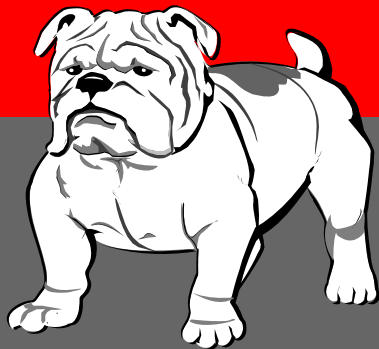


SANDPOINT MIDDLE SCHOOL

Preparing students for
success in high
school and beyond.

CORE STRENGTHS:

*Safe Environment
Just the Right Size
Student-Centered Teachers
Challenging Curriculum
Engaging, Hands-On Projects
Grants and Innovative Programs
Clubs and Activities
Sports and More*



310 S. Division Street
Sandpoint, ID 83864
Phone 265-4169
Web: <http://sm.lposd.org>

A Safe, Supportive, Inclusive Environment

Students, parents, faculty and staff feel a connection at Sandpoint Middle School. From the moment students walk in the door of our “vintage” building, they know they belong. A recent Safe & Drug Free Schools survey confirmed that students feel safe and secure at SMS. Discipline is fair and students are well-monitored within the school setting. This year, we have had zero incidents with tobacco, alcohol, or other illicit substances. Past years have also had very few such incidents. Several student groups work to maintain an Atmosphere of Kindness (AOK) in our school all year long.

Just the Right Size

In 2010, our projected enrollment is 460 students. We operate under a “school within a school” design, knowing that students perform better when they feel connected. Each “team” is comprised of approximately 115 students who share the same core teacher group. Our students are sheltered within a “closed campus”: they are free to grow and interact with age-appropriate peers.

Relevant, Integrative, and Challenging Curriculum

Built on the progressive three-tier model, SMS offers classes appropriate to all students’ levels of achievement: Strategic, Benchmark, and Advanced classes are available in all four “teams”. Qualified high achievers may take advantage of Advanced Math and Science classes. Benchmark classes follow a district pacing plan, which ensures adequate yearly growth. SMS teachers utilize active engagement teaching strategies to accommodate students’ diverse skills and learning styles and allow children to cultivate their multiple intelligences. Hands-on projects are appropriately structured to maximize student learning.



SMS = QUALITY EDUCATION

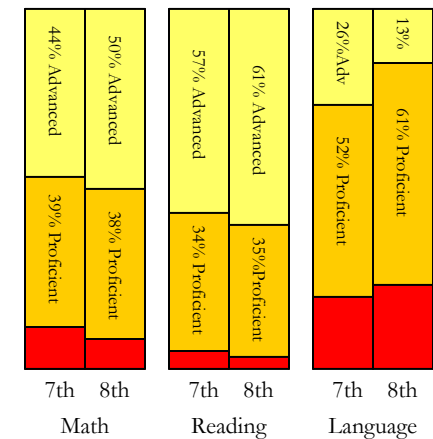
New Schedule

In 2010, we are expanding to a seven-period day. This allows daily exposure to all classes, including electives and PE, and is developmentally appropriate for adolescent learning styles. Advanced Math and Science sections challenge students to problem-solve and develop higher-level skills.

Achievement Matters

We are justifiably proud of our students’ success. In Reading and Math, SMS is one of the three best-performing schools in the five northern counties.

Percent of SMS students scoring Advanced and Proficient on 2009 ISAT testing



Clubs and Activities

SMS offers a wide range of activities before, during, and after school. During the regular school day, students take core classes and PE/Health, and an elective from a menu including band, choir, home economics, industrial technology (with an emphasis on robotics at the 8th grade level), media arts/yearbook publishing, world languages, art, and computers. Additional activities include the student newspaper, Idaho Drug-Free Youth (IDFY), MathCounts (an award-winning competitive club), Rachel’s Challenge, Jazz Band, Orchestra, Pep Club, and Environmental Club. SMS students have the opportunity to travel to the Washington, D.C. area during Spring Break, or Costa Rica in early summer, with faculty chaperones and parents.

Structured and Engaging Experiential Learning

The Brain Unit is a multi-disciplinary learning project that includes study of Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences theory, with particular focus on the adolescent brain. Students are guided in developing projects tailored to their particular strengths.

The Solar Cars Unit is a learning project that enables students to design and create miniature vehicles powered by the sun.

Siemens Challenge is a long-term, experiential, applied science project that allows students to explore, study, and implement creative, real-world solutions to environmental issues in our school and community.



Photo: SMS students promote awareness of real-world environmental issues and propose workable solutions.

Outstanding Teachers

Our teaching staff averages 22 years of experience, and nine have earned advanced degrees in their area of expertise. 100% of the staff is "highly qualified". Many of our teachers keep and regularly update websites with curriculum and assignment calendars, often including links to supporting material. Visit the Sandpoint Middle School website and browse some of them under the links to "Staff Websites" and "Faculty and Staff School Fusion Pages".

Student Progress Monitoring

Additionally, our Parent Access Support System (PASS) site allows parents to regularly view their child's schedule, grades, progress reports, and other pertinent information online.

Grants and Innovations

The Panhandle Alliance for Education supports innovative practices. This year PAFE gave SMS eleven grants.

"The teachers at Sandpoint Middle School have enthusiastically supported the Panhandle Alliance for Education's Teacher Grants Program. Their hands-on approach to learning creates an atmosphere of fun and fascination. Brain dissections, solar cars, Shakespeare, robotics, and award-winning math clubs are just a few of the many creative programs the teachers have developed for their students."

**Marcia Wilson, Executive Director
Panhandle Alliance for Education**



Photo: The Sandpoint Middle School MATHCOUNTS team took first place at regional competition in February. The team is flying to Boise (courtesy of generous PAFE funding) to compete in the state competition in March.

Sports and More

SMS students are encouraged to be strong, healthy, and to practice good sportsmanship. We field teams in football, volleyball, tennis, basketball, wrestling, golf, track, and cross-country. We are developing a dynamic dance team that performs at basketball games and assemblies. We sponsor dances, hold talent shows, participate in art shows, present holiday assemblies, and feature student voices in an annual poetry slam. We have a packed calendar for the 2010-2011 school year, with a multitude of opportunities for students to shine. Over 80% of our student body participates in one or more extracurricular activity in a typical school year!

Parent Voices

Mrs. Wendy Dunn, president of the Panhandle Alliance for Education Executive Committee:

"All four of my children have attended SMS, and it's been a great experience for each of them. Wonderful teachers, challenging curriculum, and great extra-curriculars!"

Mrs. Angela Endicott:

"The educational environment at SMS has been outstanding for my daughter, and she loves her teachers. She also loves the extra-curricular opportunities, and the social atmosphere has been wonderful."

Dr. Scott and Mrs. Alison Burgstaber:

"The Sandpoint Middle School teaching staff and curriculum style make for a wonderful learning experience. Both of our children attended SMS, and were very prepared for high school, thanks to their excellent teachers."



This informational brochure was printed in-house on a Dell 3110cn color printer donated four years ago by the Sandpoint Middle School Parent-Teacher Organization.