



PORTLAND PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# MIDDLE GRADES REDESIGN

A roadmap for developing an empowering, responsive, challenging, equitable, and engaging middle grades experience for all students.

## MISSION

In service to students, Portland Public Schools' middle grades mission is to engage, elevate, and empower all of our students, particularly those with the highest needs through relevant and diverse learning experiences connecting to and affirming their lives and humanity.

## Eighteen Initiatives Across Five Themes

### Inclusive & Differentiated Teaching & Learning

- #1 Provide all middle grades students with access to advisory programs
- #2 Expand extracurricular activities
- #3 Provide opportunities to expand college and career readiness
- #4 Provide comprehensive social-emotional and mental health services

### Professional Excellence & Support

- #5 Implement engaging, grade-level, and standards-aligned curriculum and responsive classroom instructional practices
- #6 Implement project-based learning
- #7 Implement equitable grading and assessment

### Embracing Change

- #8 Foster effective transitions to middle school
- #9 Continuously improve
- #10 Craft innovative schedules
- #11 Standardize eighth grade field trips and capstones

### Integrated Adolescent Supports

- #12 Invest resources with culturally specific and multi-racial organizations
- #13 Fully implement a Restorative Justice framework
- #14 Create meaningful opportunities for same-race mentoring and leadership
- #15 Create culturally affirming opportunities through affinity groups

### Racial Equity & Social Justice

- #16 Provide educators with consistent opportunities for planning and collaboration
- #17 Provide targeted professional learning and support
- #18 Implement interdisciplinary 8th grade success teams

Collectively, these represent elements of a high-quality, redesigned middle-grades experience.

To complete this work in all 28 district schools serving middle-grades students, the initiatives were divided into:

1

Work happening districtwide that could be specialized to middle grades

2

Work that should happen simultaneously across all middle-grades schools

3

Work that could be phased in over the next three years with variations between schools

## Guiding Values

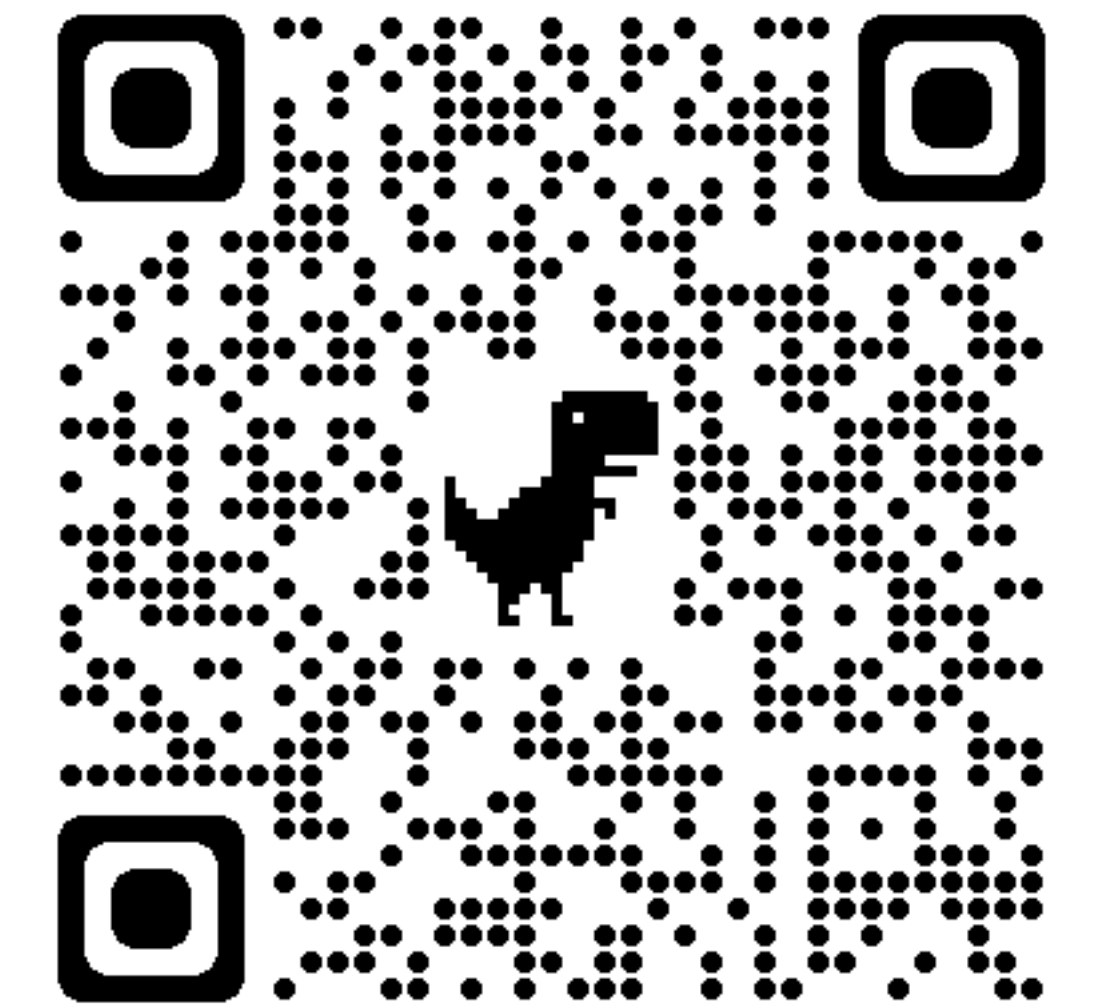
Responsiveness

Engagement

Challenge

Equity

Empowerment



Find out more!

## VISION

To close persistent achievement and opportunity gaps, Portland Public Schools will ensure all middle grades educators are provided the opportunity to collaborate with teaming structures. We will enable students to actively demonstrate ownership of their learning and to access engaging, high quality instruction meaningful to their everyday lives, and prioritize fostering healthy interpersonal relationships and social-emotional learning.