

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

Margate 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?

As a 2019 -2020 PBL School, our focus this year is to expand our students’ knowledge and strengthen teachers’ pedagogy of project-based learning. At Margate Middle School, we naturally implement project-based learning through our STEM rich curriculum that features every opportunity for students to excel. We provide our students with opportunities to answer challenging questions or problems grounded in real-world issues. The authenticity of our projects provides our students with sustained inquiry, enables them to display student voice and choice during the learning, and ultimately via the public product showcases. As a result of our innovative curriculum, our students continuously adjust their skill set to meet the future needs of college and the work force.

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

- Our professional learning communities (PLC’s) are focused on increasing competency in instructional practices, infusing PBL with an emphasis on standards alignment, and SEL implementation that includes observation and feedback.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Seventeen of our teachers participated in the PBL Works professional development offered by the District over the summer and will be provided with ongoing support throughout the year. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created a PBL SharePoint for teachers to network and share their PBL Projects and resources. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The creation of a PBL committee to facilitate schoolwide adoption with other interested teachers. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quarterly PBL committee planning to assist teachers with creating PBL plans and preparing for Public product showcases. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During our best practice classroom visit, each team will have at least one PBL classroom for teachers to see PBL in action. |

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The creation of a research elective that solely uses the project-based learning approach as the sole methodology of instruction, along with a STEM/PBL elective available at each grade level. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We widened the eligibility to a STEM related elective to include most of our students. This elective is geared towards the students' interest and needs. We also offer a new Leadership elective and expanded our Global Scholars program to provide more experiential learning via field trips. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We are utilizing the RtI approach to address students of concern by using a problem-solving approach and addressing the root problem. We also implement research-based interventions, as determined by the team, to help students succeed either emotionally or academically. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have initiated the Spartan Showcase of Greatness that is a schoolwide PBL public showcase night. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• We have created a Community Networking Database that is a school-wide list of vendors and experts who have volunteered to be PBL experts or judges. |

At Margate Middle, our learning is cooperative, our relationships are respectful, and our goal is always GREATNESS!