**Chapter 3 Effective Organizational Structures**

**Organizations-affect the way people perform and includes how people interact, the kinds of communication that is allowed, the way work is perceived, and the structuring of time and resources**

**-all middle schools consist of five variables: students, teachers, time, space, and media/curriculum**

**I.general organizational standards**

**Organization within the middle school is such that a smooth transition may be made from the self-contained classroom of the elementary school to the departmentalized high school**

**1.teaching groups are organized into interdisciplinary teams to provide instruction in the core subjects and serves a common group of students**

**2.students are organized by grade level**

**3.time is made for a flexible daily time schedule**

**II.Team teaching**

**-it is a type of instructional organization in which two or more teachers pool their resources, interests, expertise, and knowledge of students and take joint responsibility for meeting a significant part of the instructional needs of the same group of students**

**-team teaching is accommodated by clustering teachers and students in designated sections of the building and by providing a common instructional block of time and common teacher planning time**

**-student advantages can be students receiving more individualized attention and good teachers are shared by students**

**-teacher advantages can be that their talents are utilized more effectively, they can share information**

**-disadvantages can be that teachers don’t always agree, lack of teacher training for middle school concepts is challenging, teams can gain certain students, and unhealthy competition can exist between teams**

**III.Interdisciplinary teaming**

**-made up of teachers from different subject areas who plan and conduct instruction for particular groups of pupils**

**-interdisciplinary units attempts to interrelate subject matter form various disciplines through a central topic or theme**

**a.select a theme**

**b.word independently**

**c.meet together to define objectives for the unit**

**d.meet together to select activities**

**e.brainstorm resources**

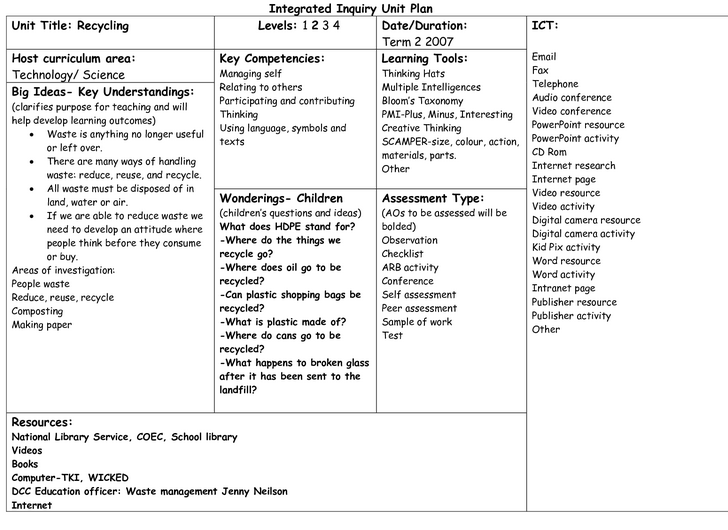
**f.develop your activities**

**g.schedule your unit**

**h.advertise your unit**

**i.implement your unit**

**j.evaluate your unit**

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**Three functions of interdisciplinary teams**

**1.instruction-a team of teacher with common students and common planning time can provide many innovative instructional opportunities**

**2.common planning time-provides an opportunity for teachers to meet to correlate subject matter into integrated messages for students**

**a. subject area**

**b. interdisciplinary activities**

**c. thematic units**

**3.organization-team teachers may agree to set team rules, grading and homework policies, headings for assignments…..**

**a.team building**

**b.coordination**

**c.administration-inventory, reports…**

**d.leadership**

**team identity and team climate**

**-interdisciplinary team organizations promotes within students a healthy sense of belonging and it is generally agreed that students who enjoy school perform better academically**

**-building team identity and team pride endows students with ownership in their school so can improve attendance and has a positive effect on behavior**

**a.brings team members together**

**b.discuss team responsibilities**

**c.involves teams in the total school**

**d.acknowledge academic achievement**

**f.explore new worlds…field trips ect…**

**g.expand community awareness**

**h.spread the word….newsletters ect…**

**i.celebrate birthdays**

**j.locate a team bulletin board**

**k.choose a logo**

**l.design a T-shirt or team banner**

**IV.student schedules**

**Module-refers to a period of time and many middle schools choose modular scheduling called block scheduling**

**Variables that effects scheduling**

**a.size of school-smaller schools with fewer than 600 students occasionally need to have core teachers serve in multiple roles**

**b.number of teachers**

**c.teacher sharing-middle school and high school sometimes share along with elementary-middle schools**

**d.student-teacher ratio**

**e.nonspecialist teachers**

**f.number of rooms**

**g.lunchroom capacity….do we need to feed them in shifts?**

**h.daily time requirements**

**i.pull out programs**

**j.grouping prerequisites**

**k.length of periods**

**scheduling priorities**

**-principals, teachers, and counselors should draw on carefully defined school philosophy in determining scheduling priorities, which should be program driving with the following priorities:**

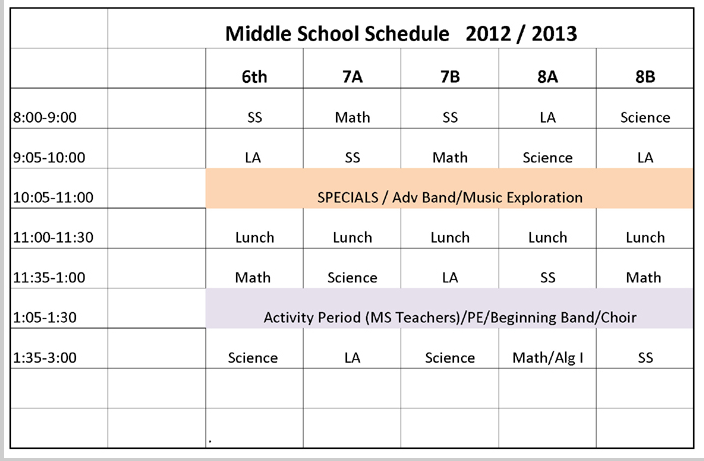
**a.extended time blocks for selected core curriculum classes**

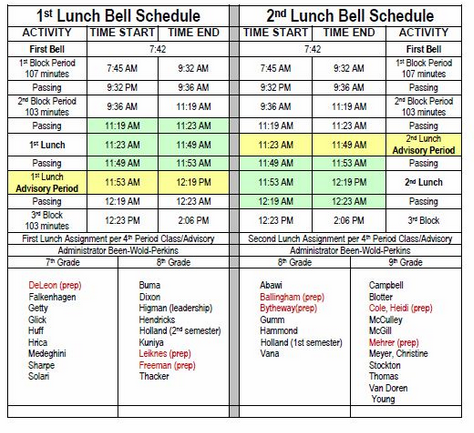
**b.differentiated assignments of instructional time based on the nature of the subject**

**c.alternated time to allow a broader range of learning experiences within fixed time constratings**

**d.elective or exploratory course options**

**e.shared planning time for teachers**

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**V.graded v nongraded organization**

**-nongraded organization-dropping grade level barriers…but seems to be required for accounting purposes in many middle schools**

**Benefits of smaller class size**

**-research has proven that students perform better when they learn in smaller class sizes compared to larger class sizes**

**V.Year long schooling**

**-I believe that it is….coming**

**-it enables districts to serve more students without constructing more buildings**

**Advantages**

**-reduced review time**

**-reduced overcrowding**

**-reduced burnout for both teachers and students**

**-fewer discipline problems**

**-better use of facility**

**-increased student attendance**

**-decreased dropout rate**

**-improved testing scores**

**Disadvantages**

**-teaching materials must be adjusted**

**-operating costs increase**

**-required air conditioning**

**-sports camps…ect a problem**

**-other school districts on different schedules**

**-child care not always available at odd breaks**

**-missing summer blocks for summer school for students who are behind**

**-loss of family income**

**-family vacations disrupted**