

Middle Grades Models

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Ashe County Middle School — Meeting Adolescent Needs in a Rural School

Bobby Ashley, Principal, **Kim Ball**, Assistant Principal, and **Sheila Richardson**, Media Specialist, Ashe County Middle School, Warrensville, North Carolina

This award-winning school in the Appalachian Mountains will describe how it meets the intellectual, physical, social, and emotional needs of students in a community with financial, cultural, and geographical challenges. Three areas of best practice will be highlighted: academic excellence, programs for at-risk students, and after-school programs. The school promotes a rigorous state-mandated curriculum within a developmentally responsive learning environment. A “no-excuses” approach leads to high expectations for all. Various instructional strategies are used to engage, challenge, and captivate students, and at-risk students are provided many opportunities to meet the school’s high standards.

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Freeport Intermediate School — Doing “Whatever It Takes” to Close Achievement Gaps

Clara Sale-Davis, Principal, Freeport Intermediate School, Freeport, Texas

With its close proximity to the greater Gulf Coast and as part of Brazosport ISD, Freeport Intermediate School is a magnet for a diverse migrant population. The school embraces diversity through the close collaboration of the professional learning communities and inclusion methodology already in place at Freeport. The English language learners (ELL students) blend seamlessly into the student population, where they are successfully navigating the courses alongside their peers. At Freeport, they are leaving no child behind.

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Holmes International Middle School — Path to Success

Valerie Turner, Principal, and **Felicia Drew**, Assistant Principal, Holmes Middle School, Northridge California

This presentation will offer a comprehensive overview of the various action steps and programs that enabled Holmes International Middle School to move from Program Improvement status to a Taking Center Stage – Schools to Watch Model School, a Title I Academic Achievement Award School, and a California Distinguished School. Participants will walk away with successful, practical, and innovative strategies that work and can be implemented for short- and long-range planning.

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McConnell Middle School — Constant Change and Excellence

Clent Chatham, Assistant Principal, and **Paul Sawyer**, Teacher, McConnell Middle School, Loganville Georgia

McConnell Middle School’s enrollment nearly tripled in 10 years, and the school had a 600% increase in free/reduced lunch participation. Yet, the school continues to earn national and state awards based on student achievement, attracts and retains highly qualified teachers, and enjoys a high level of community support. The school attributes its high level of success to a culture of teaching and learning fostered by continuous staff development as well as practices designed to make the parents partners in their child’s learning. Staff development initiatives, including the school’s award-winning literacy program, will be highlighted along with key ideas that promote active parent involvement.

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Medina Valley Middle School

Wanda Bohmfalk, Vice-Principal, and **Diana Humiston**, Student Success Specialist, Medina Valley Middle School, Castroville, Texas

Medina Valley Middle School has instituted a wide range of educational and support programs and built on successful existing programs. Changing needs and growth in the district necessitate almost constant adjustment on a school-wide basis as well as tailoring support programs for each individual child. This session will describe the school's successful practices and ways it deals with growth and change while the entire staff strives to maintain strength, consistency, and viability in the curriculum.

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Ocoee Middle School — Building the Future

Dr. Katherine Clark, Principal, Ocoee Middle School, Orlando, Florida

Ocoee Middle School serves as a model of school design and development for the state of Florida. The school showcases the utilization of technology, facility design, and research pedagogy. Each day teachers can modify spaces and use technologies that fit into their instructional plans. This presentation will demonstrate how, with adequate training and technical support, schools can evolve into learning communities with measurable improvement in student achievement.

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Roy Martin Middle School — Closing the Achievement Gap Between Student Groups

Regina J. Adams, Principal, and **Mary Hafner**, Assistant Principal, Roy W. Martin Middle School, Las Vegas, Nevada

This presentation will focus on a 21st century view of the three Rs— rigor, relevance, and relationships. The major components of the Focus on Standards school improvement model utilized by Clark County School District schools will be introduced. This process addresses the use of grade level power standards, instructional strategies, formative/summative assessments, using data to inform instruction, Structured Teacher Planning Time (a collaborative approach of reviewing student data and identifying standards and skills that require emphasis or work), and the execution of academic interventions.

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Sunset Ridge Middle School: Becoming a High Performing School

Catherine Jensen, Principal, Sunset Ridge Middle School, Sandy, Utah

When Sunset Ridge Middle School opened in 2005-06, the administration was given the charge of creating a model middle school. The school is founded on a culture of collaboration and “doing whatever it takes” on behalf of students. The school adopted National Forum to Accelerate Middle Level Reform criteria and also used research of such other organizations as the National Middle School Association. It implemented the International Center for Leadership in Education’s 10 Key Components Fundamental to School Improvement as a roadmap. This presentation will share the development of the school and provide practical strategies and advice that can be used in other schools.

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Webb Bridge Middle School: Using Units to Unite Curricula and Ignite Learning

Elizabeth Fogartie, Principal, Webb Bridge Middle School, Alpharetta, Georgia

“He that would be a leader must be a bridge.” This old Welsh saying applies to Webb Bridge Middle School, which is both a bridge of discovery for all students and a leader in innovative programs. The instruction provided is academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable. This presentation will explain how the faculty does this through their interdisciplinary units in particular. These units bring together content areas, highlight areas of curricular connectivity, and inspire middle school learners to go above and beyond with brilliance!

Worland Middle School - Creating a Collaborative Culture Through Empowerment

Richard Schaal, Principal, Worland Middle School; and **Dr. Mary Krisko**, Curriculum and Grant Manager, and **Linda Anderson**, Special Education Director, Washakie County School District #1, Worland, Wyoming

A collaborative environment is the heart, soul, and essence of Worland Middle School. This session will explain how, through collaborative teaming, the school addresses individual student needs by analyzing student data, developing building-wide goals, implementing sustained staff development, and creating a rigorous and relevant culture of learning. Longevity of administration and staff has led to an environment that embraces building collaborative staff and student relationships, and it has taken years of work to get to the point where they are able to view education change as a necessity rather than something to fear.