



Middle Grades Teaming 101

At a glance

The Association for Middle Level Education defines **Interdisciplinary Teaming** as typically comprising teams of two to five teachers representing the core subjects. The team shares the same schedule, students, area of the building, responsibility for the core courses, and has common planning time.



"The entire school community reaps important benefits when members of the whole school community know what it means to have effective teaming, have a good idea of how teaming processes work, and look forward to the difference it will make for their students."

—Jack Berckemeyer,
Successful Middle School Teaming



The Association for Middle Level Education

Learn more and discover resources to support teaming at amle.org/teaming.

WHAT DO TEAMS DO?

Middle grades teams perform a number of core tasks, aided by common planning time, including planning how to integrate curriculum and personalize learning, analyze and reflect on assessment data and student work, discuss current research, and reflect on their team's effectiveness.

WHY TEAMING?

On teams, students interact with teachers who collaborate closely, providing a stable and caring support system. This consistent connection with multiple educators allows students to build trust, feel secure, and develop a sense of belonging, which are foundational elements for positive social development. Key benefits of teaming can include:



Improved Student Achievement



Enhanced Family Engagement



Positive School Culture

Improved Student Achievement

1

Teaming enables educators to tailor instruction to individual student needs and take a comprehensive approach to assessing and addressing academic progress, ensuring personalized learning and early intervention to prevent challenges from escalating. Shared responsibility among teachers fosters a culture of commitment to every student's academic success, driving focused efforts to meet learning goals.

2

Enhanced Family Engagement

Regular communication within the team ensure that families are well informed about their child's progress, strengths, and areas for improvement, fostering a collaborative approach to student success.

3

Bolstering School Culture + Teacher Collaboration

Teaming fosters a supportive environment where teachers collectively address students' needs, creating a web of support that enhances student expression and guidance while promoting teacher camaraderie, shared responsibility, and a healthier work-life balance. Regular collaboration through team meetings and lesson planning improves communication skills, strengthening intra-team dynamics and interactions with stakeholders, like parents.