



DEVELOPMENTAL DESIGNS™ FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL

Research and Theoretical Basis for the Approach

Six Principles of Developmental Designs for Middle School

The *Developmental Designs for Middle School* (DDMS) approach is founded upon six researched principles of good practice that form the core of successful teaching and learning:

- * Social learning is as important to success as academic learning.
- * We learn best by constructing our own understanding through exploration, discovery, and application.
- * The greatest cognitive growth occurs through social interactions within a supportive community.
- * There is a set of personal/social skills that students need to learn and practice in order to be successful socially and academically:
C.A.R.E.S.—Cooperation, Assertion, Responsibility, Empathy, Self-control
- * Knowing the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual needs of the students we teach is as important as knowing the content we teach.
- * Trust among adults is a fundamental necessity for academic and social success in a learning community.

Research to Support Development Designs for Middle School

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Theoretical Frameworks to Support Development Designs for Middle School

The following social scientists and practitioners create the theoretical framework for the central pedagogical tenets of DDMS:

- Child and Adolescent Development
- Social-emotional Learning
- Engaged Learning
- Supportive Learning Communities
- Multicultural Understanding

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