

## Key Consideration for PK-8 Schools

When comparing K-8 schools to traditional elementary (K-5) and middle (6-8) schools, several logistical and administrative considerations come into play:

The first major decision that administration needs to make is how much interaction will be allowed to occur between elementary and middle school students...

- Will they ride on the same bus? How can this be managed?
- Will there be separate entrances for each?
- Will there be 2 principals, one for elementary and one for middle school? Or will there be one principal and multiple AP's?
- Are 2 cafeteria spaces required? An operable partition separating one large cafeteria space? The design will require one kitchen with 2 serving line areas.
- The media center will need to be larger to accommodate elementary and middle school level media. Is there a separation of areas within the media center or will it be managed with scheduling?
- Multiple play areas will be required for age-appropriate equipment.

SPS has traditionally designed both elementary and middle schools for a capacity of 800 students each, with some recent schools having larger capacities.

- For planning purposes, we will use a total capacity of 1,400 students
- 700 students x 120 SF = 84,000 SF for elementary
- 700 students x 145 SF = 101,500 SF for middle school
- Total building size = 185,500 SF
- Assuming there will be a 10% reduction in SF for spaces that can serve both (i.e., kitchen), the estimated size would equal approximately **166,950 SF**

\*Note: This does not take into consideration specific program needs or design features important to SPS.

$$166,950 \text{ SF} \times \$425 = \$70,953,750$$

$$5\% \text{ Contingency} = \$ 3,547,688$$

$$\underline{\text{Project soft costs @ 20\%} = \$14,190,750}$$

$$\text{Total Project Cost} = \$88,692,188 \text{ (in 2024 dollars)}$$

\*Note: We recommend 4% escalation per year, but may vary based on actual annual inflation

## Logistical Considerations

### Facilities and Space Utilization:

**K-8 Schools:** These schools need to accommodate a wider age range, which can require more diverse facilities, such as playgrounds for younger children and science labs for older students.

**Traditional Schools:** Separate elementary and middle schools can tailor their facilities specifically to the needs of their respective age groups, potentially optimizing space usage.

### Limited Specialized Resources:

K-8 schools often struggle to provide specialized resources and facilities, such as advanced science labs or sports facilities, which are more common in dedicated middle schools.

### Social and Emotional Development:

Older students in K-8 schools might miss out on the social and emotional growth opportunities that come from transitioning to a new environment in middle school. This can also lead to a lack of age-appropriate peer interactions.

### Resource Sharing:

Limited resources such as sports facilities, libraries, and extracurricular activities need to be shared among a wider age range of students, which can lead to scheduling conflicts and reduced availability.

### Transition to High School:

Students who do not experience a middle school environment might face a more significant culture shock when transitioning directly from a K-8 school to high school. This can impact their social adjustment and academic performance.

### Separate Wings or Buildings:

In K-8 schools, separating elementary students from middle school students is often managed through several strategies to ensure age-appropriate environments and minimize potential issues: Many K-8 schools are designed with distinct wings or even separate buildings for elementary and middle school students. This physical separation helps create tailored environments for different age groups.

### Dedicated Facilities:

Specific facilities like playgrounds, cafeterias, and libraries can be designated for use by either elementary or middle school students at different times, ensuring that each group has access to age-appropriate resources.