

## **Middle School Teams and Looping**

### **What are the teams like at the middle school?**

When students first come to the middle school they are placed on teams. Instead of having one teacher instructing in all subject areas, like many elementary schools, middle school students have a team of two or three teachers teach all of the core subject area classes. Students are placed on their team in grade six and stay with the same group of teachers and students until the end of eighth grade. This is referred to as looping.

*The team names are: Royal River, Moose Island, Katahdin, Acadia and Sebago*

### **Structure of Teaming at MCMS**

- Four Regular Education Teams + One Alternative Education Team
- Each regular education team has approximately 70 students and 3 teachers
- Alternative education has two teachers, two ed techs, and approximately 20 students.
- Teams are made of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students

We follow the Common Core State Curriculum on all teams in all grades. So, regardless of the structure, all students are getting the same curriculum, and are expected to meet the same standards. This is done through common assessments.

### **Multiage Instruction**

Because all teams are multiage, most classes are taught multiage. Math is an exception, but students who show proficiency can move to grade level standards to best support their individual learning needs. All students should be appropriately challenged each year. There are multiple different options to help ensure this, including:

- RTI Intervention for math, writing and reading
- Special Education services and instruction for eligible students
- Gifted/ Talented Instruction for eligible students
- Ability to take more challenging math (either in a math "grade" above, Gifted & Talented, or at the high school) for students who have met the appropriate standards).
- Individualized instruction for higher order thinking

