

UAA ED 555, Section 712 or 713,  
Building a School Community  
1-2 Credits, November 2006-June, 2007

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Muldoon Area Middle School (unofficial name)  
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## COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course provides the opportunity for staff to get acquainted, learn about their respective styles, strengths and goals and develop positive working connections and camaraderie that will form the foundation of our school. As staff members are hired from October, 2006 through July, 2007, with the majority of faculty hired in early November, 2006, they will be invited to join the bi-monthly meetings which will with be focused on one topic relevant to the development of the new school. Explorations of the topics will be research based; using the available middle school education materials and tapping into the local curriculum experts. The class will meet at various locations throughout the community so that students, parents and community members can meet the staff and join the discussions while staff learn about the community resources.

## MEETING DATES, TIMES AND LOCATION

December 7, 4-6 p.m. – Susitna Elementary School, Room 10  
December 14, 4-6 p.m. –Service High School, Room D008 (lower D hall on east side of bldg.)

January 9, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA  
January 25, 7:00 pm. - Meet with Northeast Community Council, Boys and Girls Club

February 8, 4-6 p.m. –Location TBA  
February 20, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA.

March 6, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA  
March 29, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA

April 10, 4-6 p.m. -Location TBA  
April 26, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA

May 10, 4-6 p.m. – Location TBA

May 12, 8-noon, MAMS MPR and Library  
Saturday morning retreat in building to make decisions, formulate our vision and mission, identify our guiding principles, and provide summer “food for thought.” The morning retreat will end with a lunch potluck.

## WORKING COMMITTEES

All will be part of large group or department discussions on our mascot, colors and themes, mission and vision, and their respective curriculum committee. Each staff member will identify one other working committee from the following list on which to serve.

POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE AND DECORUM  
TECHNOLOGY  
ACTIVITIES  
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT  
NUTS AND BOLTS OF SCHEDULING

## STRUCTURE OF CLASS MEETINGS

Each meeting will start with introductions and announcements. Throughout the class we will continue to get to know each other by sharing philosophy, ideas, interests and goals. We will review and share articles of interest or readings. We will solicit input from all guests. A typical class format will use cooperative strategies to involve everyone, discuss perimeters and/or listen to a speaker and “leave with intentions” for further study and reflection. At the second meeting of month, we may have staff findings and presentations to determine school procedure or make practical decisions. The process will remain fluid to adjust for changing group composition, issues that develop, and timelines.

Concurrently, each staff member will work independently with members of their department to discuss their curriculum and make decisions about how they will collaborate.

## INTENDED AUDIENCE

All staff of Muldoon Area Middle School are invited to be in the class. However, every meeting is open to students, parents, and community members.

## RESOURCES

-Cooperative strategies are foundation of discussions and committee work. We will learn by doing and interacting. A major goal will be to involve community members who attend our open meetings.

-Breaking Ranks in the Middle: Strategies for Leading Middle Level Reform (and other NASSP professional publications)

-2004 Model Schools, International Center for Leadership in Education, William Daggett.

-“Six Steps to an Achieving Middle School,” Hayes Mizell,  
[www.middleweb.com/HMcharlotte.html](http://www.middleweb.com/HMcharlotte.html) >

-This We Believe, Developmentally Responsive Middle Level Schools, National Middle School Association (NMSA)

“The first 200 days of school network” handout.

-Materials from Lorraine Monroe, Geoff Colvin, and Harry Wong on philosophy, structure, and climate.

-District experts for different areas: Michelle Egan on internet use and PA; Heidi Embley and Michelle Egan for Customer Service and Media; Brian Griggs for Military Liaison; Vicki Blakleney for SEL; Mike Kerosky, Julie Vincek and Jan Davis on SDFS, AVB and climate; Julia Melson on ARS; CITC, Bilingual, and Indian Education; Mr. Yang, Hmong tutor at Creekside and Muldoon; Amy Goodman, Ruth Mount, Robby Bear, Steve Ex, Myrna Clark, Janice Gullickson, Rick Rios and other curriculum specialists); outside agencies such as OCS, STAR, (they have a section on how to talk to kids), Alaska Native Heritage Center, TPD mentor program, Pat Madden for HQ status .

-“ Building Connections” videotape, ideas for 2005-2006 and previous years from MLMS, and 101 Ideas to Open a New Middle School.

-Magellan for staff assessments.

-Social Work Intern, UAA MSW placement site.

-Prevention/Intervention Coordinator

-Safe and Drug Free School assets grant.

-Fire and police workers; SRO's.

-School Business Partnerships.

-Arts Council grants

-CADFY

-Youth Court

-YWCA/YMCA

-Boys and Girls Club of Anchorage

-Military resources to help with deployments, new students, families; contact Brian Griggs and Chaplain Jerry .

-Alex Mayo, SDFS Youth Assets Specialists, organizes the Alyeska Ski bus.

-Alaska Junior Theater, Lainie Dreas, provide free buses for students to attend theater.

-KCC has law enforcement explorer program.