

K 8 at Mountain Island



SCIENCE | TECHNOLOGY | ENGINEERING | MATHEMATICS

MOUNTAIN ISLAND

CREATING FOOTPRINTS FOR THE FUTURE

Why K8?

- Our current Middle School options are not prepared to continue the substantial investment in STEM Mountain Island is making
- We believe a K8 format will allow for stronger parent involvement, stronger student/teacher relationships and ultimately a stronger school
- K8 allows parents to only consider one move in their children's time in school, that being to High School
- Many STEM initiatives and funding opportunities require we be beyond 5 in order to be considered or competitive. These include such opportunities as First City and the 3M Young Scientist Challenge

Questions to Consider

Questions	Draft Response
Are we going K8 in one year	No. We would add 6 th next year, 7 the next year and finally 8 th the following year. Students would be those currently in our feeder area.
Are we becoming a Magnet	No. Becoming a Magnet would mean that students currently at Mountain Island would not be guaranteed a space.
What would the school name be	Current option is <i>Mountain Island Lake Academy</i> . Can be reviewed.
Will all children ride the same bus	Yes. Buses will pick up all grades by location
How will the additional students be housed	Initially and for the foreseeable future we will use mobile classrooms. The intent is the current single units can be replaced by lodge style units. Construction of permanent facilities would come as budget considerations allow.
How will the students be separated	The Administration will use physical location and scheduling to manage the interaction between ages. We cannot realistically commit that there will be not be a time when students of both levels will interface.

Questions to Consider

Questions	Draft Response
If we do not want to stay for 6-8 we can simply opt out, correct?	No. This change constitutes a change in home school. Any transfer would have to go through the current (at the time) transfer application process.
Will there be other physical changes to the school	The school will be provided two fully built out Science Labs and a Technology Lab.
What about additional curriculum changes	We will continue to focus on building a system leading STEM curriculum. Understanding that literacy, collaboration and creativity are key components to successful STEM implementation we will continue to value and build on our strong literacy and arts programs. We intend to add dance, drama and additional music programs as part of this change.
Will the current boundaries be redrawn	No. Current Mountain Island neighborhoods will remain Mountain Island neighborhoods.
Are other cities looking at K 8?	Yes. A number of cities across the country have begun transitioning to a K 8 format.
Are there any studies examining the pros and cons of Middle Schools verses K 8?	Yes, there are a number of them. As you might expect there are studies supporting both sides of this issue.

Questions to Consider

Questions	Draft Response
Will we offer athletics	<p>It will be our intent to offer athletics at Mountain Island. Middle schools in CMS don't allow 6th graders to participate in athletics so our program would need to be ready by the second year of our transition. Middle school sports are also currently funded outside of CMS due to the budget challenges of the last two years. In current K8 schools students can try out and play for teams in their former middle school. (for us that would be Coulwood or Bradley)</p> <p>We have heard of a new possibility that we would pursue that would create a new league for K8 schools.</p>