

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
		overall ok; but not equal. why do some neighborhoods automatically get IB and others not?
good idea		
Like the option of two schools with an immersion option.		
		The idea of a school having a "focus" is not meaningful unless the attendance is driven by that focus. This is clear for the language Immersion schools at the ES level, but since all these schools will be primarily "neighborhood" schools, the "focus" and any discussion of a "zone" other than the defined neighborhood attendance zone is just marketing, and of no real significance..
		Montessori at this level doesn't really count as a countywide option. If you have not been part of a Montessori program in Elementary this is really not an option at this point.
	Focus on providing neighborhood schools and capacity; once that is met can pursue expanded option.	
	I don't like the STEAM concept. Arts sound good, but for the most part are not needed in real life. Please keep with STEM focus.	

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	<p>middle school options get tricky for STEAM or IB. Isn't a neighborhood school by nature a STEAM school?</p>	<p>when someone that lives within walking distance of a zone school in the other zone, it should be considered to allow transfer</p>
	<p>Our current middle school (swanson) and elementary school (Glebe) are less than a mile from our home and are easily walkable. Yet they end up in different "zones". There are many reasons it's good for kids to be able to walk to their neighborhood school and I think we should try to preserve this.</p>	<p>Not everyone wants to be forced to choose between IB, Immersion, and STEAM for middle school. Can't my child just go to a regular middle school where they get a quality, general education? If you want a school close to your home, you may be forced to pick a specialty school you don't want. Having some options is great, but let's not over-specialize!</p>
<p>like the concept</p>	<p>Encourage families that have chosen an option school in Elem. to continue into middle school. Defining the zones that serve each option school? I was at the Yorktown meeting, and as much as people did not want transportation to be a defining issue, it is in Arlington. Will we have a chance to comment on the criteria used to define zones 1 & 2?</p>	<p>The option schools should be centrally located in Arlington to minimize transportation issues for each school.</p>
<p>I like students having choices</p>	<p>There are other methods for teaching besides what you describe above? What about an arts focused school, or a traditional school. We should not limit ourselves to just these three categories.</p>	<p>STEAM covers almost everything but history... so doesn't that make every school a STEAM school??? What about PE, Health, Music, Theater... are we losing these things???</p>

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<p>A zone concept has merit but not as drawn. APS middle school starts at 7:50 am - already much earlier than the AAP recommends. The east/west zones split the county in a way that maximizes travel times for the immersion and STEAM options exacerbating the early start problems.</p>	<p>The east/west zones result in unacceptable transportation options for 6-8 graders interested in the Immersion and STEAM programs. Middle school has the earliest start time with buses already picking children up before 7 am to make it to neighborhood schools on time. Now, a child in the immersion program at Claremont who wishes to continue in the immersion program has to drive across the entire county to get to Williamsburg rather than bus one neighborhood over to Gunston (reverse for Key).</p>	<p>APS policy should encourage kids to be active and healthy and a zone approach for 6-8 graders should be designed to have 11-14 year old students walk and/or bike to school whenever possible - not designed such that kids spend extra time sitting on a bus. Given where current middle schools are sited and how the options were assigned, the zones do not need to make kids trek across the county to get to school.</p>
	<p>We are in immersion for elementary school and considering it for middle school. We are in the discovery school district. I am very concerned about the distance to gunston for my children and it, at the moment, outweighs the positives. I strongly urge you to move to either two immersion middles in different parts of the county or move immersion to a school to make it easier to access for all.</p>	

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	<p>Is there enough demand for 2 MS immersion school, if it is a small community it might be better to have one community at a more centrally locate school.</p>	<p>How will Steam work, will all student in the school be one a STEAM track or will it be a school within a school as is fone doe MS immersion and IB</p>
<p>Good concept.</p>	<p>Diversity without busing. Maintaining consistency across the same program that is geographically separate.</p>	<p>If demand is not there for two schools, the one school should be centrally located to limit the barrier to enrollment.</p>
<p>Sounds like a great idea</p>		
		<p>Teach STEAM and/or IB in immersion schools.</p>
	<p>Unclear if options apply to whole school or subset</p>	<p>Not enough immersion kids to take up a whole MS much less two - what is program for other kids at the school? E.g., will STEAM be the option for WMS kids not in immersion? Makes NO sense for kids in Jamestown zone to have to be bused across the county to Kenmore for STEAM, bypassing STEAM at Stratford, which is down the road. Students would be on buses for more than an hour each way - ridiculous. Zone construct doesn't make sense. Do all interested students have equal opp to participate in IB?</p>

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Sounds like a great idea. Moving immersion to Williamsburg would finally increase diversity there, you would think!		The most important aspect is offering IB and STEAM and immersion to everyone, without having to win a lottery,, and with east west boundaries the demographics and economic differences can be evened out for an equal playing field.
no	no	no
I like the concept, brings focus and vision and a cohesive plan.	Specializing too early runs the risk of pre-determining success by elementary school. Didn't choose IB by 5th grade? Out of luck by 9th then.	Hoping the level of excellence is high enough in each track that transferring from one to another isn't impossible by 9th grade. k
		Make them all the same - neighborhood schools with same programming
expands IB program	Immersion programs can also be IB, STEAM etc and what would the focus of rest of the school be that is not in the immersion program. IB is a very demanding program and requires lots of staff and community cooperation and buy in.	Opening another Middle School Immersion site without an additional geographically proximal feeder elementary school will have the effect of diluting the program overall and have staffing challenges to replicate. A better option could be to make the middle school program more centrally located. Also, the HB program is wildly popular so it makes some sense to replicate that program at other sites.
Allows for consistency across county, equal access to both sides of the county.	again, getting parents to accept change.	

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	2 Immersion programs at the Secondary level will only work with enough students and with enough qualified and dedicated bilingual teachers	
	Splitting the special focus weakens the programs and there won't be room for extra students since most people will still choose their neighborhood school	
I like this idea, but I think APS should survey parents to measure interest in some of these programs.		
		contd from above: Is the staff prepared to make home visits? Would implementation take into account necessary transportation?
Provides excellent instructional options.	Outreach is essential and must be well planned and staffed.	
	Get rid of the zones. Let everyone apply anywhere, its a small enough county. Meet demand. If demand is for 1600 HB spots; create 2 programs of 700.	
	The closest school may no longer offered the desired program. Why not make these programs county-wide instead of limiting the focus ofthe local school?	More county-wide options would be preferable. More students apply to HB than it is able to accommodate.

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I support neighborhood schools.		The focus options are unnecessary. Please just provide a solid, well-rounded education.
In general: good proposal.		