

Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

Pines 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?

This year, we will continue our focus to expose students and teachers to the concepts of project-based learning (PBL) and social-emotional learning (SEL). We are primarily focusing on PBL this year and have had additional teachers attend professional development and begin implementation in their classes. We strive to create a safe, creative learning environment, maintained through an atmosphere of positive reinforcement, with an emphasis on Project Based Learning and real-world application of learning.

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

- Additional teachers and administrators have attended the PBL professional development and have developed a CORE TEAM that offers support to other teachers that have not yet attended training. These teachers are implementing pieces of PBL to support the school-wide initiative.
- District/ Academic Support Facilitators share collaborative learning strategies.
- A PBL Core Team has been established and they meet every Monday for “PBL Mondays” where they meet with different subject area department chairs on a rotating basis to ensure implementation across all subject areas.

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

- Continued use of the MTSS/RTI model to monitor social-emotional learning and make interventions when needed based on data provided. Recommendations include referral to our school mentoring programs, our guidance social skills groups, peer counseling or other relevant strategies. While we are focused on PBL, SEL is a component of Reimagining Middle Grades and SEL strategies are also shared on a weekly basis with all staff.
- Parents and stakeholders have been folded into the implementation of PBL. A parent letter was sent out explaining the school-wide PBL initiative, as well as shared at the Annual Parent Meeting (Open House).
- On the 4 x 4 Block Schedule we offer a variety of elective options to choose educational experiences that will enhance their academic and social-emotional growth. We have implemented additional electives this year, including but not limited to the implementation of the Global Scholars program.

At Pines Middle, it is great to be a Panther!