

Re-Imagining Middle Grades

New Renaissance Middle

RMG Implementation Model: CFB School



What exactly does Re-Imagining Middle Grades (RMG) mean?

Broward County Public Schools is committed to changing the middle school experience for its students and implementing incremental steps that will ultimately lead to a systemic change in our District. As a result, we have begun to “re-imagine” our middle schools, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. We ultimately will strive to include all students in a project-based or problem-based experience via an interdisciplinary approach. Social-emotional learning will support students in a warm environment where their unique educational needs are met. This will lead to enhanced student engagement and motivation and facilitate connections across content domain. The plan also calls for increased electives and extracurricular activities at the middle school level. The ultimate output will be increased on-level FSA performance in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math so more students successfully transition from middle school to high school. We have been fortunate to have partnered with Community Foundation of Broward (CFB). They have generously entered into a three-year grant agreement that will fund three million dollars over three years that includes an equal match on behalf of the District for a total investment of six million dollars. In part, these funds will cover the cost of the professional development for teachers and includes the hiring of a Community Liaison and ESE Support Facilitator at the ten designated CFB schools.

What is our school’s focus for Re-Imagining Middle Grades?

At New Renaissance Middle School, the focus is truly student-centered. From participation in a core class or an elective class, students are engaged in problem or project-based learning (PBL). Our school’s project and problem-based learning will take place school-wide through a theme that is chosen to support the PBL model. We are also focusing on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) through the practice of Conscious Discipline and the Second Step curriculum. The elective choices being offered are geared towards college and career readiness.

As we infuse new instructional models in classrooms, how do we support our teacher’s growth through professional learning?

- Teachers participated in SEL/PBL Professional Development opportunities offered at Florida League of Middle Schools Conference.
- Teachers participated in summer professional learning and adapted their new plans during the school year.
- PLCs are focused on SEL and PBL skills and implementation across all content areas.
- Teacher highlights and Sweet Strategies Meetings are featured professional exchanges to model and implement new strategies for PBL/SEL.

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- Through improved RtI and identification of the lowest quartile, students are receiving support from either a support facilitator or another teacher acting as a mentor. In addition, the new community liaison will be working with students identified through the CFB grant to improve their overall success rates. RtI processes include collecting data and monitoring students by multiple staff members.

What additional elements have we implemented to support Re-Imagining Middle Grades?

- Implementation of a block schedule.
- Creation of clubs both academic and extra curricular- With the addition of a full-time chess club and robotics team, students are getting the opportunity to interact with their sponsor outside of class time.
- Additional Electives added to support RMG- NRMS expanded the Debate program to a full-time program as well as the Money Matters elective which teaches financial literacy. In addition, students are given a survey to notate which courses they would like to take. Based on their interest, we build our elective schedule to match student interest.
- Parent Nights to highlight school programs and showcase student learning.

At New Renaissance Middle, Cavaliers are not average, we are amazing! Students do what's right, do their best, and treat others the way they want to be treated.