

# Re-Imagining Middle Grades, 2019-2020

## Walter C. Young Middle

RMG Implementation Model: PBL Focus

**KNIGHTS**



### 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 2019-2020 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 project-based learning (PBL) implementation School, our focus this year is to engage students and teachers to the structures of project-based learning (PBL) and social-emotional learning (SEL). Our goal is to implement project-based learning through Science Fair and History Fair events as well as individually selected interest projects. In addition, social emotional learning has been implemented through mindful techniques, classroom strategies, motivational teachers and daily announcements. Lastly, each subject and grade level regularly monitor each student through informal and formal assessments to close the achievement gap.

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

- Instructional models that depict equity, social emotional learning and project-based learning are recurring topics in the learning that occurs through professional development sessions in our faculty trainings.
- Conscious Discipline book study through monthly leadership meetings.
- Equity educators depict courageous conversations about race and cultural diversity as well as provide access for all teachers and professional learning.

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

- Multicultural, English Language Arts, Math, Science and Civics parent nights that infuse cultural differences to depict cultural awareness, celebrate diversity and involve parents in the instructional process.
- MTSS/Rtl Process meets every week to review academic and behavior needs of students as well as discuss interventions and additional support for classroom teacher.
- Conscious Discipline school action plan as well as the Kindness Project, in addition to designated common areas where we celebrate diverse cultural traits.
- Electives offered allow for a diverse interest in Art, Debate, Spanish (high school course), Robotics/STEM Life, Band, Orchestra, TV Production, Yearbook, PEER Counseling, and Industry Certification course.
- Extra-curricular activities depict the interest of our students. Examples are: Anime Club, Marine Exploration Club, Science Club, Environmental Club, Scrabble Club, Student Government, Chess Club, Florida Future Educators of America, Book Club, Street Law Club, National Junior Honor Society, Math Club and First Priority Club.
- We use economics to solve real world problems in conjunction with English Language Arts (ELA) Department in order to encourage the use of project-based learning across the curricula to deepen research and writing skills.
- To address the transitional needs in the matriculation process between levels, we have 5<sup>th</sup> grade students from Lakeside Elementary & Silver Palms Elementary take 6<sup>th</sup> grade Math courses in the afternoon on our campus. We also have 8<sup>th</sup> graders who take a high school course at Flanagan High every morning.
- Math and English Language Arts software provides all students with an individual learning pathway to teach the student at their individual instructional level.
- We offer an elective on Microsoft Industry Certification with a student rate of 100% passing.

At Walter C. Young Middle, we are Young Knights!