

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

Whiddon Rogers Education Center

RMG Implementation Model: Ambassador 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 will strive to include all students in project-based experiences 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 goal of our “reimagining work” is for students to be engaged and to have the social emotional competencies, problem-solving skills, and academic achievement to help them successfully transition from middle school to high school and beyond.

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

As a 2019-2020 Ambassador School, our focus this year is to expose students and teachers to the concepts of social-emotional learning (SEL) through the practice of Conscious Discipline. We hope to generate schoolwide interest by implementing these initiatives in small pockets of our faculty. Our school’s focus is to provide all students with problem-solving and decision-making skills to assist them with being College, Career and Life Ready (CCLR). Teachers use blended learning strategies to increase student engagement and academic achievement.

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

- Use pacing guides to determine the amount of curriculum being taught along with using monthly assessments tailored around SEL standards for middle school.
- Hands-on instruction that supports teachers utilizing various forms of instructional materials.
- Instructional coaches, department chairs, and District curriculum specialists will provide co-teaching and modeling in the classrooms.

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

- All students in middle school receive 45 minutes of SEL instruction 3 days per week.
- Guidance counselors and social workers co-teach SEL during the first 45 minutes of the day several days per week.
- All students will write in the SEL Journal 3 times a week. Also students have time during the day to talk about a teacher directed and age appropriate topic.
- Middle school students are exposed to four of our Career & Technical Education programs on an elective wheel. Their elective class changes each quarter. They can then choose a career pathway when they enter high school.

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- Students having academic, social, and/or behavioral issues participate in the RtI process. Teachers and staff refer students and implement strategies recommended by the team.