

Middle Schools

- 6 Neighborhood schools with program options
- Each middle school with a focus on 1 of 3 options: Immersion, IB or STEAM; Access within zone
- Countywide 6-8 Options: HB, Montessori

Strengths	Challenges	Other Thoughts
	How was the notional allocation of the MS Options assigned? Aka, why is Williamsburg proposed as an immersion instead of a STEAM school? Can parents in that likely zone have a "vote" in what the Options focus is in their likely Options MS? (For example, we would be more interested in STEAM or IB in Williamsburg, our Neighborhood MS)	Recommend clarifying that the IB, Immersion, and StEAM options are OPTIONAL TRACKS only (at those schools) as opposed to the mandated curricular path for all students in the school. Given that, how are students selected/chosen to participate in the Option Path/track?
		consider an option of EL (formerly Expeditionary Learning, which is the instructional model in use at Campbell Elementary) which has huge success in middle/high school settings
Options are good	Not sure how honest the lotteries are in practice. Often seems that connections matter in selection.	Need to stop teaching to the test (SOLs) and reduce the use of i-pads for test taking and writing assignments.
sounds fine		
		Where is the data supporting dual choice school tracks in Middle School? "Survey" data has not been posted even though there have been multiple requests going back three weeks.
While I like the goal of increasing diversity, I don't like the limited program offerings and duplicating programs across zones for which there is no proven demand.	Please don't make every neighborhood middle school STEAM - - allow for focus on arts and humanities too (e.g. Kenmore). Do not move the Montessori middle school program into the Henry building; that building is far too small for middle schoolers and will limit the success and growth of the program.	Instead of two immersion middle/high schools and two IB middle/high schools, create a greater diversity in program options and make them countywide. Have a project-based / experiential learning type of middle/high school program (with an outdoor education component) that could combine students from Campbell and Montessori.

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Alleviates overcrowding at Swanson; allows for focus areas	Need choice so those with a strong interest in particular areas can continue that work	Chinese should be an immersion option
sounds good overall		
makes sense and seems fair		
	immersion program will be diluted across 2 middle schools	
		The resources needed to add IB to middle schools would probably be better spent meeting other needs (I love IB, but it can wait).
Breaks down traditional north- south splits.	Traffic flows better across east and west than across north and south, so some school commutes could take longer. Also, a lack of schools in the eastern part of the County could result in overcrowding.	
Neighborhood attendance areas	Immersion option schools	Have a countywide option school focusing on world languages, not just Spanish. Native Spanish speakers should not be given special preference over native speakers of other languages.
		i'm concerned that the stratford building will not be ready to open September 2019. there is no mention of a ground breaking date on any of the charts

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same as above - I think this is great and gives kids lots of options		
lots of options	lots of options	
Excellent choice	Diversity	
More neighborhood schools with feeder from neighborhood elementary	How does enrollment balance across the neighborhood options? Can STEAM have extra seats or flexibility for peak enrollments?	Need to model transportation options - adding more school buses and cars to glebe and Catlin springs not good. Adjust art bus routes and make no drive zones around schools, with remote drop off spots at grocery stores etc.
none	Zone 1 and 2 breaks up communities within Arlington and will lessen participation in school events due to the increased distance between a child's home and the MS or HS they may attend	
None	The middle schools cannot even manage the basics right now. You have 22 trailers at WMS and SMS. People cannot think beyond that. Plus why do kids have to specialize at such a young age? These options are better for high school students. Please allow middle schoolers to get the foundation of good study skills and work habits to prepare them for high school	Too many options. You are making something complicated when it doesn't have to be. Most kids cannot master critical thinking skills and good writing -- these programs will put more pressure and stress on our kids. Simply not worth it and we have no idea how hard it will be to get enough immersion teachers or what it will cost
Good options and good to provide IB, STEAM and Immersion option in each zone.	How would transfers work? There may be more demand for one of the program options than others and this could get complicated.	HB is extremely popular, not sure that Montessori is. Could we create another HB type option?

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Plan does give option for families that want other programs.	Keep neighborhood schools strong. Want a total feel for school and not separate academies within a school.	I don't like the east/west division. I'm assuming each middle school will still have a traditional curriculum with the option as an extra.
	Begins to 'track' kids in middle school; allows for little planning for implementing full new STEAM curriculum	Again - we're lacking a desired end state that these tactics are intended to address. There is no "why" or rationale for needing a blend of neighborhood and program schools and there is no clarity around how this plan is connected to either short or long term goals. In order to vote on any of these things, the School Board and the Superintendent should require staff and the volunteer working groups to do more work around those connections.
Standardizes options across county: more understandable and more equitable.	Clarifying the extent to which students will be able to change path in or out of an option program as they progress through their schooling. elementary	Please clarify what the "STEAM" student experience will be compared to the art, math, science, history and english curriculum taught today? If it is about raising awareness about the interconnectedness of humanities, sciences and arts, shouldn't that be done throughout the entire school system?
	Need more diverse boarders, schools are to big.	The Board needs to do more about creating diverse schools.

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		Would boundaries change, for example Rosslyn's neighborhood school is Williamsburg on opposite side of town? HB is closest middle/high school on East side, but lottery only. Do not like new proposed change to lottery system.
		Please ensure central location for immersion middle school options; current program in Gunston is too far away for many parts of Arlington
This is fine	Immersion programs are hard to grow after the elementary school years. Need to make sure the numbers are sustainable.	Need to make sure there is enrollment balance. The academic focus needs to be well defined.
None.	Why just Immersion, IB and STEAM? These options are terrible. How about some real choices? Arts, Performance, more and extended versions of the Campbell and Montessori models.	
Provides school choices for families and hopefully more equitable	Will some programs be more in demand? How to balance numbers	Can students transfer from one to another if requested? Could disparities in rigor within schools related to the focus possibly result?
	It is difficult to hire and retain qualified teachers who are fluent and biliterate in Spanish to support two different school. Reducing the current population at the middle school level will mean that the same cluster of students will be traveling together most of the day unlike their peers in the traditional program.	Immersion should be a countywide option just like Montessori and HB. If the program grows more, having more teacher collaborate in the same building would make the program stronger instead of dividing it.
	Montessori MS will not have enough interest. How is offering more options is going to resolve lack of space for current students?	

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As long as families can get in to what they want, will feel equitable.	I think that as APS "markets" schools differently based on their "focus" you force people to look and compare in a critical and competitive way. So by not getting into the school of choice, you somehow feel like you're losing, when in reality, every APS school should be able to tout the engaging, rigorous programs they have in place. Can't each school offer a little of everything? If this is a long-range plan, can't it move in that direction? Then you'd just have neighborhood schools w something	(Cont from above) for everyone.
None	STEAM is an empty concept; the addition of arts dilutes the rest;	Give parents and kids the option of a true STRM education without the distraction of other portfolios.
	Please focus on neighborhood schools. Not aware of large demand for middle school IB. Does data support? Do not think APS has the faculty or demand to support 2 immersion middle schools.	Program zone admissions would have to be significantly curtailed at overcrowded middle schools.
equal access across county	transportation; too many options not necessary for a 10-11 year old; with multiple options of elementary schools, you lose the neighborhood connectedness -possible that neighbors go to 2-3 different schools; except for Immersion, no need to differentiate IB and STEAM-should be part of all schools	
Gifted Students need to be challenge and expanding those options to a wider community of Arlington Children is always a good thing.	I don't see a challenge in this arena.	

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Strengths	Challenges	Other Thoughts
Options always appeal to newcomers.	Does each option provide a depth in educational preparedness for high school. Middle schools need to be experiential but always emphasize the meat of learning.	I am a supporter of IB, but has anyone in the Central office or the School Board researched the requirements to be become an IB school. It is a process over time with a strong need for staff and community support. It should be supported as a whole school option and not a school within a school.
I like this is concept.		
	Middle school seems rather early to be pressuring children into a particular focus. Will students who do not choose these foci, but rather, end up at these schools because of where they live be forced into this type of program or is it simply an option?	
Seems like it would work.	Need to make sure none of the schools are too big.	
	too complicated and unnecessary	JUUST HAVE NEIGHBORHOOD MS with HB & Tech center as options...everything else is unnecessary
neighborhood schools build community, less bussing costs and less pollution/environmental impact	bussing costs to bus kids to countywide programs and focus schools is a waste	
Same as above	Same as above	
		Should consider more seats at HB

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Encourages transfers.	Committing to foci (Immersion, IB, or STEAM) could create problems later when highschools are contested. Also, Immersion may promote bias and favoritism.	Where is Science focus in this? Seems like it is left off the radar intentionally? Where are arts and athletics in these prompts?
Same as above.	Same as above.	Same as above.
		Can you let the Immersion middle schools have STEAM or IB curriculum? You just teach it in Spanish.
Strongly support the expansion of the IB opportunity.	I am not convinced that STEAM is an actual program. Shouldn't all schools teach science, math and the arts? The other two options are compelling, but STEAM seems artificial.	Students coming from IB in elementary should be guaranteed a spot in a middle school IB program, if they wish to continue with the program. There should also be opportunities for students to enter IB in middle school without having attended this program in elementary.
		WHy do you want to focus the school on a particular area? Why not continue along the lines we already have? Williamsburg is the number onw middle school in the state WITHOUT a focus. What is the demonstated need for this broad based change? What are the costs to the taxpayers for this change?
Again, stronger neighborhood schools the stronger the ties to shared goals	Boundaries.	
		oppose, just have neighborhood schools, stop with the weird choices

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	If immersion is in more subjects than just math then great. There should be a variety of immersion courses. Also not all students Have the ability or drive to take immersion courses. You should have steam courses there too.	
		Get 6th grade back into the elementary schools. This grade should not be considered middle school.
This works better for MS		school overcrowding represents an existential crisis for Arlington, APS has to stop nibbling at the problem and building trailer parks
	what if your neighborhood middle school does not offer the option that you want to experience?	
		Having two IB programs within 2 blocks of eachother (Reed/Swanson) doesn't seem equitable for others in the county. Also logistically it doesn't make a lot of sense; suggest moving the elementary IB to another location/in south arlington to more equitably spread access to others in the community.
neighborhood schools	inequiry	

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Strengths	Challenges	Other Thoughts
	Keep neighborhood schools the focus. There is no way to know how many children will choose to go to these "option or choice" programs. Focus on comprehensive schools.	It is ridiculous to spend money and use up so much space for the Montessori program. There aren't even enough kids to fill the current program. I think the middle schools should be neighborhood based - stop trying to change the demographics of our schools.
	Offering new options like IB or immersion at schools already bursting at the seams with neighborhood kids doesn't sound like a viable option.	Allowing for free choice of schools could cause significant problems with overcrowding in popular programs unless numbers are capped.
		forget about East West Boundaries. The boundaries are fine. Fix the overcrowding in the schools. You don't need all these specialty programs. Private schools can take care of specialty programs. Give the best high level of education to all.
I like the E/W split, and the additional IB option at the MS level.	Can you better define STEAM? I think that would help clarify what that option would look like.	It looks like on page 29 of the 3/30 presentation you're saying that kids who've attended Campbell or ATS are not eligible to apply to HB. I certainly hope that's an oversight and not a new policy (you can't hold current families to that since that was not the deal when they enrolled in ES).