

Deerfield Beach Middle

RMG Implementation Model: PBL Focus



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?

Our school’s focus is problem/project-based learning (PBL). We are beginning to involve external partners to support the school as we implement PBL. Teachers are focusing on sustained inquiry and subject knowledge as they engage students in PBL projects with our external stakeholders and within the classroom. Last year, we focused on creating a driving question and student choice. This year, we are building upon PBL by focusing on sustained inquiry. Also, in November, all teachers who have been trained in PBL will begin their 1st cycle of PBL. Teachers and students will be infusing components of PBL throughout their lessons to prepare students, i.e. collaboration and problem-solving skills.

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

- We were able to send another group of teachers to the Summer Institute to learn about the ‘gold standard’ of PBL as taught by the facilitators from the BUCK Institute, now PBL Works.
- Teachers have been able to participate in PBL 201s to deepen their learning from the summer and to gain new knowledge to help them during their implementation of PBL during the year.
- Our teachers have formed 2 PBL Cohorts. This group of teachers meet as needed either afterschool or during the school day to professionally collaborate or participate in classroom visits. One of groups participated last year in PBL cycles and the other group is beginning their journey in the PBL process.

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

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

- We have widened the criteria for participation in foreign language and high school credit classes so that non-magnet students can also avail themselves of these classes.
- We have added Medical Skills, Debate, Robotics, Broadcast Communications, and STEM as electives for the 2019-2020 school year. Additional electives and sections for the 2020-2021 school year will be added based on student interest and teacher availability.
- We are exploring the possibility of forming a marching band and a drumline on the heels of our *Band for All* elective that peaks students' interest in playing instruments. We also have a newly added Drone Club, Robotics Club, and Chess as an extracurricular activity for the '19-'20 school year.
- We have continued to build upon our Humans Relations Council and a Crime Watch group for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Our MTSS/RtI team meets once a week. The team that gathers reviews that needs of students that are recommended or meet certain criteria. The team decides what research-based intervention(s) should be implemented and the team monitors the impact on the student's behavior or grades.

At Deerfield Beach Middle, we stride with pride!

