	Mr. David A.	Mr. David A.
	6B Science	Mr. David S.	Mr. David S.

ANY QUESTIONS?