



NUSD Middle School Design Team Overview

"Middle school has many complex tunnels, some are underground."

Alexandra Contreras-Montesano,

former literary ambassador for the National Students Poets Program



Background

On November 17, 2020, the NUSD Board of Education, acting on the recommendation of the School Consolidation Advisory Committee, voted to move all 6th grades from the respective elementary schools to the junior high school to create a new, 6th-8th grade middle school for the 2022-23 school year.

This process is an important opportunity for staff, student, family and community stakeholders to revision the middle school experience:

- Design and develop a middle school mission, vision, and portrait of a graduate
- Clarify the student population needs the redesigned middle school seeks to serve
- Assess current school structures, respective cultures, site programs, and systems in place that can be applied and/or adapted to the middle school community
- Identify our NUSD priorities for ensuring all students that we seek to serve at the middle school have the programs and supports they need to thrive as learners and leaders
- Building consensus on a plan for our community to take collective responsibility for a successful revisioning of the middle school experience

The Middle School Design Team

The Middle School Design Team is responsible for:

- Centering and advocating for the needs of our most vulnerable students throughout the revisioning process
- Communicating with and collecting input and feedback from peers related to the revisioning process
- Participating in design and decision making processes related to the mission and vision of the middle school
- Participating in and advocating with other NUSD schools to ensure their support and coordination for the success of the redesign efforts to ensure a successful start to the middle school in 2022-23

Design Team Expectations

Members of the Design Team will commit to:

- Attending all meetings on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, from 4:30-6:30 PM, starting October 28
 - There will only be one meeting per month in November and December
 - There will be both virtual and in-person meetings during the year
- Completing necessary homework between meetings in order to come prepared for each meeting
- Actively and constructively participate in the development of a middle school plan
- Leading up to & throughout the process, collect feedback/ input from peers needed to support our design work

Selection of the Middle School Design Team

- The design team will be comprised of 18 members, including:
 - 3-4 students from 5th, 6th, and 7-8th grade
 - 4 family members (parents or guardians) of students in 5th-7th grade
 - 4 classified staff members from the current junior high school
 - 4 credentialed staff members from elementary and junior high
 - 2-3 administrators from elementary and junior high
- Stakeholders interested in applying to be a part of the Middle School Design Team should complete the following application form ([link](#)) and submit by October 21.
- Selection of Design Team members and notification will take place on, or before, Monday, October 25, 2021.