

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

Falcon Cove 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 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 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 is focusing on infusing project-based learning (PBL) in the curriculum for core classes as well as through electives. Historically, we have exceeded the standard for high achievement both academically and through interscholastic competitions. This year, we’d like to use the Response to Intervention (RtI) process to laser focus on the academic/social and emotional well-being of our students, as these impact our overall school performance.

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

- Teachers have attended district-wide trainings and will continue to attend district-wide trainings to expand their repertoire of standards-aligned lessons and effective teaching/learning strategies.
- Teachers meet weekly in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) by department and grade level to share best practices with each other.
- Curriculum leaders make monthly classroom visits and observe teachers in action. They utilize these visits as an opportunity to provide teachers feedback on the effectiveness of the lesson and the level of student engagement.

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

- We have transitioned to block scheduling which has allowed us to double the number of electives we are offering students.
- We also offer 30 extra-curricular clubs/sports for students to participate in.
- We offer students a “Study Hall” class, so they can work on assignments, develop effective study skills and enhance their overall educational experience.
- The RTI team meets twice a month to discuss students that are struggling academically as well as those with behavior concerns. Based on observations and data collected, the team makes the appropriate recommendations to allow each student to reach their potential and receive the assistance needed.
- This year we have obtained several new teachers. These will be trained by one or more of the RTI team members in the documentation of Tier 1 strategies in BASIS.

At Falcon Cove Middle, we set the stage for success!