



**HNH Steering
Committee
members**

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Many other teachers, staff members and parents are involved in Hadley New Horizons. The Steering Committee was established to help unify the work and guide communication around it.

Introducing **HNH**news

*System-wide improvement efforts are underway at Hadley Junior High with the help of nationally known middle school expert Dr. Ron Williamson. It's important for the success of the work that all D41 parents—not just Hadley parents—understand our purpose, are kept abreast of our progress and know where to get their questions answered—hence, this document, **HNH News**. This first issue introduces the work; future issues will provide a window into our discussions and progress. Communicating through change is a challenge, and we know that change goes more smoothly when communication lines are open. Thank you for taking the time to read this information. On behalf of myself and the Hadley New Horizons Steering Committee, we are looking forward to sharing more about this project as the year goes on. As always, if you have questions or comments about the Hadley New Horizons work, or general questions about Hadley issues, I welcome your calls.*

*—Chris Dransoff,
Principal, Hadley Junior High*

HNH work to date

Six groups have been convened to study aspects of school functioning and to make recommendations. The groups, which include faculty, staff, administrators and parents, are: Mission, Exploratory Programs, Time and Organization, Adult-Student Relationships, Home-School Communication, and Team Functioning.

The groups are working to create recommendations for consideration for the 2009-2010 school year (although the work may result in some moderate adjustments for the 2008-9 school year). The recommendations will go through the district's decision making process, which may involve consideration by one or more of the Teams For Excellence and review and action by the Board of Education.

The groups are committed to:

- Making recommendations based on what is best for middle-level learners.
- Making recommendations only after exploring the research regarding the best in middle-level education.
- Communicating to stakeholders as work progresses.

The Study Groups

Following is an overview of the study groups, which are in various stages of their work:

Mission: With input from parents and staff, this group developed a new mission statement and a set of belief statements for Hadley. These have been communicated to the school community and will guide short- and long-term decisions for the school.

Exploratory: This group is examining exploratory program offerings at Hadley in light of current thinking in middle level education. It will recommend an exploratory offering that meets the needs of students in ways that are consistent with the best in middle-level education and with community expectations. Current exploratory offerings fall in the areas of the arts, foreign language, health, communication, technology and life skills.

Time and Organization: This group is examining the strengths and limitations of the way we currently use and organize time at Hadley, and other ways Hadley could use and organize its time to support student learning and help Hadley accomplish school goals.

Adult-Student Relationships. This group will focus on finding ways to make sure that all children know how to access adult support at school, feel there is an adult at school who cares about them as individuals and who knows their strengths and challenges.

Home-School Communications. This group will look at how to make sure that Hadley is effectively connecting and communicating with its parents, and how to make sure that parents know they are invited to be valued partners in their children's education.

Team Functioning. This group will look at how teaching teams (and other types of faculty/staff teams) are functioning today, and how they can become more effective in creating a collaborative learning environment at all levels, positively impacting student achievement, and better serving the needs of students, faculty and staff.