

The Future of Oak Park Prep

What will 8th Grade at Oak Park Prep look like for the 2018-2019 School Year?

- 8th grade at Oak Park Prep will look very similar to how it's looked in years past. There will be no significant changes to the way 8th grade operates.
- Nicole Bibel will be the Site Lead for 8th grade. She will ensure that culture amongst the eighth grade team is strong and that the day-to-day operations flow smoothly.

What will 7th Grade at Oak Park Prep look like for the 2018-2019 School Year?

- The 25 families that have enrolled their scholar in the 7th grade will be informed that there will not be an 8th grade at Oak Park Prep for the 2019-2020 school year and for this reason, they will be offered the opportunity to become a 7th grader at PS7.

How did this decision come about?

- Beginning two years ago, the St. HOPE Management Team comprised of both school leaders and home office leadership began a discussion around grade level configuration and what was best for the network. After a significant amount of research and through several conversations, it became obvious that a middle school merger was best for the future of St. HOPE. We also learned that our SHPS middle schools, Oak Park Prep and PS7M, could compete with some of the strongest charter schools in the country when comparing demographics. And what we have found is that there are more efficient and impactful ways to structure a charter network to best serve students and what had perhaps worked for us at one point in time had become convoluted and less effective.
- We found that some of the best networks were structured with an elementary school, serving students TK-5; a middle school, serving students 6-8; and a high school serving students 9-12, operated independently but all under the vision of one academic leader. Just two months ago, we named that academic leader when we elevated Principal Wehrly to Chief of Schools.

Why is this a good decision?

- We have learned that having two small middle schools on the same campus leads to incredible inefficiencies and prevents us from offering students more class options. **With this new model we are excited that our middle school scholars will have the opportunities for electives such as foreign language, art and dance, skills we know our students need to compete at the next level and enrich their academic experience.** PS7M and OPPA have been two of the top performing middle schools in the city and we believe that combining forces will allow us to scale and ultimately serve more students, better!
- We are so proud of the excellent programs we have at both Oak Park Prep and PS7 and bringing the two together creates more opportunities for alignment across the network especially as these scholars become 9th graders at Sac High.