

## CLAYTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

*A School of Extraordinary People*

1471 South 1800 East  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

January 30, 2006

Dear Superintendent Withers and Members of the Salt Lake City Board of Education:

This letter describes the work done by the Faculty, PTSA and SCC of Clayton Middle School in relation to the K-8 model being offered as a choice in our community.

Clayton Middle School Faculty met with Superintendent McKell Withers, Dr. Dorothy Cosgrove, and facilitator Gene Klatt on October 31, 2005, for a presentation of the K-8 concept and discussion related to it.

On November 7, Clayton Faculty met during Faculty Meeting to discuss the strengths of each department. Breaking into small groups that were representative of each department, teachers answered the questions: What do we do well in this department in meeting the needs of students? and "What suggestions can be made in our Clayton setting that would promote new choices for students? Teachers presented their findings and wrote their finding for our final report. (attached)

Members of School Improvement Council selected ten articles from those recommended from the district K-8 web site. SIC members read the articles and then made the recommendation for our Faculty to read five articles. On November 21 all teachers met in small groups to read one of the five articles and then summarize the article for the entire Faculty. In addition, each group answered the question: Is there enough evidence in this article to support a K-8 model in our district? Based on these articles, all groups answered that question with a "No."

Our SIC met with SCC in December and January. We spoke of our work to study K-8 within Clayton with SCC members. Our discussion was often based on what parents believed to be the best delivery of education for their children. They did not believe that a K-8 model would be effective.

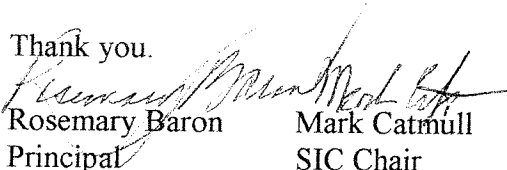
Teacher representatives and principal met with PTSA in November, December and January. We addressed the K-8 model. Parents were given the article by Paul George from National Middle School which discussed the pros and cons of K-8. Parents suggested that we have an Open House for perspective parents of Clayton students. In addition a flyer "Did You Know This About Clayton?" (attached) was sent with the Open House invitation.

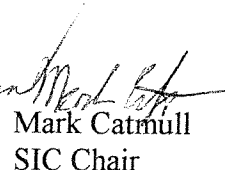
On our January 10 Open House Clayton welcomed 75+ patrons for a tour of our school to observe what we do best: teaching and learning. We had many questions, many observations, and points of feedback.

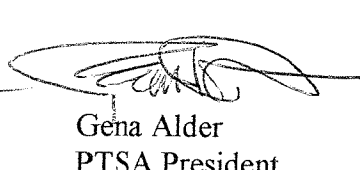
Our principal, PTSA President, Gena Alder and SCC Chair, Ingunn Earl were present at many of the meetings held in our feeder schools. This was an advantage so that questions related to Clayton Middle School could be answered.

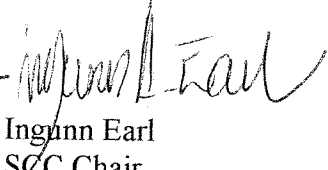
Clayton Middle School Faculty, PTSA and SCC do not support K-8 as a feasible model for our community.

Thank you.

  
Rosemary Baron  
Principal

  
Mark Catmull  
SIC Chair

  
Gena Alder  
PTSA President

  
Ingunn Earl  
SCC Chair

## Clayton Middle School

### Department Strengths

Counseling- Catmull, Hill, Balcom

Transition 6 to 7 and 8 to 9

SEOP Conference involving teacher who know the student

After school programs that are successes with 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders: structured differently than elementary programs

Changes/choices

1-social lessons-socially appropriate, socially proactive

2-make career day-ongoing- career speaker and brunch

By school year

Language Arts & History-Nagata, Fuchs, Dahlkamp, Mecham

7<sup>th</sup> grade interdisciplinary teams (history/English)

8<sup>th</sup> grade common students (history/English)

Late work policy as prep for 9<sup>th</sup> grade

Know students well-lots of support

Cross-curricular activities

Lots of writing

Lots of reading

Lots of research

Avoid redundancy-with teaming and communication

Reading strategies

History fair

Leveled classes

Reading classes

Change/choices

Advanced literature

Newspaper/journalism

Speech & drama

News currents-current events

Yearbook

More foreign languages

Music/Art /TLC

Fresh outlook

Specialized courses/programs/clubs

Many choices for exploration & experience

Practical application of learned skills

Rite of passage  
Product is age appropriate  
High – higher expectations  
Teachers who work in middle schools relate well with students in this age group  
Clayton Middle School in particular has high test results and high academic standards  
Specialized facilities-equipment for each department

#### Mathematics

Continue to offer advance, regular and remedial courses in order to meet the needs of all students  
Team with another content area so that we can teach kids math for 60 minutes every day (1/2 hour for other classes)  
Continue to offer before/after school help  
Continue to use technology and models

#### Changes/choices

Hire more teachers and double the length of each math class time

#### Special Education

Individualized instruction  
Making accommodations/modifications  
Building rapport with students, parents and teachers  
Selecting materials  
Tracking progress  
Files in compliance  
Collaborating as a department  
Mentoring new teachers  
Trained in current practices/testing procedures (Woodcott-Johnson III)  
Teachers with diverse backgrounds  
Attending file exchange with 6<sup>th</sup> grade teachers and high school teachers to become informed on needs of incoming students and help with transition of 8<sup>th</sup> graders

#### Changes/choices

Increase collaboration with regular ed teachers  
Increase teachers use of accommodations withng regular ed classrooms  
More flexibility in scheduling elective classes for self-contained classes

#### Physical Education

Core curriculum covered  
Getting everyone active and involved  
Fitness improvement  
Raising money for equipment (Smiths and Albertsons)  
Emphasize skills &drills to prepare for sports

Self motivation in improving fitness  
Teaching rules and strategies

Changes/choices  
More cross curriculum with health  
Do more technology  
Better use of outside resources  
More team teaching

Science  
Total inclusion with resource, ELP, BD ESL students  
Academic strengths include CRT high pass rate  
Great hands on science  
Long term department commitment with curriculum and school wide goals  
Great fun teachers  
Suggestion refer to department study that was done last year for accreditation