

Silver Lakes 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?

Silver Lakes prides itself on our “family atmosphere” while providing a top-notch education to prepare our students for the high school and post-secondary levels. Our teachers are dedicated, motivated and inspiring -always going the extra mile for our students. We stress the whole child experience and are always striving to enhance the social-emotional learning of everyone on campus. Our teachers, support staff, and parents meet weekly to discuss students’ struggling academically or behaviorally using the MTSS/RtI process. Project-based learning is being implemented in many of our academic and STEM classes. We also offer several high school level courses for students who would like to engage in challenging and accelerated curriculum.

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?

- Professional learning communities to support project-based and social emotional learning.
- Immersion into Social Emotional Learning initiatives within the school such as Conscious Discipline, PASL and Second Steps.
- District trainings, such as CHAMPS and collaboration with other schools for support and exchange of ideas.
- School site visits with district instructional specialists for one to one and small group coaching and feedback.

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

- Enhancement of school beautification and culture with positive messaging throughout the campus, as well as monthly staff and student celebrations.
- We are proud to offer high interest elective choices such as medical skills, debate, yoga, drones, engineering, Microsoft Office certification and art to cultivate student interests and deepen learning.
- Flexible scheduling to allow for consistent mentoring and homeroom advisory periods for all students every day.
- Community involvement, such as, guest speakers and panelists for project reviews and presentations.

At Silver Lakes Middle, we dive deeper into re-imagining our middle school to make our splash!