

PALM HARBOR MIDDLE SIP 2013-14 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Palm Harbor Middle School has 1443 students in grades sixth, seventh and eighth, four administrators, eighty teachers, three counselors, one behavior specialist, one varying exceptionalities specialist and fifty-three staff members. The mission of Palm Harbor Middle is to educate and prepare each student for college, career and life.

To accomplish this mission, Palm Harbor Middle School has six goals:

- 1) In reading, increase the percentage of students at or above FCAT Level 3 from sixty-six percent to seventy-four percent;
- 2) In mathematics, increase the percentage of students at or above FCAT Level 3.0 from sixty-six percent to seventy-four percent;
- 3) In writing, increase the percent of students at or above FCAT Level 3.5 from sixty-two percent to seventy percent;
- 4) In science, increase the percent of students at or above FCAT Level 3 from fifty-six percent to sixty-six percent;
- 5) Increase our African-American students (Bradley MOU) learning gains in reading from forty one percent to fifty percent and in mathematics increase from thirty-one percent to forty percent.
- 6) Develop and sustain a healthy, respectful, caring, safe learning environment for students, faculty, staff and community resulting in individual employee learning, student achievement and overall school improvement.

The core instructional strategies included in our action plans are: align lessons with a course standard or benchmark and to the district/school pacing guide; include into the lesson a goal/essential question and Common Core strategies with complex text; include teacher explanation of how the class activities relate to the learning goal and to answering the essential question; focus and/or refocus class discussion by referring back to the learning goal/essential question; include a scale or rubric that relates to the learning goal that is posted so that all students can see and refer to it; provide formative assessments to assess learning and understanding; provide differentiated instruction as necessary for ED, ELL, and SWD and other subgroups; teacher reference to the scale or rubric throughout the lesson; appropriate placement of students in both reading and math classes; Create schedules for weekly tutoring and ELP; secure highly trained teachers for enrichment activities including rocketry, math club, Future Cities and other clubs; and advertise enrichment activities through school newsletters and morning announcements, Connect Ed and the school website.

The professional development efforts include determining necessary resources both within and outside of the school and the administration team creating a calendar for professional development throughout the school year. It is highly encouraged that all instructional personnel attend other professional development opportunities offered by the district.

The parent involvement efforts are a challenge for our school as many parents work during the school. As a strategy to increase volunteer hours, the school is hosting a volunteer orientation in September, 2013. Parents are invited to two open houses in the fall where various opportunities (chaperoning, mentors, History Fair judges and guest speakers) are offered to those who are interested in volunteering in some capacity.

For more information about Palm Harbor Middle's School Improvement Plan, please go to our website at www.ph-ms.pinellas.k12.fl.us