

SUGGESTIONS

6th graders move to Steller but the long term goal is a separate Steller Middle School and Steller High School but the same philosophy.

6th graders should remain in Elementary school. Steller should keep 7-12 grade.

9-12 lol

Can there be option for independent study hall time in library or the lounge?

Will there be at least one or two days where there is space for check in with teachers similar to 7th period of it is going away?

Define what "self-directed learning" means and what it looks like at Steller (passages, intensives, etc)...and what it does not include (i.e. students have requirements, grades, tests, due dates, etc). If you don't know Steller, hearing "self-directed learning" is confusing and makes one think students don't have to meet existing standards. This seems important to clarify as Steller changes to the CCL model, and especially important to clarify during recruitment (I saw lots of parents dismiss Steller at last year's school fair because they didn't understand this idea).

I was encouraged by the ASD Administrator on 9/21 when she said "Steller can make CCL our own." I questioned her about that afterward and she said Steller can do whatever it wants with CCL...use our current Intensives and Passages, plus not require students to select a track, somehow leave things more open. I think this is a way Steller can get creative with CCL while being able to use the resources that come with it. I think the community would like to know this and would like examples of how it might look.

I highly support bringing 6th grade into the school and keeping the Steller model as close to the current one as possible. Maybe even giving the students more freedoms like it used to be at Steller.

I really don't know what makes sense logistically. As a parent of a fourth grader who wants to go to Steller someday, I of course would love if 6th were added, but I know the building is only so big.

I suggest steller being 6-12 would be better with it the school will survive and the students will have longer time being here and they would build connection and bigger classes for high school

I suggest that Steller (and all high schools) have a general "liberal arts" academy or just call it a general academy that allows students to not specialize and to take art, music, PE, and languages. Some students just don't know what career path they want and that's ok - they should be given the freedom to explore and discover their path. I also suggest having more flexibility in changing academies - allow them to change once per year, not just at the end of the 10th grade year. And current high schoolers should be exempt from academies since they will not have the opportunity to figure out which academy to pursue based on the classes and events that students in freshmen academy will receive.

I suggest to have 6-12 graders at this school, and to make it more difficult for students to get into Steller and to limit how many students in each grade get to join the school (example: 30-40 students per grade get to come in).

I suggest we go 9-12 because this will provide more options for highschoolers

I support the 6-12 model if Steller gets enough teachers and several additional modular classrooms. If we can manage it, it seems like the best option for Steller's long-term survival. We need higher student numbers. I fear a 9-12 model will kill us.

We need to maintain control over how the academy model is implemented. The district should let us stay alternative or optional in the true sense. Alternative and optional schools are not failing, it is the traditional model that is failing so leave us alone!

I know ASD has made up their mind, but adding one more year of planning before the academy model is implemented would give the community (muni wide) more time to be voice their concerns and get involved. This was not communicated to the community at large very well. We know more about bus schedules and new start times because it was broadcast repeatedly to the community. This was not. Telling us now after the decision has been made is not constructive notice.

I suggest ASD do some serious community outreach and not just on the ASD website. They should reach out to the local TV and paper and tell Anchorage about this change, so the community understands this better. I'm sort of shocked about the whole thing. I honestly don't recall reading about this huge change from school board meetings reported in ADN.

I worry that Steller students would lose what they have come to know and look forward to. I have concerns that the school model was based on a need, and will be turned into a one size fits all model that no longer new that existing need. At this point I would like to see Steller continue as an alternative option.

I would suggest that Steller become a 6-12 school. I think we're at around 252 students now. Recruit from 5th grade and we should be able to get very close to capacity.

If alternative schools are able to retain their 6th grades then Steller remains 7-12 and becomes a receiving school for all alternative elementary schools (if the parent so chooses to pick Steller)

If it was up to me, I would keep Steller independent and alternative. I'd have us stay 7 - 12 as a natural next-step for the alternative elementary schools keeping 6th grade. I'd have us collaborating in a more intentional way with those elementary schools, to insure the integrity of all of our programs and a clear (and preferred) pathway forward for our kids. I'm not oppose to change or adaptation, but I'd like the three pillars of our Steller community to drive that change, perhaps utilizing ideas and resources from the district, without sighing away our independence. I like the idea of utilizing these big shifts as a way to re-strengthen those three pillars and re-engage our community in thinking big and actively participating in and advocating for Steller.

In order to maintain flexibility, don't require a completion of a certain pathway for graduation; look at the credits.

Move to 6-12

No 6th graders

Not a suggestion but I believe Steller's model works best as a middle school to high school program. Kids who come to Steller as middle schoolers may leave in 11th or 12th grade but that is usually because they're joining even greater programs like Alaska Middle College or joining CTE programs in King Tech. I think building that in middle school is what makes our kids most successful

On the meta level, flat funding from the state has forced ASD to get so creative in their budget cuts that they have chosen the academically controversial choice to put 6th grade in middle school... not because it is academically superior (a lot of research seems to suggest otherwise), but because they can save money by eliminating some positions (6th grade band/orchestra teachers) and closing & consolidating elementary schools. To that end, we should advocate for sustainable education with our legislators, and should encourage our school board to change course if their funding becomes more sustainable. On the specific within-the-sandbox level, my initial reaction is to suggest going the 6-12 route, grow the school with an eventual target of growing the school until it can split into adjacent sister schools (a middle and high school that are separate, but adjacent with the option for advanced middle schoolers to join classes in the high school). If Steller is 6-12 while feeder schools are K-6, perhaps the 6th grade class should be kept intentionally small to accommodate the additional interest of incoming 7th graders from feeder schools. I feel like the CCL (or whatever the acronym is) approach should be mostly ignored, adopting the parts of those district changes that seem beneficial and rational while discarding the rest. My major concern with the CCL approach I heard tonight was that it seemed to segregate students into specialized silos at a radically-too-young age. Students should have as broad of a horizon as possible until they organically find a niche they want to pursue. If that happens a in 10th grade, GREAT! If that doesn't happen until they are 25, or 35, or 45, also great - we should be giving kids the skills to continue learning and evolving as they grow rather than focusing on specialized skills for particular professions. Steller should continue its open approach to student interests, and should take the good parts of CCL (community engagement, practical experience, study in areas outside traditional ELA/Social Studies/STEM) while ignoring the bad parts (artificial silos at too-young or an age, and classes that are meta in nature for the simple purpose of introducing the silos).

Our start times could stay the same as a happy medium between middle and high school. If it works fine for the staff, holding PLC's on Tuesdays during 7th when we are used to having teacher meetings anyway sounds like a good plan.

Please please please include 6th graders so that my current 6th grader can attend with her sibling in 7th grade. Steller is such a safe space for LGBTQIA+ kids and their families. We are endlessly grateful for the community and culture of the school and will be so sad to lose the opportunity to choose it for our rising 7th grader.

Stay 8-12th

Steller should advocate to be the alternative option that does NOT require students to limit themselves to an academy pathway. (If needed, perhaps Mark Begich might help advocate for this?) Steller should add sixth grade but perhaps keep middle school class sizes smaller / try to max out high school classes to the extent possible. I don't know how possible, but what about having a minimum math standard for incoming 6th graders (to limit the number of math courses needing to be covered) ?

There are ways to integrate middle and high school together to make us more cohesive, even if they are separate in their classes.

We need to focus on the steller values - responsible freedom, independent learners, service oriented, three pillars, Opgroup, there is no typical steller student. What I value about steller, small size allows for individuality ti flourish and thrive, combination of high academic standards, but also options for lower achieving students. Everyone belongs. Strong sense of community.

Why not stay the course as we are, as the other schools iron out the problems, and then revisit the question of becoming academy later?

