

## Characteristics of Successful Schools for Young Adolescents

While the mission, vision, and philosophy guide what we do at Saint Raphael School, we recognize that students in the middle school grades have unique needs and challenges specific to their age. For this reason we look to outside resources to inform our decision-making and the teaching/learning process such as this list of 16 characteristics from the Association for Middle Level Education's position paper, [\*This We Believe: Keys to Educating Young Adolescents\*](#) (2010).

1. Educators value young adolescents and are prepared to teach them.	9. Ongoing professional development reflects best educational practices.
2. Students and teachers are engaged in active, purposeful learning.	10. Organizational structures foster purposeful learning and meaningful relationships.
3. Curriculum is relevant, challenging, exploratory, and integrative.	11. The school environment is inviting, safe, inclusive, and supportive of all.
4. Educators use multiple learning and teaching approaches.	12. Every student's academic and personal development is guided by an adult advocate.
5. Varied and ongoing assessment advance learning as well as measure it.	13. Comprehensive guidance and support services meet the needs of young adolescents.
6. A shared vision developed by all stakeholder guides every decision.	14. Health and wellness are supported in curricula, school-wide programs, and related policies.
7. Leaders are committed to and knowledgeable about this age group, educational research, and best practices.	15. The school actively involves families in the education of their children.
8. Leaders demonstrate courage and collaboration.	16. The school includes community and business partners.

**Saint Raphael School proudly recognizes its graduates of the Class of 2016 who attend the following high schools:**

Bishop Garcia Diego High School  
San Marcos High School  
Dos Pueblos High School

**We are also proud that our graduates were accepted into the following academies:**

Dos Pueblos Engineering Academy  
San Marcos Mac Academy