Curricular Considerations of Grade-Level Centers

There are three curricular considerations that should impact any decision to reconfigure two K-8 centers to grade-level centers with a K-5 and 6-8 configuration.

1. Balancing the number of students between each class at a grade level
2. Meeting the instructional needs of the students
3. Supporting the goal of helping each child continue to achieve success

#1. Balancing the Numbers: f K-8 School Configuration Compared to a Grade-Level Site School

#2. Supporting the Goal of Each Student Achieving Success in Each Grade Level

According to the research that I have reviewed, there is a slight drop in achievement in the transition year. This drop in achievement is seen for the first two months or so. It is comparable to the two months loss from summer vacation. The students make up the loss in achievement after the first couple of months, but the success of the students is dependent on the culture of the accepting school, the level of familiarity of the entering students with the accepting school, and the ability level of the students who are making the transition. *Note: The transition year is defined as the year when students move from one school to another school, i.e., 5th graders from one school move to the middle school to begin 6th grade.*

#3. Meeting the instructional needs of the students

Math Configuration at Central & West (09-10)

Number of Classes	Central 6th	West 6th	Central 7	West 7	Central 8	West 8
Grade Level Math 1 to Chap 11	1 (18)	2 (22) (17)				
Grade Level Math 2 to Chap 11		1 (23)	1 (20)	0		
Grade Level Math 2+ 1 Chapter of Pre Algebra	2 (24) (21)	0		1 (15)		
Pre Algebra to Ch. 8		1 (19)	2 (28) (27)	1 (22)		
Pre Algebra to Ch. 10	1 (24)					
Pre Algebra to Ch. 11	1(26)	0				
Pre Algebra Finish					1 (24)	2 (18) (22)
Pre Algebra + 3 Chap. 0f Algebra			2 (27) (23)	1 (19)		
Algebra 1 to Chap7: Both Warren and Lakes H.S. offer Summer School for Students Who Want to Take Geometry in Freshman Year					2 (26) (18)	0
High School Algebra					1(28)	1 (24)

Math Configuration at 6-8 Site School (10-11)

Number of Classes	Sixth Grade	Seventh Grade	Eighth Grade
Grade Level Math 2 to Chap 11	3 (24)	1.2 (19)	0
Grade Level Math 2+ 1 Chapter of Pre Algebra	2 (26.5)	0	0
Pre Algebra to Ch. 8	0	3 (25.7)	0
Pre Algebra to Ch. 11	2 (26)	0	0
Pre Algebra Finish	0	0	2.8 (22.8)
Pre Algebra + 3 Chap. 0f Algebra	0	3 (23)	0
Algebra 1 to Chap7: Both Warren and Lakes H.S. offer Summer School for Students Who Want to Take Geometry in Freshman Year	0	0	2 (22)
	0	0	2 (26)

Reflections

Advantages	Considerations
1. Balance in the number of students between each class at grade level improves	1. Possible, slight, achievement drop at beginning of the year comparable to a summer drop.
2. Flexible placement between grades should be easier.	2. Careful planning necessary on the part of the receiving school to make the transition a comfortable one.
3. Easier to monitor the delivery of curriculum	3. A conscious effort will need to be made to maintain the essentials of the middle school concept
4. Scheduling each year should be easier and quicker	
5. Traveling of Specials Teachers may be eliminated	
6. Developing an Rtl schedule will be facilitated by	