

7th Grade Merge Proposal

September 2017

Our leadership team has been tracking enrollment numbers in the 7th grade for months. As we moved closer to the beginning of the school year, numbers continued to decline. Given that, and new information from Chico Unified School District regarding aspects of charter renewal, the administrative team began to re-examine the merge of the two 7th grade classes.

The following are key factors in the consideration of merging the 7th grades:

- 1) The reduction of enrollment in one class to 11 students, 10 boys & 1 girl.
- 2) The two current 7th grade classes combined would have 28 students.
- 3) In a merged 7th grade class, there would be 3 current IEPs, and one pending assessment.
- 4) Healthy number of students in a thriving middle school classroom.
- 5) Consideration that CUSD, our authorizers, are concerned about us carrying classes that are not deemed economically viable.
- 6) K-8 schools in the Chico area have been seeing a trend in reduced middle school numbers. Statistical trends do not support the likelihood of a significant increase in 7th grade enrollment.

For the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year, Kari Madera and Ginger Chew made the decision to teach their classes combined Main Lessons. The first week of school, together, they focused on team building activities. Currently, all 7th graders are in a Physiology block with Kari Madera as the lead teacher. The following block on the Renaissance will be taught by Ginger Chew. The 7th grade students are combined for specialties as well. They are in leveled groups for Math & Spanish, and have selected their preference for music instruction. Both teachers have expressed that it has been a nourishing and successful experience for the 7th grade students.

It is recommended that October be a month of transition, with October 30th being the start date of the full merge of 7th grade classes to teacher Ginger Chew.