

Proposal for an additional 8th Grade English Section

Introduction

It has come to the attention of the English Department that [REDACTED] Junior High is lacking the appropriate number of 8th grade general education English class sections. Upon closer inspection of the English classes currently available in the 2022-2023 school year, it has been determined that an oversight has been made or was not noticed until the recent increase in student numbers in the 7th and 8th grade classes this school year. Please note that the following numbers/data refer only to general education classes offered at [REDACTED] Junior High.

Current Core Class Section Numbers

The table below shows the breakdown of grade levels, the number of core class sections offered, and the teachers for those classes for the 2022-2023 school year. The table has been divided into core content classes to further illustrate the number of sections being offered for each grade level within each core content area.

English		
Grade level	Number of sections offered	Teachers
7th	7	[REDACTED]
8th	6	[REDACTED]
9th	7	[REDACTED]
Math		
Grade level	Number of classes offered	Teachers
7th	8	[REDACTED]
8th	8	[REDACTED]

9th	8	
Science*		
Grade level	Number of classes offered	Teachers
7th	8	
8th	8	
9th	8	
*Note that the science department does not offer a SPED class so the number of students in each grade level is bigger than in the Math and English classes.		

When looking at the number of sections per grade level offered by the other core departments, both the Math and Science departments offer eight classes for each grade level which results in smaller class sizes. The numbers reveal a startling inequality among the core classes, with the English department being expected to teach larger class sizes for each grade level.

English Class Sizes for 2023-24 School Year

Looking at the approximate numbers for the 2023-2024 year, the 8th grade general education class will have about 211 students and the 9th grade class will have about 198 students. The table below shows the number of students if they were divided equally into the available sections. The 7th grade numbers are not shown due to the unavailability of those numbers at this time.

Grade level	Total number of students	Total number of sections offered	Total number of students per class
8th	211	6	35
9th	198	7	28

Based on the numbers in the table above, there are approximately 7 fewer students in the 9th grade classes because of fewer 9th graders and because there are more sections offered for 9th grade English. A possible solution that may be proposed would be to take a section from either the 7th grade or 9th grade sections and give it to the 8th grade class. However, by doing this, it would make those sections larger in number and create the same issues that currently exist in the 8th grade classes.

Proposed 8th Grade English Class Sizes

By creating another section of 8th grade English, many problems that have been seen this year in the current 8th grade classes would be alleviated. The table below shows the approximate number of students per class if there were seven classes offered for 8th grade English and they were divided evenly among the three 8th grade English teachers.

Grade Level	Total number of students	Total number of classes offered	Total number of students per class
8th	211	7	30

Although five students does not seem like a lot, it can make a big impact in a class. These numbers shown also indicate that the students are divided evenly among the teachers, which is not the case in reality. Classes with a large number of students are not as effective as those with a smaller, more manageable number. There are many reasons why having larger classes can impact student learning including, but not limited to, behavior issues, lack of one-on-one time, loss of

meaningful data and student feedback, classroom management issues, and a toll on the mental and emotional energy of the teacher.

Conclusion

It is proposed that a seventh section of 8th grade English be added to the roster for the 2023-2024 school year. With the current 7th grade class being the largest currently at [REDACTED], it should be imperative that class sizes are not in the 35-40 student range for the English classes. Not only is the number of students too many, but the lack of desks and room to put desks in classrooms makes it an added challenge. This additional section of 8th grade English will lower the class sizes and will spread the students more evenly among the 8th grade English teacher, making one-on-one interactions and classroom management more achievable.