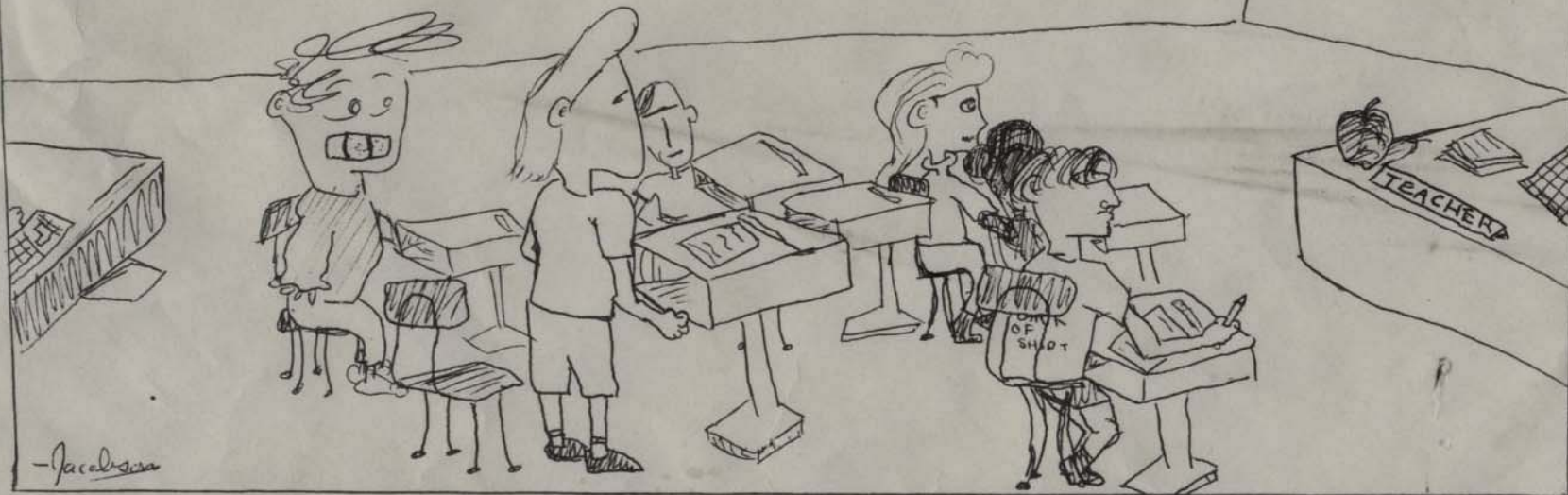


No, MATT'S NOT
IN TODAY, I'M
HIS SUB STUDENT



If there were substitute students.....



Sleepy Hollow Middle School

Middle School Research Steering
Committee



Agenda

- Welcome
- Getting started
 - Introductions
 - Review of our work
 - Norms of behavior
 - “When Children Turn Into Cats” by Adair Lara
- The Middle-Level Child?
- The Essential Elements
- “This We Believe”



Review of our work

- To examine the research based recommendations of state and national organizations to develop a position paper outlining the elements required to develop an exemplary middle school program
- Sources
 - The Essential Elements of Standards Based Middle Schools (NYSMSA and NYSED)
 - “This We Believe” (NMSA)
 - Breaking Ranks in the Middle (NASSP)
 - Current literature
 - Regional Site Visitations



Norms of Behavior

- One person at a time speaks
- We will all listen attentively
- We will respect all opinions
- We agree to respectfully disagree
- No side conversations

When Children Turn Into Cats

By
Adair Lara





The Middle-Level Child?

- What comes to mind when you think of middle school children?
- Take a few minutes and jot down the thoughts which come to mind.
- Lets share!

Characteristics of Middle-Level Children



A Few Implications for Education

- All students experience the transition from child to adolescent, however no two people experience the change in the same way or at the same time
- Cognitive growth allows students to think in more abstract and complex ways
- Middle schools must “shepherd” students through transition b/n elementary and high school orientations

Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs

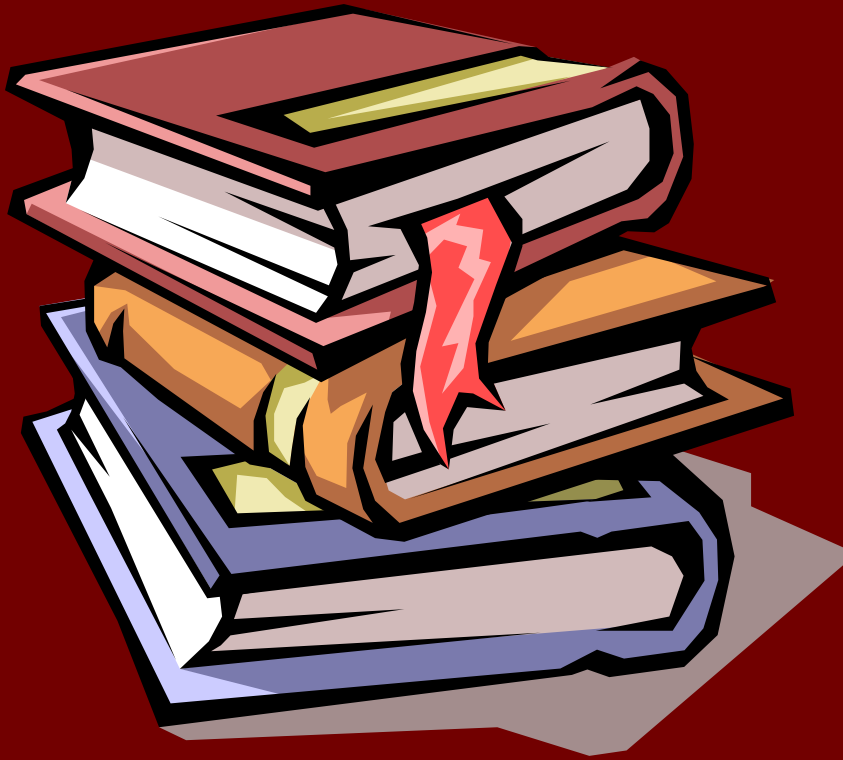


Essential Element 1: Philosophy and Mission

- **A philosophy and mission that reflect the intellectual and developmental needs and characteristics of young adolescents.**



Essential Element 2: Educational Program



- An educational program that is comprehensive, challenging, purposeful, integrated, and standards-based.

Essential Element 3: Organization and Structure



- An organization and structure that support both academic excellence and personal development.

Essential Element 4: Classroom Instruction

- Classroom instruction appropriate to the needs and characteristics of young adolescents provided by skilled and knowledgeable teachers.



Essential Element 5: Educational Leadership



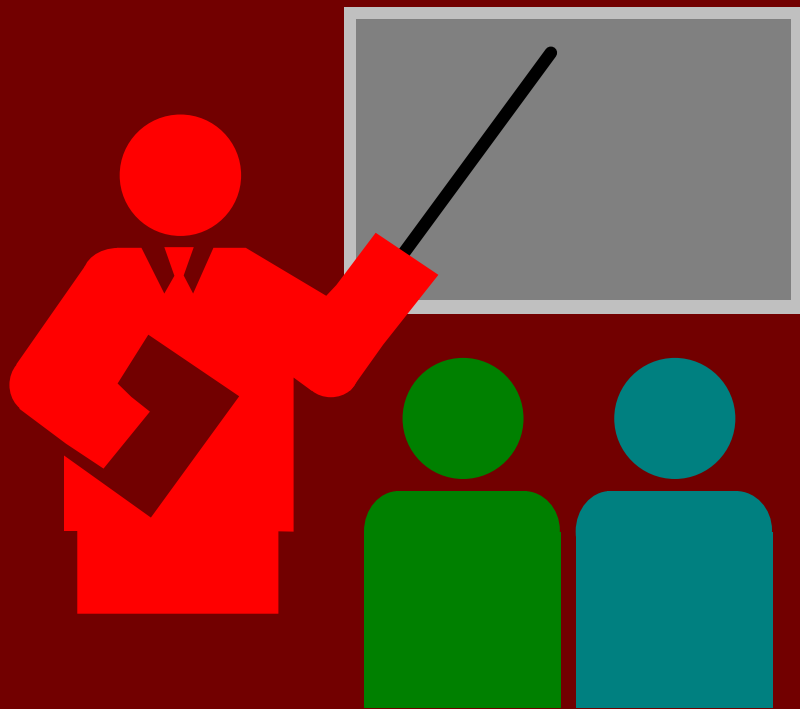
- **Strong educational leadership and a building administration that encourages, facilitates, and sustains involvement, participation, and partnerships.**

Essential Element 6: A Network of Academic and Personal Support

- A network of academic and personal support available for students.



Essential Element 7: Professional Training and Staff Development



- Professional training and staff development that are ongoing, planned, purposeful, and collaborated.

Essential Elements of Standards-Focused Middle-Level Schools and Programs





Group Work

- Each group has been assigned one of the Essential Elements
- Use the pamphlet which corresponds with your Element as a reference
- Create a poster which visually represents your groups Essential Element



Next Meeting

- Monday, January 8, 2007
- Please read "This We Believe" and record any notes or questions which may arise
- Have a wonderful Holiday Season!☺