

NTN Middle School Commitment Criteria

Schools implementing the NT approach agree to meet the following requirements to ensure successful school implementation.

		Desired Student Outcomes	Required	Recommended
Cultural Outcomes	Connected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students have positive relationships with adults and peers in the school community and feel a sense of belonging. <input type="checkbox"/> Students feel emotionally and physically safe, feel accepted “being themselves,” can take courageous risks, and will be supported if they fail. <input type="checkbox"/> Students feel empowered to contribute positively to the community and take on leadership roles. They feel trusted and trust others to be respectful and responsible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Connected Learning Environment: School will create a connected learning environment through limiting size, developing academies or designing intentional advisory structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Admission Policy: School will have a non-selective admission policy. District will work to ensure that the student population reflects the overall make-up and achievement level of existing feeder schools. <input type="checkbox"/> Dedicated Staff: Teachers and principals are full-time employees of the New Tech School and will not have their assignments shared with other schools. <input type="checkbox"/> Collaborative Learning: Staff has dedicated time (weekly or biweekly) to meet, collaborate and discuss curriculum and teaching strategies through Critical Friends or other protocols. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Implementation Process: School will start year one with no more than 2 grade levels. One grade level will be added during each successive year of implementation. <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Environments: New Tech classrooms, furniture and collaborative spaces allow for collaboration and flexibility. <input type="checkbox"/> School Facilities: New Tech school will have appropriate signage, separate entrance/ exit, etc. for recognition as a unique site.
	Engaged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students value and are excited about the work they are doing and are interested in how it relates to the work of others. <input type="checkbox"/> Students are often innovative and creative, deriving unique solutions to problems, and defend their ideas and conclusions with enthusiasm. <input type="checkbox"/> Students regularly seek out interactions with adults and experts in a professional manner as part of the learning process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Start-Up Training: Principal/ Director is hired by January of the year prior to school start and able to attend Leadership Residency. <input type="checkbox"/> NTN Network Training: Staff will participate in all NTN training events. <input type="checkbox"/> Travel: District will provide funding for staff to travel to all regional and national training events. <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing: All staff is hired prior to and is able to attend NTN Teacher Residency (March- April) and NTN101 - New Schools Training (June/July). <input type="checkbox"/> IT Administrator Training: Designated IT Administrator will attend New Schools Training (June/July prior to the school opening) to provide staff technology support. <input type="checkbox"/> Community Involvement: PBL Units require students regularly seek out interactions with adults and community experts. <input type="checkbox"/> Team Taught and Cross-Curricular Integration: School has at least one integrated, team taught course in each grade level. Team-taught, integrated courses will not have more than 55 students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> NTN Teacher/ Trainer Certification: School has 1-2 staff members participate in certification programs per year after Year 1, with a goal of 25% of staff certified as NTN Teachers by Year 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Network Collaboration: Staff participates in NTN initiatives, such as advisory or design groups, webinars, and other remote networking opportunities. <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching Schedule: NT staff will teach no more than three courses that require a unique prep in any one semester. <input type="checkbox"/> Coaching: Grade level teams are provided with release time to work with NTN or district-based school coaches.
	Challenged	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students have the capacity to successfully complete authentic, complex, and rigorous tasks that require active exploration, higher-order thinking, and application of what they have learned. <input type="checkbox"/> Students evaluate the quality of their work against authentic discipline or industry standards in formal publications, exhibitions, and presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> PBL: All courses will implement Project and/or Problem Based Learning as the primary instructional methodology. Students receive ongoing feedback and engage with community/business partners. <input type="checkbox"/> Leadership: School has a defined instructional leader (principal, director, assistant principal) that leads, with staff, the development of the school as a learning organization. <input type="checkbox"/> Full-day Program: All students take all core courses, and a majority of electives, through the New Tech School. <input type="checkbox"/> IT Administrator: At a minimum, District will provide part-time IT administrator position to provide technology support ensuring that network connectivity is maintained at 95%. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Principal Selection: NTN plays an advisory partner role and/or NTN materials are used in principal selection and approval. <input type="checkbox"/> Staffing Autonomy: School Principal/ Director will have significant hiring autonomy from involuntary transfers from other schools. <input type="checkbox"/> Evaluation: Hiring and assessment procedures will reflect the specific requirements of the model.

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Learning Outcomes	Knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students demonstrate a mastery of core knowledge across all discipline areas (as defined by state and national standards). <input type="checkbox"/> Students easily make sophisticated connections and find patterns between and among discipline areas. <input type="checkbox"/> Students demonstrate the ability to understand and utilize the knowledge and skills of a discipline to reason, problem-solve, and develop sound arguments or decisions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Technology: 1:1 student to networked computer ratio in all classrooms. <input type="checkbox"/> Computers: Meet or exceed the minimum technical specifications set forth in Echo™ Technology Requirements and Recommendations document. <input type="checkbox"/> School Network Capacity: School will have a fully functioning network enabling student access to the Internet with 99% uptime. <input type="checkbox"/> Echo Use: Staff fully implements the New Tech Learning Management System (Echo™) for project planning and staff learning structures. <input type="checkbox"/> Email Accounts: Staff and students must have email accounts. Accounts for staff and students must be in the same domain, and that domain must be unique to the school. <input type="checkbox"/> Access: District will provide sufficient Internet bandwidth as well as an Internet browser supported by NTN (defined in Echo™ Technology Requirements and Recommendations). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Team Taught and Cross-Curricular Integration: If course offerings and staffing allow for a successful pairing of courses, school offers 2 or more integrated, team taught courses in each grade level. <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Graduation Experiences: All students complete an internship, portfolio, service learning, and job shadowing or career exposure by the end of middle school.
	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Student writing is clearly and consistently organized, fully developed, fluent, and generally free from errors, as appropriate to the discipline. <input type="checkbox"/> Students can effectively communicate complex ideas in well organized and engaging oral presentations to a variety of audiences and for many purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Students can effectively collaborate with others on complex tasks and can adopt different roles including leadership based on group needs. <input type="checkbox"/> Students demonstrate mastery of other college and career readiness skills such as creativity, innovation, technology literacy, researching, social interaction, time management, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> School-Wide Learning Outcomes: Assessment strategies will reflect both content mastery and school-wide learning outcomes. 	
	Attributes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Students are very confident in many settings and demonstrate the attributes of highly effective people including resilience, patience, adaptability, and persistence. <input type="checkbox"/> Students see challenges as learning opportunities and believe that if they work at something, their performance will improve. They believe that they are capable of achieving at high levels across a broad spectrum of disciplines. Students regularly refine their work and reflect on their performance. <input type="checkbox"/> Students demonstrate the capacity to be self-directed in making choices that will affect their current and future success while seeking the advice and guidance of trusted allies. <input type="checkbox"/> Students accept the responsibility of their actions, and although they recognize external circumstances, focus on their own choices and behaviors instead. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Schools Facilities: School has dedicated autonomous space that allows for a unique identity and culture. <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Environments: school provides ample collaborative space for students to work together in an outside of the classroom <input type="checkbox"/> Data Sharing: District and/or school will provide access to school level data so that NTN can measure ongoing achievement, performance and implementation benchmarks. <input type="checkbox"/> NTN Reporting: School participates in NTN Culture Survey once yearly to gauge school and student culture. School takes active measures to respond to the findings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Technology plan: School/ district will maintain a technology plan that details disaster recovery contingencies for continued student access in addition to a periodical technology refresh cycle. <input type="checkbox"/> Security: District will make firewall/proxy accommodations to allow staff access to a desktop videoconferencing tool (such as Skype) for remote coaching purposes. <input type="checkbox"/> Unique School Name and School Code: Co-located and stand-alone school will have its own identity, with a unique school name and state school code. If the district is unable to assign a separate school code, the district will develop reporting processes for NTN that flag NT students and enable NTN and the NT school to track student performance. <input type="checkbox"/> NTN Reporting: School participates in college and career readiness assessments, critical thinking assessments, or similar, ACT/SAT, National Student Clearinghouse, Student Exit Survey, Alumni Survey, or other assessment tools as available. The school also tracks all necessary data elements, including student demographics, student academic achievement, and student participation in internships, dual enrollment, college applications and acceptances. NTN will provide a data template and calendar of data collection windows in advance so that schools know how to prepare.