Parkway Elementary

Parkway Elementary is a K-8 school so the middle grades program was different than in a traditional middle school. There were not true teams at Parkway. The teacher I worked with taught 2 periods of Language Arts and two periods of social studies. She did not work directly with another teacher. The pros of this situation were that my teacher could plan whatever she wanted and had more planning time during her planning period because she did not have team meetings. The cons of this setup were that content areas were not mixed and that the students had different teachers for math and science.

Ashe County Middle School

Ashe County Middle School is set up like a typical middle school. Each grade has three teams and each team has their own name. Each team is made up of a different combination of teachers and sometimes a teacher could be apart of more than one team. For example, my team we had a teacher who taught Language Arts and social studies, a teacher who taught science, and a teacher who taught math. The math and science teachers were shared with another team. The pros of this set up are that there are true teams and so integrated units can be taught and that content can be different each period. Cons were that some teachers were on two teams so they had to plan with two sets of teachers and that some teachers only taught one subject while others taught two and the teachers who taught two subjects could determine how much time was spent on each subject. For example, my teacher taught both social studies and Language Arts and a good amount of the time she would use the period meant for social studies to finish work from Language Arts.

West Wilkes Middle School

West Wilkes Middle School is your typical middle school. In the 7th grade there were two teams and each team had their own name. Each team had a Language Arts, math, science, and social studies teacher. The students would rotate throughout the day between all four content areas. The students did not remain with the same students, however. The pros of this setup were that there was only teacher for each subject and so teachers could focus more on their one content area and that the teachers on the team could meet and plan integrated units. Also activities could be done between the teams. For example, at West Wilkes the two teams would have Stem competitions and see which team knew more Stems. The cons were that I taught the same lessons four times a day and that the students did not stay with the same people all day so it was hard to track their schedules.

Cranberry Middle School

Cranberry Middle School is a tiny middle school that only has one team per grade. There is a teacher who only teaches Language Arts as well as a teacher that only teaches math. Then there is a teacher who teaches both science and social studies. In the 7th and 8th grade there is one social studies teacher and one science teacher that teach both grades. In the 7th grade the 1st and 3rd nine weeks they have science and then the 2nd and 4th nine weeks they have social studies. This means the students only have three periods a day so their class periods are longer than at other schools. The pros of this setup are that the kids travel with the same kids throughout the day and so it is easier to plan integrated units and the kids form close bonds within their core group. The cons are that the teachers on the team change every nine weeks so students have to adjust and the students experience classes with the same kids throughout the day and so there are not as many viewpoints.