

BUGS KEY DESIGN ELEMENTS

These elements were key to the design of BUGS in founding charter and continue to guide our approach.

Inquiry-Based Study of the Science of Sustainability BUGS will be a middle school focused on the science of sustainability, which incorporates the natural sciences, math, economics, history, social sciences, and the humanities to examine the intersection of human and ecological systems. This interdisciplinary field has the capacity to develop new knowledge and ways of thinking needed for students to become actively aware of the larger world, ask significant and relevant questions, wrestle with big ideas, deepen understanding of core subjects, and develop necessary 21st century skills.

Extended Time for Learning Longer blocks of class time, a longer school day and a longer school year will provide additional time to: maximize learning opportunities; implement innovative, cross-disciplinary approaches to curriculum, instruction, and assessment; and provide rigorous supports for ELL, special education, and struggling students.

A Positive and Inclusive School Climate BUGS will create a safe, welcoming, and respectful school climate that supports equity and access for all learners. Through its advisory program, school-wide discipline program, positive behavior supports, and research-based interventions, BUGS will foster a college-bound, career-ready student body that respects and values the diversity of others in their community and around the world.

A Professional Learning Community A learning-focused, collaborative culture will be based on trust, shared instructional leadership, and mutual accountability. Daily common planning time and on-going professional development will enhance teachers' collective focus on student learning.

Authentic Assessments and Individualization Instruction is driven by ongoing, authentic assessment and analysis of academic and behavioral data, which support students' individual needs and is facilitated by trained and supported teachers.

Use of Technology Computer-based instruction will allow for intensive, targeted remediation in basic skills, individualized learning and assessments, and the development of 21st century skills in visual, media and technological literacy.