

Asheville Middle School Transition Brainstorm Session • March 18, 2024

What are all the things we need to think about to ensure the smoothest transition possible while: 1) maintaining educational excellence, 2) supporting all those affected, and 3) building a renewed sense of belonging?

Mixing ideas, Teacher collaboration (A)	Welcoming, Belonging, Student Voice (B)	Transition Activities (C)	Implementing (D)	Class Structure (E)	Traditions, Clubs (F)
<p>time for teachers to plan ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>capitalize on best of both curriculums ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>expand STEM at AMS ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>utilize ALL strengths of staff ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>pay teachers for extra "team time" time in August ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>incorporate teaching strategies ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>open blending of curricular ideas from both schools ●●●●●●●●</p>	<p>promote AMS as a place for everyone ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>start a BSU ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>explore common interests ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>students share with next year teachers ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>remember to keep people at your focus/center ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>pair AMS student with Montford ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>incorporate student voices in decisions ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>create a buddy system ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>prepare all students to be together ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>prioritize all staff support and retention ●●●●●●●●</p>	<p>schedule spring/summer transition activities ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>tours & visits this spring ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>offer unifying summer activities ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>hold a welcoming night ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>welcoming party for parents & students ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>2 week meet & greet or check-in ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>ambassadors, tours, shadowing ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>summer/fall staff retreats (social-focused vs. productive-focused) ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>anxiety reducing meet and greets ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>welcome events & materials ●●●●●●●●</p>	<p>continue ongoing action groups (like today) ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>clear messaging in all directions ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>district gives moving team/support for MNSA teachers and materials ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>establish middle grades alternative program ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>communicate (openly, often, various methods) this process ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>resource AMS based on need ●●●●●●●●</p>	<p>manageable class sizes within spaces ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>maintain 4 teacher teams ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>decide and communicate about staff positions ASAP ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>combine the best of both schools ●●●●●●●●</p>	<p>create & implement traditions (belonging) (i.e. clubs, trips, events) ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>bring Science Olympiad to AMS ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>incorporate Science Olympiad into AMS ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>incorporate clubs ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>start REAP (Racial Equity Ambassador Program) at AMS ●●●●●●●●</p> <p>start a BSU ●●●●●●●●</p>

- A:** Related to teacher collaboration, we need to make sure we give teachers time and compensation to form new PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) which allows for the blending of curriculum development, teacher strengths, project based learning, and collaborative lesson planning
- B:** Related to sense of belonging, we need to make sure we empower student voices and be an inclusive community
- C:** Related to transition activities, we need to make sure we plan and advertise a variety of educational and social activities that unite our community during the spring, summer and fall for all three stakeholder groups (i.e. students, families, staff) together and separately
- D:** Related to implementing the merger between AMS and MNSA, we need to make sure we: have a planning team, create a specific plan based on need, communicate openly with all stakeholders, check in throughout the process, and ensure resources are allocated based on need
- E:** Related to class structure, we need to make sure we maintain 4 teacher teams, ensure manageable class sizes, and have open communication regarding staff positions no later than April 30, 2024
- F:** Related to traditions and clubs, we need to make sure we maintain and establish diverse organizations that maximize strengths, and offer new connections and opportunities