

The Ottoson Middle School Budget Requests for 2020-2021

Thank you for considering the Ottoson Middle School budget requests. Most of these requests are based on enrollment increases. This year there are 900 students at the Ottoson. Next year, we project we will have 940.

1. .2 PE teacher - Last year, I requested an additional .6 PE teacher. An additional .4 PE teacher was funded. This year I am requesting the remaining .2 be funded. This will reduce class sizes from 24.7 to 23.4. Additionally, this would align our PE department with our FACS, art, and technology departments. Currently, the art, technology, and FACS teachers teach 40 sections of classes while the PE department teaches 38 sections. Having an equal number of sections will help balance class sizes. This year one of our PE teachers is .8. Next year, she will be on step 2. The total cost to the budget will be approximately 10,600.
2. .2 Spanish teacher - Next year, there will be 205 students taking 8th grade Spanish. Currently, there are 8 sections. Adding another section would reduce the average class size from 25.7 to 22.8.
3. 2.0 Learning Community Teachers - Next year, we will have 485 seventh grade students. As a result, each learning community would have 121.25 students with class sizes of 24.2 students. Having half a learning community would reduce the learning community to 108 students with class sizes of 21.6 students. Originally, in the five year plan I requested a full learning community.
4. 1.0 Special Educator - With the addition of an extra half learning community, we will need a special educator to support this learning community. Also our numbers of special education students are growing. Next year, we will have 78 students in seventh grade.
5. 1.0 Bridge teacher - Currently, the Ottoson is seeing a growth in the number of students who experience long term absences as a result of hospitalizations, medical and mental health needs, and school refusal issues. As enrollment grows over the next five years, so does the need for a successful transition program for our middle school students. During the 2019-2020 school year, OMS will complete a rigorous and detailed planning process to build a program that will help students transition back to school. The goal would be to have this program created for the 2020-2021 school year. During the 2018-2019 school year, eleven Ottoson students had long-term absences for medical and mental health reasons. In addition, during the 2018-2019 school year, 29 Ottoson students would have benefited from a transitional program for a short-term period. I originally had this in the third year of the five year plan. However, I would like to start this program for next year.
6. .1 Administrative Assistant - with an extra forty students the clerical work at the middle school has increased.
7. Increase three TAs in the Reach and Compass programs to become BSPs - I am having a difficult time retaining TAs at their current rate. The increase in pay would cost approximately \$15,000.

8. .4 math teacher - . 2 for math support due to an increase of students coming into 7th grade from Gibbs that have been identified for tier 2 support. Also, there are needs within Tier 1 support for student(s) within ELL.
9. .4 computer science teacher - this would/could allow us to service a higher percentage of students.

Thank you for your time and consideration - Brian Meringer