

Teacher Assignment based on Looping / Grade Configuration

An extended relationship between the class teacher and the student is part of the foundation of the Sebastopol Independent Charter School pedagogical approach. The trust and understanding that builds in such an extended relationship allows the teacher to more fully understand and comprehensively address students' social, emotional and intellectual needs during their enrollment at Sebastopol Charter.

In addition, there is a significant need for a specialized middle grades program that provides the academic rigor and comprehensive adolescent support elements that ensure positive early adult development.

As such, Sebastopol Charter School will organize its looping program into an elementary and middle grade configuration. By design, a class will loop with an assigned teacher for grades 1 through 4. Upon grade 5, students will pass to a middle grades teacher, who will loop with the class from grades 5 through 8.

1. Elementary Grades

a. Elementary is defined as grades 1 through 4.

b. Elementary Main Lesson Teachers will loop with their class starting in first grade and finishing in fourth grade.

i. Given the unpredictability of personnel congruence and efficacy, and in the ability to retain personnel to fulfill multi-year loop terms, deviation from the loop ideal may occur, the loop being carried by a different teacher for a portion or remainder of the loop as necessary.

ii. Sebastopol Charter recognizes that different teachers have different capacities and preferences in regards to the ages of their students. Consequently, the number of years that any given teacher remains with their class is ultimately decided by the Executive Director.

2. Middle Grades

a. Middle is defined as grades 5 through 8.

b. Middle Grade Main Lesson Teachers will loop with their class starting in fifth grade and finishing in eighth grade.

i. Given the unpredictability of personnel congruence and efficacy, and in the ability to retain personnel to fulfill multi-year loop terms, deviation from the loop ideal may occur, the loop being carried by a different teacher for a portion or remainder of the loop as necessary.

ii. Sebastopol Charter recognizes that different teachers have different capacities and preferences in regards to the ages of their students. Consequently, the number of years that any given teacher remains with their class is ultimately decided by the Executive Director.

c. The Middle Grade Main Lesson Teacher will collaborate with the rest of the middle grade team to provide subject area leadership, which may result in mentoring and/or direct instruction of other middle grade classes within their assigned content area.