

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

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 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?

New Renaissance Middle School continues to provide support for RMG. Additional teachers have been trained in PBL and SEL. Additionally, with the implementation of 34 minute homeroom period titled ‘Cavalier Connect Time’, we infuse SEL Strategies using Second Step and teacher-created lessons on Canvas. Our focus continues to be centered around developing students that are socially and emotionally prepared for high school. Students are using SEL centered language in classes related to brain states, etc.

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

- There are weekly professional development topics.
- We have dedicated time for professional learning communities to ensure collaboration in either PBL or SEL.
- We engage interested teachers in Wonder Walks. During this time, teachers visit other teachers on campus to observe instructional strategies in action.

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

- With the implementation of the 34 minute homeroom, we infuse SEL Strategies using Second Step and teacher-created lessons on Canvas.
- Through improved RtI and identification of the lowest quartile, students are receiving support from staff members on campus. RtI processes include collecting data and monitoring students by multiple staff members.
- To make sure that all of our students experience success at school, we are offering a personalization class as an elective. This class offers academic supports and infuses social emotional instruction as well.
- We continue to strengthen our Mentoring Programs. Currently, we have partnered with 5000 Role Models, Ladies of Dignity, and Cool Church.

At New Renaissance Middle, we think BIG: believe, inspire, and grow our students.