

Middle School Board of Education Update

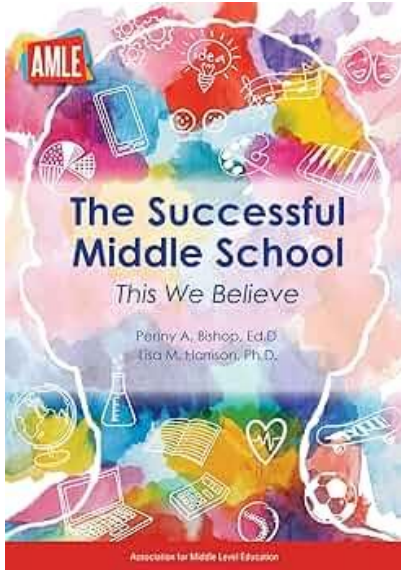
January 13, 2025

Julie Shumaker, Middle School Executive Director
Celia Banks, Curriculum and Instruction Director
Dr. Annette Acevedo, Assistant Superintendent of Schools



Middle School Steering Committee

History



- ◆ Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) partnership and Book Study: The Successful Middle School - This We Believe
- ◆ Created subcommittees: Scheduling Advisory Transition Curriculum
- ◆ Developed Portrait of a Thriving Adolescent



Middle School Philosophy

School District U-46 believes that the middle school years are a critical time for our students, and we endeavor to support the physical, cognitive, psychological, and social-emotional development of every student.



Our Guiding Principles for Middle School

- Student-Centered
- Engaging Learning
- Skill Development
- School Day Structure
- Community Connections
- Collaborative Teams
- Seamless Transitions from Elementary to Middle to High School

The background features a stylized landscape composed of overlapping geometric shapes. The top and bottom areas are a vibrant lime green, while the central area is a solid teal. Darker teal shapes create a sense of depth, resembling mountains or hills. The overall design is clean and modern.

Middle School Schedule

Alignment of Schedule with Collective Bargaining Agreement:

Article 8.21.1

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, middle school teachers will have an instructional load not to exceed twenty-two clock hours of student contact teaching assignments per week, including five regular class periods and a **daily advisory to be determined by the middle school schedule committee.**

Article 8.22.3

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, planning and preparation periods will be determined by the middle school schedule committee. Upon ratification, **a middle school schedule committee will convene and will bring forward a recommended schedule by the end of the 2024-2025 school year.**

Proposed Schedule



- ❖ 8 Period Day
- ❖ 1 Advisory Period (28 Minutes)
- ❖ 4 Minute Passing Periods
- ❖ 42 Minute Periods

Sample 7th Grade Student Schedule

1	9:00 - 9:42	ELA
2	9:46 - 10:28	Math
3	10:32 - 11:00	Advisory
4	11:04-11:46	AVID
5	11:50-12:32	Science
6	12:36 - 1:18	Lunch
7	1:22 - 2:04	Art 1
8	2:08 - 2:50	PE
9	2:54 - 3:36	Social Studies

Sample Teacher Schedule

1	9:00 - 9:42	7th Math
2	9:46 - 10:28	7th Accelerated Math
3	10:32 - 11:00	Advisory
4	11:04-11:46	Teacher Collaborative Time (TCT)
5	11:50-12:32	7th Math
6	12:36 - 1:18	Lunch
7	1:22 - 2:04	Personal Planning
8	2:08 - 2:50	7th Math
9	2:54 - 3:36	Algebra

Communication Plan

When	Audience
January 13, 2025	Board Presentation
January 15, 2025	ETA Representative Assembly Meeting
January 16, 2025	Instructional Council Voluntary Staff Meetings (at each middle school)
January 21, 2025 @ 4:00PM	Information Session: Open to all U-46 Employees (via Zoom)

Advisory

Sample Schedule: Weekly Advisory

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Social Emotional Learning	Social Emotional Learning	What I Need (WIN): Academic Support/ Enrichment	What I Need (WIN): Academic Support/ Enrichment	Flex

Advisory

Day	WIN Academic Support/Enrichment	Social Emotional Learning	Flex
Possible Activities	Lessons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive Functioning Activities • Goal Setting/Planning • Academic Skill Building • Leadership Activities 	Community Building School-Wide Expectations	District/School-Based Surveys Counselor Lessons Tier 1 Supports
Possible Resources	iReady - My Path Khan Academy Newsela* Writeable* AVID Middle School Advisory Curriculum* ISBE's Middle School Advisory Curriculum Internal/District-Created Lessons	CharacterStrong*	Counseling Framework* PACE* Schoolinks* Internal/District-Created Lessons

* denotes Board Approved Curriculum/Resource

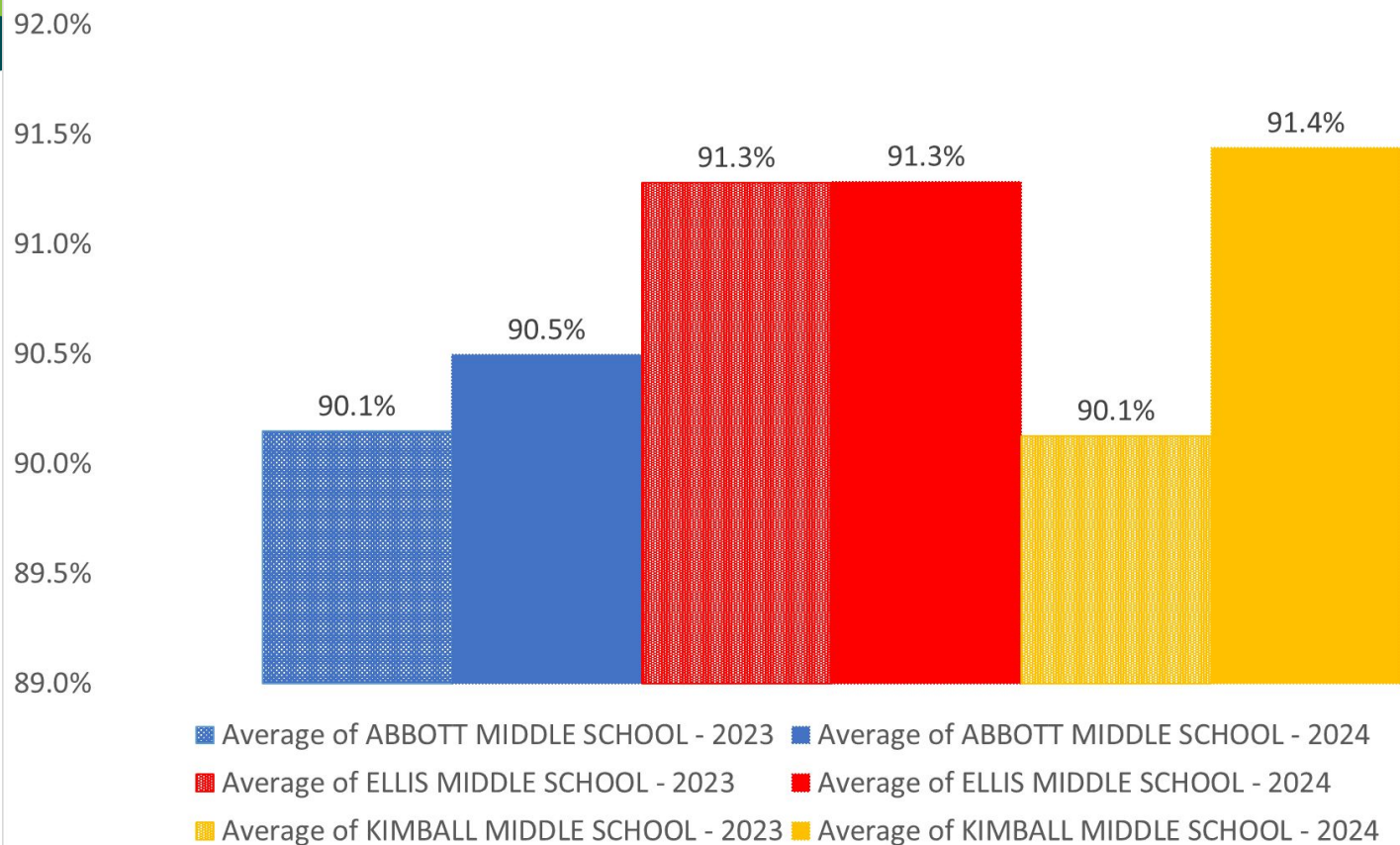
Middle Schools Currently Implementing Advisory:

Kimball

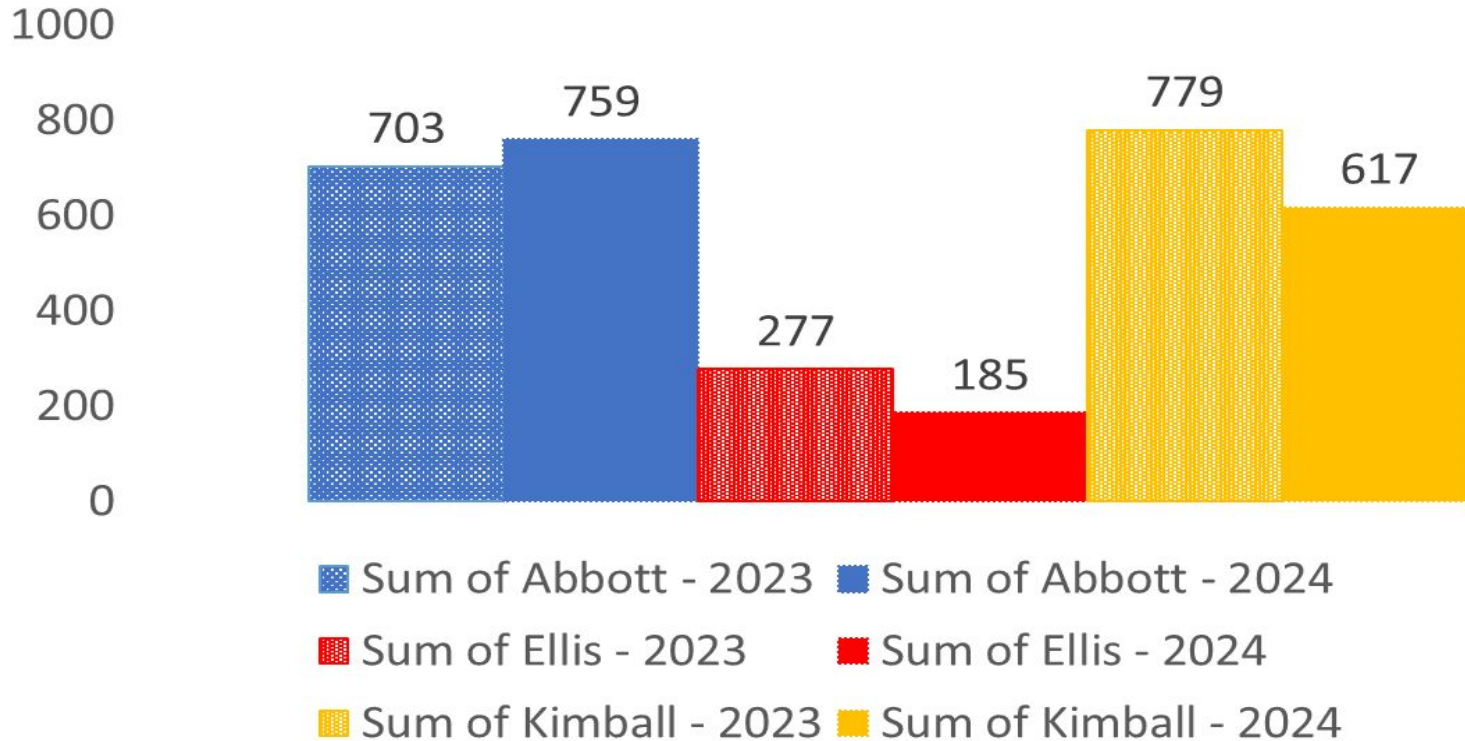
Ellis

Abbott

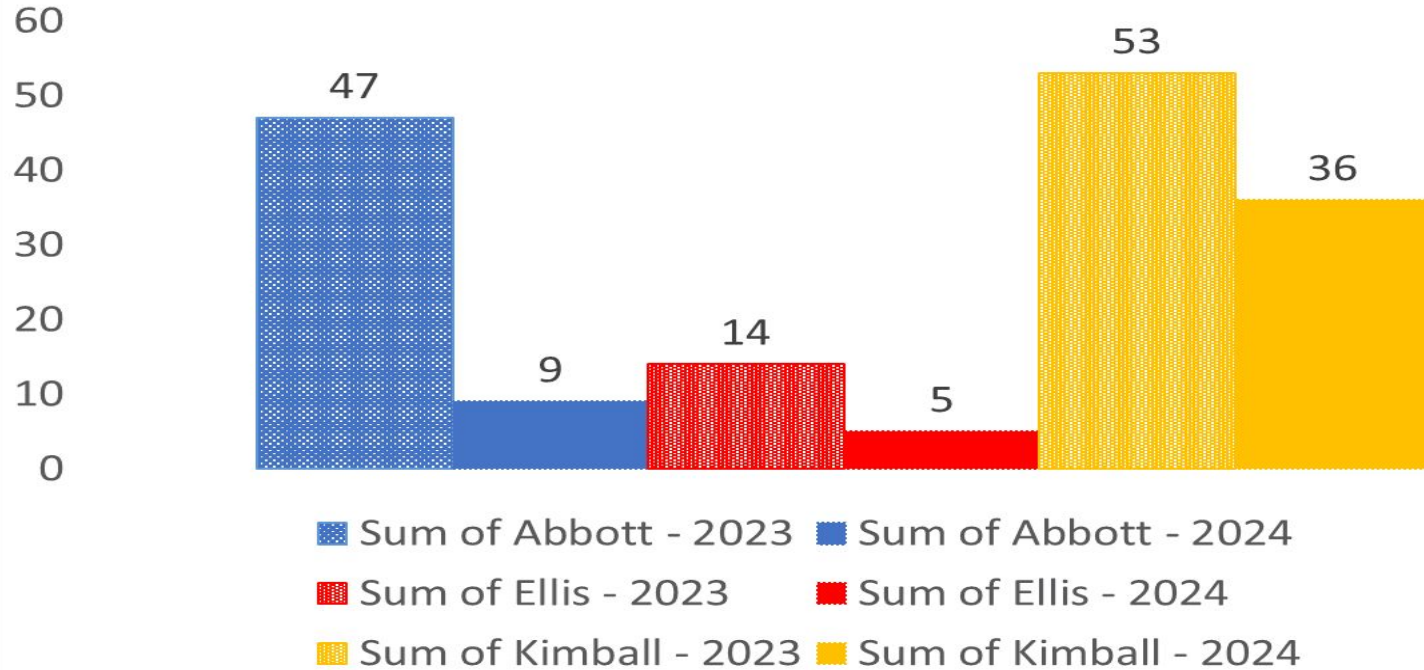
Average Weekly Attendance up to Week 19 of Fall 2023 and Fall 2024



Referrals Fall 2023 to Fall 2024



Out of School Suspensions Fall 2023 to Fall 2024



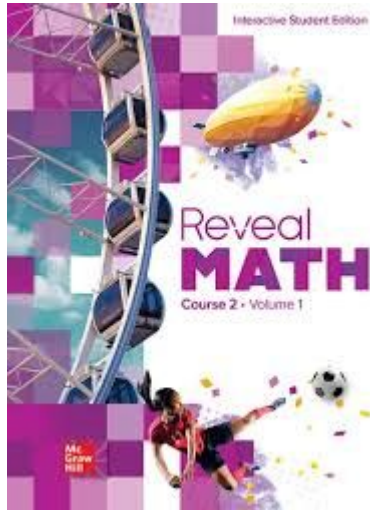
Next Steps for Advisory

- Currently developing advisory lesson plans for 6th - 8th grade
- Continue reviewing and adopting resources
- Begin planning professional learning for all middle school staff

Curriculum

MS Curriculum

Math



Literacy



Science



MS Curriculum



NEW

Social Studies

- ◆ 6th Global Studies
- ◆ 7th Civic and Economic Studies
- ◆ 8th American Studies

Health/Physical Education

- ◆ 6th and 8th one semester of Health

Curriculum: Electives

- Providing students more opportunities to experience courses aligned with magnet academies and college and career pathways.



6th/7th/8th Year-Long Courses

- AVID
- Artes de Lenguaje en Español (ALE)/Spanish Language Arts*
- Orchestra
- Band
- Choir
- World Language (ONLY 7th/8th)

6th/7th Grade Rotations

Rotation A - Criminal Justice, STEM (Science Engineering Technology Math), Art, Business Innovator

Rotation B - Essential Technology (Computers), Theatre, Career Exploration, Human Development

*not actual course names

7th/8th Grade Semester Electives

- Culinary 1
- Culinary 2
- Essential Technology
- Interactive Media
- Automation and Robotics
- Art 1
- Art 2

NEW

- ◆ Medical Detectives
- ◆ mxINCedu
- ◆ World Dance Exploration
- ◆ Dance Conservatory
- ◆ Here We Come, Hollywood!
- ◆ Broadway Bound!



Transition Plan

Transition Plan for Families

Fall/Winter 2025-2026

- ◆ Parents start receiving middle schools newsletters
- ◆ Meet with students to review course selections
- ◆ Have family nights reviewing the course selections for electives; both in person and via Zoom
- ◆ Communication about the updated electives
- ◆ Meet with students to choose electives

Spring 2026

- ◆ Students visit the school
- ◆ Middle school Principals visit the elementary schools
- ◆ Parents will continue to receive middle school newsletters

Summer 2026

- ◆ Open house to visit the school as a family and walk their child's schedule
- ◆ Parents will continue to receive middle school newsletters

Communication

Communication Channels

In-Person Events
Emails/Text
Website
Videos
Social Media
Handouts

Professional Learning Plan for staff

Summer 2025

- ◆ Communication of the middle school schedule
- ◆ Offer professional learning on adopted resources (e.g., ELA and CharacterStrong)



Fall/Winter 2025-2026

- ◆ Offer professional learning on adopted resources: CharacterStrong, ELA, Electives, Science, and Health (6th and 8th grade).



Summer 2026

- ◆ Plan for a Back-to-School Night (6th-8th grade)
- ◆ Continue to offer professional learning on topics related to middle school



Fall/Winter 2026 - 2027

- ◆ Continue to offer professional learning on adopted resources related to middle school



Summer 2027

- ◆ Continue to offer professional learning on adopted resources/topics related to middle school



Thank you

Any questions?