

## **Maine Middle Schools**

July 31, 2023

I have reached out to many districts through the Maine Principals Association and a group of schools in the Western Maine Conference. It doesn't sound like there has been much movement in recent years adding grade levels to existing middle schools.

The **Mt. Blue Middle School** principal reported that they added 6th grade 8-10 years ago. At the time, the elementary school was adding pre-k and they needed the room. Middle school numbers were down. To make it work, they had to drop some classes like family consumer science. Now they have a problem with space. They used to have about 130 students per class, but now they have about 180. The middle school is the most populated school in the district if measured by students per square feet. They are also fighting to bring back family consumer science. Sixth grade has its own wing, and this has been a positive for those students. Grades 6-12 use the same bus run.

The **Sacopee Valley Middle School** principal said that the school was built in 2007 to receive students from 6 elementary schools and it was grades 5-8 when it opened. The district chose to start closing elementary schools and moved 4th grade to the middle school. He finds that the range of students is probably too great. He does his best to make the school feel like two separate schools with the older kids on one floor and the younger kids on the other. Scheduling and specifically unified arts are tricky. He tries to make sure everything offered is age appropriate.

In 2010, **Gray-New Gloucester Middle School** added 5th grade. The 5th graders were at Dunn School (grades 3-5) at the time, and Dunn became overcrowded. There was pushback from the community and staff. Many questions came up about how 5th graders would be included in the school. Activities like dances did not seem developmentally appropriate, and there were no playgrounds at the middle school for the 5th graders. Many questions surfaced about athletics, community events, curriculum, and buses. The district held community forums to provide opportunity for questions and concerns to be heard. Efforts continue to be made to give the younger students their own experience, separate from the 8th graders.

**Sanford Junior High School** added 5th grade a couple of years ago.

**South Portland** is in the process of merging two middle schools.

**Raymond** will close their middle school in the next couple of years and merge with Windham.

## Androscoggin Middle Schools

School Name	SAU	Grades
Auburn MS	Auburn	7-8
Bruce M. Whittier MS	RSU 16	7-8
Durham Community	RSU 5	PK-8
Lewiston MS	Lewiston	7-8
Oak Hill MS	RSU 4	5-8
Phillip W Sugg MS	Lisbon	6-8
Tripp MS	RSU 52	7-8

## Schools with 7th Graders in Maine

Grade Range	Number of Schools
PK-8	66
PK-12	6
K-7	1
K-8	16
K-12	3
3-8	1
4-8	3
5-7	1
5-8	22
5-12	3
6-7	1
6-8	47
6-12	5
7-8	10
7-12	9

Source: <https://neo.maine.gov/DOE/neo/Supersearch/ContactSearch/SearchForMaineSchools>