

Attucks Middle School

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 goal is for students to be engaged and to have the social and emotional competencies, problem-solving skills, and academic achievement to help them successfully transition from middle to high school and beyond. 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 along with funding of personalization periods for select students at the ten designated CFB schools.

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

We are focusing primarily on Project-Based Learning (PBL) and Social-Emotional Learning (SEL). For SEL, we are focusing on training our teachers on the Brain States as explained by Conscious Discipline (CD) and continuing our work with creating a school family by implementing CD structures. We have created an SEL committee to ensure the professional development and communication to staff is consistent to enhance our school’s climate. Our course offerings to support the SEL Initiative includes Peer Counseling, Learning Strategies, Critical Thinking, and Personalization for Academic and Social Learning (PASL). In PBL, we are working with a group of eleven teachers that are working on implementing this approach through their respective subject areas. Our course offering aligned to the PBL Initiative is Global Perspectives. Students make connections with content standards and real-world application to enhance their “Cambridge” experience.

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

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

- The PLC cycle is utilized twice a week and forty-five minutes before school starts by department.
- Flexibility is built into this time for future grade level collaboration, PBL, new teacher support, and SEL collaboration.
- Weekly professional development is based on teacher needs, such as, Canvas 101, Implementing Stations, Building the Block trainings.
- We are also working with our district specialist to provide onsite professional learning on the RTI and MTSS process.

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

- Faculty meetings include an SEL component to foster the idea of a school family.
- Continuation of the block schedule that creates opportunity for enrollment in more electives.
- Our PASL program allows for more of our students to experience success. In addition, students learn social emotional strategies to increase their conative skills and development using the Second Step Program.
- To ensure that all student needs are addressed through Tier 1 interventions, we also offer courses aligned to our RTI and MTSS process such as Career Explorations (two per grade level), Math Labs (three per grade level, including one for ESLs) and Science Labs (for 8th grade). These courses provide sustained on-going, strategic support for core-content areas of English/Language Arts, Mathematics and Science to increase mastery and to close the achievement gap.
- Unified communications signals for improving SEL culture.
- "Hello Campaign" targeted students and faculty to greet each other consistently.
- Miami Heat Night to promote teamwork and positive team building with the community and faculty.

At Attucks Middle, excellence for every student, every day!