Buzz Words ala NMSA This We Believe
(NMSA, 2003)

☆ Middle school philosophy/concept
☆ Ethical and democratic citizens
☆ SHARED VISION
☆ Advisory Programs
☆ Teams and teaming
☆ Exploratory course offerings
  “Young people undergo more rapid and profound personal changes between the ages 10 and 15 than at any other time of their lives.”
☆ Puberty
☆ Ongoing, concrete, and experiential cognitive growth
Redefinition of family structures
☆ Successful schools for young adolescents are characterized by a culture that…
☆ Therefore, successful schools for young adolescent provide…
☆ Role models
☆ Student advocacy
☆ Building a learning community
☆ Stakeholders
☆ Collaborative process
☆ Human relationships are paramount.
☆ Egalitarian concept
☆ Every student has at least one adult advocate who knows that student well.
☆ Developmentally responsive instructional practices
☆ Students at the center of the learning process
☆ Active learning
☆ Hands-on/hands-joined activities
☆ Family involvement
☆ Relevant, challenging, integrative and exploratory curriculum
☆ Teaching approaches that respond to student diversity
☆ Assessment vs. evaluation
☆ Health, wellness, and safety
☆ Smallness/”schools-within-a-school”
☆ CHOICE
☆ Varying rates of development re: physical, cognitive-intellectual, moral, psychological, and social-emotional (affective)