

# GRADE CONFIGURATION STUDY Opportunities for Improvement (Update)



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**Board of Education**  
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# Opportunities for improvement: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at PRMS

Redesign/modernize Middle School Technology courses (engineering, coding, etc.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement new plan</li></ul>	Fall 2019
Create a "Humanities" block (ELA & Soc. Studies with 1 teacher) and a "STEM" block (Math/Science with 1 teacher) for 5th graders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Modified:</li><li>• 2 and/or 3</li><li>• teacher teams</li></ul>	TBD
Add parent/teacher conferences for middle school students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tied to Humanities/STEM Teams</li></ul>	Pilot (5th) for Fall ?
Add subject specific (math, ELA/writing, etc.) support classes to the PEP rotation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Implement Plan</li></ul>	Fall 2019
Develop a transitional grading system between the elementary report card and the middle school report card	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Study, design &amp; implement</li></ul>	During 2019-20 school year

# Opportunities for improvement: 5<sup>th</sup> Grade at PRMS

Provide additional supports for students who have social/emotional needs

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- Increase Psychologist
- Commence Task force, explore training/ programs

Fall 2019  
Recommend  
plan: 2020

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Better coordinate tests, quizzes, homework, projects, etc. across the grade (to avoid overloading students on any one day/night)

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- Commence Task Force - Study homework/workload concerns

Recommend  
plan: 2020

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Dedicate meeting time for 4th and 5th grade teachers to bridge curriculum and to learn about incoming 5th grade student needs.

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- Organize PD with 4th & 5th together

2019-20

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Provide “extra help” before and/or after school (not during student lunch period)

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- Explore options with Teacher

2020-21 School  
year

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Organize team building and mixing opportunities for students prior to the start of 5th grade

- More study needed

# Opportunities for improvement: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at PRHS

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Incorporate more social/emotional supports for 8th graders

- Increase HS Psychologist
- Add summer transition
- Commence Taskforce, explore training/ programs

Fall 2019  
Summer 2019  
Recommend plan -  
Spring 2020

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Dedicate an “8th grade only” wing in the high school (classrooms, lockers, etc.)

- 8th grade wing (most)
- Assign lockers in 8th grade wing

Fall 2019

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Schedule students into “teams” of 8th grade only teachers

- Schedule (modified) team structure

Fall 2019

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Create 8th grade only events (dances, homecoming, etc.)

- Explore options with 8th grade student government

2019-20

# Opportunities for improvement: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade at PRHS

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Create 8th grade only electives

- Modified version possible w/ 9th graders (prerequisites and FTE need consideration)

- Run master scheduling trials 4/2019
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Schedule an 8th grade only lunch period

- Scheduling obstacles
- W/ 8th & 9th is possible (Scheduling Runs needed)

- Run master scheduling trials 4/2019
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Incorporate parent/teacher conferences for 8th grade parents

- Explore options with Teacher

- 2020-21
  - School year
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Isolate 8th graders from 9-12 graders during PE (Locker Rooms)

- Scheduling obstacles/ Gym space

- Cannot eliminate a class from a given period

# Next Board of Education Meeting:

April 16, 2019

Topic: Grade 5 Improvements:

- Humanities/STEM Team Structure  
*Maria Paese, Principal*
- Personalized Education Plan (PEP) Rotation Plan  
*Kristin Talleyrand, Assistant Principal*