

# Student Agency-Middle School Course Selection

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# Why are middle school electives important?

- Start making choices based on their interests
- Try new things
- Develop known or unknown talents and interests
- Learn and practice transferable skills
- Utilize their communication and social skills

# How are middle school students engaged in creating elective offerings?

## Elective Interest Survey

- CMMS, IMS and PCMS conducted a student interest survey before opening the course selection process-all added new courses based on student feedback.
  - IMS (board games)
  - CMMS (visual arts)
  - PCMS added a film and pop culture

# How is this data used to build the course schedule?

- MMS added additional sections of personal fitness
- CMMS offered additional study skills
- Pine Lake added CSD 3, Advanced Speech and Debate, and Competitive Speech and Debate
- PCMS added more world and visual arts

## Barriers

- Teacher availability
- Space/rooms

# Which classes do students get to select?

## Core Classes

- Math
- Science
- English Language Arts (ELA)

## Elective Class

- One period of the day
- Yearlong Electives
  - Music, Spanish, ASB leadership, study skills
- Trimester Electives
  - Technology, art, CTE, board games, film and pop culture, guitar, speech and debate

# What electives are middle students enrolled in this trimester?

- Electives found in most ISD middle Schools
  - Music
  - Tech
  - Visual art
  - Drama
  - Leadership
  - Spanish
- Unique or singleton electives
  - Properties of Flight
  - Woodshop
  - Cooking
  - Yoga

# How many electives do students take in 3 years?

- Student A selects trimester electives all 3 years
  - 9 electives
- Student B selects year-long electives all 3 years
  - 3 electives
- Student C selects 2 years for trimester electives and Spanish
  - 7 electives

# How do middle schools engage caregivers?

- MS leaders want families to be informed and partners in this work
  - All MS hosted live and/or virtual events this spring for caregivers
  - Some will have an opportunity in Aug for families to walk around the school
  - Pine Lake hosts an Elective Night during this process to provide families with a chance to meet all elective teachers, visit classroom spaces, and check out the projects and products created in Electives.



# How does ISD support PE requirements?

- Washington State PE requirements for middle school: [WAC 392-410-135:](#)
- Salient details: PE required annually. ISD middle schools are trimesters of 60 days each
- Calculation: 180 days of school/5 days a week = 36 weeks of school X 100 weekly minutes required = 3600 minutes of required PE.
- **3600 minutes of required PE/48 (average) per day = 75 days of PE meet the minimum standard.**
- We believe that physical activity is beneficial for student's physical and mental health so most students have two trimesters of PE each year.
- ISD Middle School leadership confidently use the allowable waivers for students on an individual basis to meet each student's need.

## What was the timeline / process for 2023/24?

- December/ January: student interest surveys at some schools, new course requests submitted for consideration
- February: current students engage in course selection in Skyward
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade parent orientation night
- 5<sup>th</sup> grader visit middle schools
- March 1: all selections in skyward
- Run reports to ensure enough seats available each period, class sizes balanced, etc.