

# K-8 School Configurations



**BENEFITS FOR SMALL COMMUNITIES AND  
SCHOOLS**

# Student Learning



- Opportunities for increased mentoring, cross-age tutoring, elders helping younger,
- Differentiation/Flexible Grouping
- Multi-age grouping
- Experience with more student population
- Fewer transitions, less anxiety associated with transitions, improved learning and self-confidence
- Relationships with teachers over time
- Nurturing environments

# Curriculum and Instruction



- Vertical alignment and articulation K-8
- Professional Learning Communities with two teams of 4-5 teachers and specialists
- Differentiation/Flexible groups
- Depth of curriculum improves because teachers have more opportunity to see what next grades do and study

# Attract and Retain Highly Qualified Staff



- Easier to recruit and retain in a school that is small but has opportunities for collaboration with more than just a few teachers
- Stronger professional learning climate/leveraging relationships
- More opportunities for teaming, mentoring and professional growth
- K-8 can be rewarding as teachers watch their students grow over time
- Connections with community

# Community Schools



- Centered in the heart of positivism
- Connected to health and human services, CSD recreation, other support providers
- Increased parent participation/easier for parents to access
- Increased support providers, mentors, community volunteers due to location of school to community and residences
- Home visits
- Access to transportation hub
- Strengthen partnerships with community providers and explore collaborative funding opportunities that support community based programs and schools

# Fiscal and Business Operations



- Fiscally sustainable and less vulnerable to declines in enrollment
- Single administration and support services
- Funds go more directly to students and programs for students
- No split assignments for specialist and other admin
- Tighter business controls
- Co-location with District office a plus
- Economies of scale

# Challenges



- Isolation
  - Limited interactions with other students in Marin
  - Developing culturally relevant and responsive curriculum and programs
  - Social Emotional Development and support for students
  - Parent participation
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- Options – increased field trips, join MVSD, increase access and opportunities, bringing in kids from the outside

# Celebrations



- A Team and continued exploration of education models
- Community School Vision/Community Support
- Creating vibrancy and positivism
- Eager and dedicated staff
- Common Interests – we all want the best for our students
- Commitment to health, wellness, well-being