



Sacajawea Middle School

School and Program Information 2022-2023

Middle School Overview

Sacajawea Middle School is a friendly and safe place that provides a challenging academic environment designed to address the needs of 10- to 15-year-olds. Our school supports this diverse, active group of young people with their learning and to move successfully through this important stage of life.

Sacajawea provides students with many opportunities to acquire fundamental knowledge, develop academic skills, determine their interests and special talents, and experience a sense of belonging. We focus on helping students satisfy their need for close relationships with teachers and friends while moving toward greater independence. Here they can learn and develop with the understanding and support of professional and caring educators who recognize and respond to their individual needs.

Academic excellence is the core of the middle school program. The rigorous curriculum is comprised of over sixty courses, elective classes, and workshops. Caring teachers and enthusiastic students who gain respect for each other's interests and talents create meaningful classes. Sacajawea's commitment to the intellectual life and personal development of students manifests itself in a clear understanding of our vision for students at the middle level.

Our Vision

At Sacajawea, we are a compassionate community that honors grit and celebrates growth in order to face the future with a level head and a critical eye.

Each SMS student will be able to

- more fully develop their reading, writing and speaking skills and apply them across disciplines;
- gain a deeper understanding of concepts and apply skills in a holistic curriculum;
- think creatively, analytically, and critically;
- work as individuals and cooperatively;
- engage in meaningful learning, pursue their interests, and expand life-long skills.

Each SMS student will value and appreciate

- excellence;
- doing one's best in all endeavors;
- a school environment based upon kindness, fairness, honesty, and truth;
- being prepared, positive, respectful, and responsible;
- good sportsmanship and fair play;
- the traditions of the Bozeman schools, the lifelong support of the extended SMS community, and the responsibilities that accompany a quality public education.

Program Overview

Academic Requirements

Each student must take five core courses each trimester: English language arts (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and spelling), mathematics, science, social studies, and health enhancement (physical education and health topics).

Elective Classes

As a part of the academic program, students select elective classes to enrich their learning opportunities. Over 13 elective classes in each grade provide an education in and exposure to the visual and performing arts, technology, media, and languages. If a student needs extra support in reading or math, he or she may be placed in Reading Academy or Math Strategies during one of their elective periods.

Advisory

All students are scheduled in an Advisory class Monday through Friday; this class takes place during the first 25 minutes of the school day. The purpose of Advisory is to ensure each student is understood and championed by at least one adult (the advisor) who will facilitate interactions between other students, teachers, or administrators. The Advisory teacher will help each student find ways to be successful academically and socially, and promote coordination and communication between home and school.

Sacajawea Library

Services provided by the library staff are an essential element of the academic program at the middle schools. Students have group and one-on-one instruction in which they are guided in exploring and practicing use of the resources in the library and online. By the time students leave the middle schools they have developed the skills and strategies they will need for the research and study required in high school and beyond.

Located in the center of the middle school, the library houses a collection of over 12,000 titles. The collection of books, both extensive and varied, allows students to extend the work done in the classroom. The online catalog leads students to books in the middle school collections and is accessible through computers in the library. The library also contains a full class-size computer lab for research, investigation and application of learning.

Students and staff use the library regularly. Students can be found looking up information for a research paper, preparing for class, discussing a difficult research problem with one of the library staff members, listening to an outside speaker, checking out books or merely enjoying some quiet reading time.

Personalized Learning and Standards-Based Reporting

To better communicate the learning of each student, Sacajawea utilizes standards-based reporting. Standards-based grading provides an accurate picture of what a student has learned

and still needs to learn.

The main tenets of standards-based grading include:

- assessing and giving more timely feedback to students on progress and growth toward learning goals;
- communicating real-time performance via the gradebook on learning targets/standards as well as attributes of a successful learner;
- a periodic snapshot using a report card which summarizes a student's progress on important themes in all content areas.

In addition to progress toward the standards in each content area, students are also measured on attributes of learning: engagement, organization, perseverance, and universal expectations.

Technology

The middle schools are dedicated to implementing technological tools and innovations in the classroom and the operations of the school. All teachers are connected to both the school-wide network and the internet, allowing staff to enter student attendance data, calculate and input grades directly to student report cards, access student schedules and other information, and send and receive e-mail messages, including morning announcements, from the classrooms. Interdisciplinary teams maintain web sites accessible from home, and many teachers post classroom activities and upcoming events on a regular basis.

Sacajawea provides each student with a Chromebook for their use throughout the school year. To further supplement student learning, classrooms have projectors, document cameras, and additional computers, tablets, or e-readers. Every student has access to graphing calculators for use in math classes as needed.

After School Programs

Students are the middle schools' greatest resource. The variety, strength, and character of the students shape the community and bring life to all that takes place at our school. In addition to our rigorous academic program, extracurricular activities round out the holistic learning experience for our students.

Sports

Athletics enjoy great popularity at Sacajawea. In our intramural/interscholastic programs, we emphasize participation, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Competition is a means for learning about commitment, friendship, cooperation, limits, and challenge. The middle schools offer:

Fall:

Sixth grade: Intramural coed volleyball

Seventh and eighth grade: Girls' volleyball, boys' football, tennis

Winter:

Sixth grade: Intramural boys' basketball and girls' basketball, wrestling

Seventh and eighth: Boys' basketball, girls' basketball, and wrestling

Spring:

Sixth grade: Coed intramural track and field

Seventh and eighth grade: Boys' track and field, girls' track and field, girls' softball

Clubs/Activities

A variety of clubs and activities have been offered at Sacajawea including:

Jazz Band

Art Club

Chess Club

Outdoor Club

Student Council

Science Olympiad

Falcon It Right (service)

Speech and Debate

Archery

Computer Club

Yearbook Club

Drama Club

Math Counts

Vex Robotics

Gaming Club

Knitting Club

Eclectic Strings Orchestra

