

South Portland Middle School

Est. 2023



How did we get here?



How did we get here?

- State: Renovate or replace Mahoney– but also renovate Memorial with city funds OR build one school and add in 5th grade - no brainer!
- Land was tricky . . . only one viable space
- Voters approved \$10 million in local funding and \$60 million in state!
- Building committee met twice a month to plan EVERYTHING!



How did we get here?

Two and a half years ago, we broke ground!





The inside!





Who is at SPMS?

110

Classroom Teachers



182

Staff

868

Students, Grades 5-8



Who is at SPMS?

Race & Ethnicity

White: 62%

Black: 23%

Two or more races: 6%

Hispanic/Latino: 6%

Asian: 2%

Other: 1%



Other data:

Free/reduced lunch: 28%

Unhoused/Vulnerably housed: 9%

Multilingual learners: 18%

Top languages spoken by SPMS families:

- English
- Portuguese
- French
- Lingala
- Spanish
- Arabic
- Kinyarwanda
- Haitian Creole
- Khmer



What have schools been facing since March 2020?

Research has shown:

- Increase in absenteeism
- Staff shortages
- Mental health challenges
- Significant negative impact on academic achievement
- Higher rates of violence and misbehavior
- Disproportionate impact on underrepresented student groups

What we also know:

- Decreases in
 - Sense of belonging
 - Home-community-school connectedness
 - Staff satisfaction





Birth of the Community School

- Already partnered with The Opportunity Alliance
- Won 4-year ARPA grant from City of SP
- Community School Director started Nov. 2022



What IS a community school?

A community school is a strategy that organizes the resources of the school and community around student success!



What does this look
like for South Portland
Middle School?



The 4 Pillars (+2 more...)

The Key Ingredient = Partnership!

- i) Integrated Systems of Support

Example: School-Based Health Center

- i) Powerful Student & Family Engagement

Example: Family Partnership Coordinator position

- i) Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power & Voice

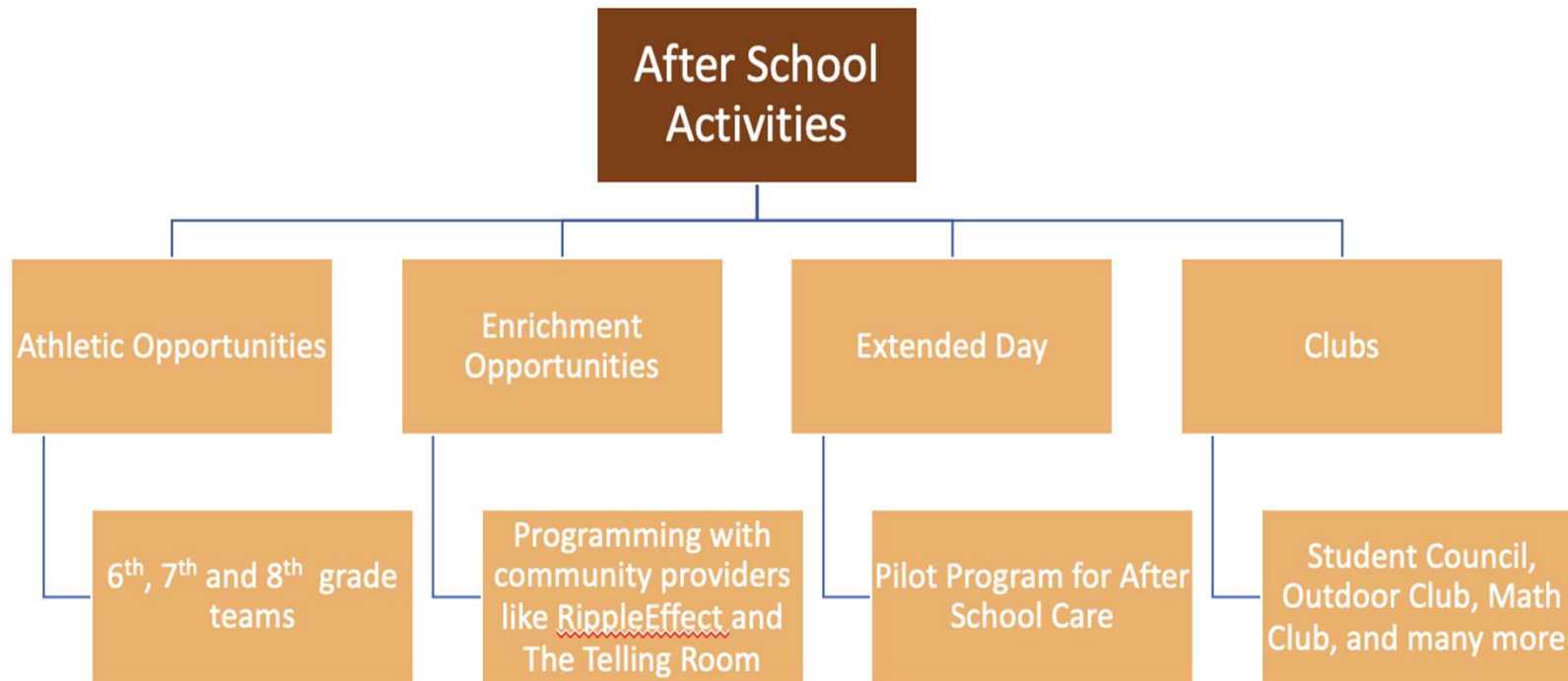
Example: Community School Advisory Board, Needs & Asset Assessment



The 4 Pillars (+2 more...)

The Key Ingredient = Partnership!

4) Enriched and Expanded Learning Opportunities



The 4 Pillars (+2 more...)

The Key Ingredient = Partnership!

3) Powerful Student & Family Engagement

Example: Family Partnership Coordinator

4) Collaborative Leadership, Shared Power & Voice

Example: Community School Advisory Board, Needs & Asset Assessment



The 4 Pillars (+2 more...)

The Key Ingredient = Partnership!

5) Culture of Belonging & Support

Example: Developing tiered approach to improving attendance

6) Rigorous, community-connected classroom instruction

Example: Connecting teachers with classroom speakers, field trip opportunities



Community School Priorities

Chronic Absenteeism

- Definition: Missing 10% or more school days (excused or unexcused, including detentions)
- ~22.5% of students in Memorial and Mahoney last year
- Tiered approach
- Essential question: What do students need to show up at school?

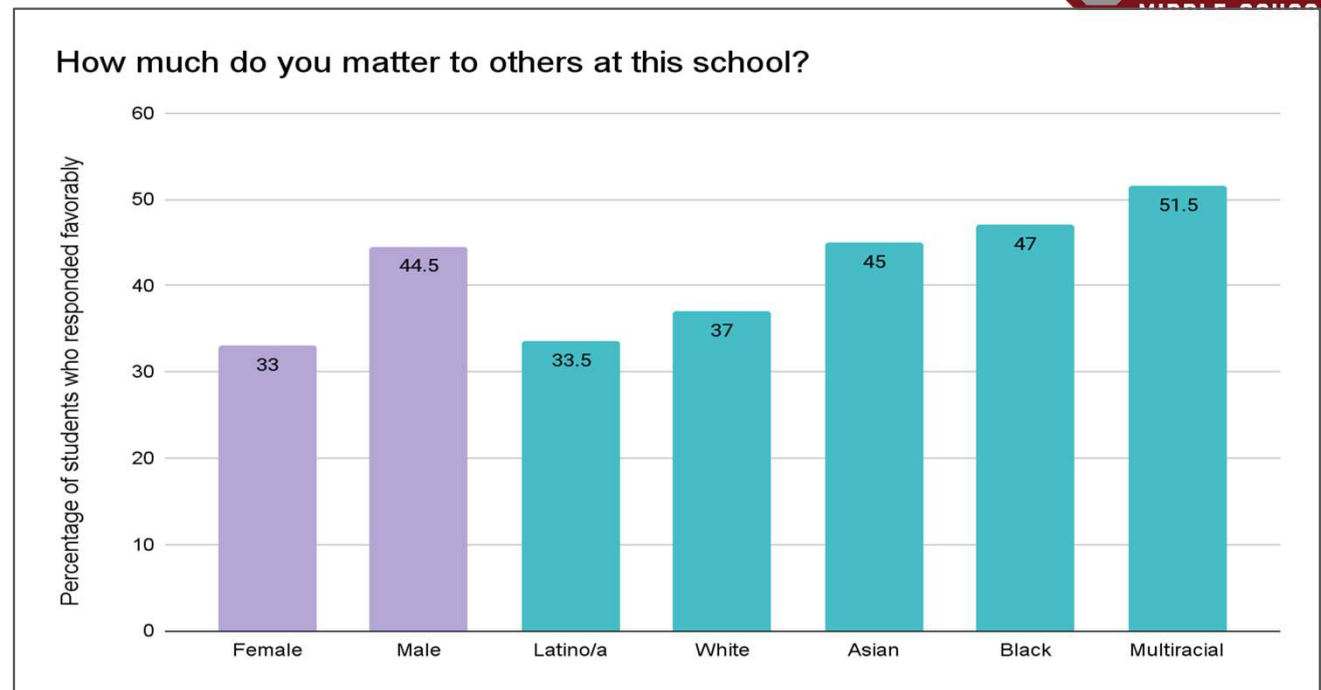


Community School Priorities



Sense of Belonging

- 60% of students reported they did not feel a sense of belonging at school
- Focus groups to understand this more



Thank you for your
time and attention!

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