



Executive Summary: Palm Harbor Middle School

School Improvement Plan for 2016-17



Palm Harbor Middle School has 1367 students, grades six to eight, four administrators, 79 teachers, and 3 guidance counselors, a school resource officer and numerous support staff members that include a psychologist, physical/occupational therapist, speech therapist, social worker and associates. The mission of **Palm Harbor Middle** is to educate and prepare each student for college, career and life. Palm Harbor Middle has met the requirements of the AdvancED Accreditation Commission and is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement.

School Celebrations

A review of our most recent school achievement data has given us reasons to celebrate and build upon as a school. Those improvements include:

- 1.) Our school improved its FSA ELA proficiency from sixty-two percent to sixty-three percent.
- 2.) Our school improved its FSA math proficiency from sixty-two percent to sixty-six percent.
- 3.) Our school improved its science proficiency from sixty percent to sixty-two percent.
- 4.) Our school improved its civics proficiency from seventy percent to seventy-five percent.
- 5.) Our school was named Five Star School Award for the 2015-16 school year.

Primary Goals

To accomplish our mission, Palm Harbor Middle School has the following primary goals.

- 1) For ELA/Reading: Sixty-eight percent of all students will demonstrate proficiency by April 2017 as measured by the FSA results; *and* increase the percentage of students who make learning gains from fifty-five percent to fifty eight percent, especially those who are currently in the lowest twenty-five percentile.;
- 2) In mathematics, Sixty-eight percent of all students will demonstrate proficiency by April 2017 as measured by the FSA results; *and* increase the percentage of students who make learning gains from fifty-five percent to fifty eight percent, especially those who are currently in the lowest twenty-five percentile;
- 3) In science, sixty-five percent of all students will demonstrate proficiency by May 2017, as measured by the FCAT 2.0;
- 4) In Civics, seventy-eight percent of all students will demonstrate proficiency by May 2017 on the Civics EOC ;
- 5) For overall school wellness, improve the physical activity environment of the school by providing additional opportunities for more physical movement for staff and students multiple times per month as measured by surveys and participation;
- 6) For the Career-Technical department: to increase the number of students who are enrolled in CTE classes to take and pass the Microsoft certifications, including Microsoft Word, Power Point and Excel by ten percent;
- 7) For African-American students: increase learning gains on the FSA on the ELA/Reading and mathematics by three percent or more by May 2017;
- 8) For ELL and ESE students: increase learning gains by two percent or more on the FSA ELA/Reading and mathematics tests.

Key Strategies:

The core instructional and monitoring strategies included in our action plans are:

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 on Focus LMS; include into the lesson a goal, scales and Common Core strategies with complex text including the usage of Digital DBQs; 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; teacher reference to the scale or rubric throughout the lesson; provide formative assessments to assess learning and understanding; provide differentiated instruction as necessary for ED, ELL, and SWD and other subgroups; incorporate AVID strategies into each classroom; appropriate placement of students in both reading and math classes, including increasing the number of students enrolled into more rigorous mathematics courses such as the sixth grade accelerated mathematics and Algebra I; create schedules for weekly tutoring and ELP; secure and retain highly trained teachers for enrichment activities including rocketry, math club, and other clubs; and advertise enrichment activities through school newsletters and morning announcements, Connect Ed and the school website. Administrators will construct a master schedule that will include common planning for grade level subject teachers and also conduct regular classroom walk-throughs while providing valuable feedback to teachers. It is also highly encouraged for teachers to make their practices public so they may learn from others.

Professional Development

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. As a school, we are conducting various book studies including "Reaching the Wounded Student" by Joe Hendershott to enhance the staff's understanding of those who have various challenges outside of the classroom. The administrative team members are completing Check and Connect training in September so as to mentor our most challenging students. During each PLC every week, there will be various data chats that include discipline, attendance and various assessment data that will be analyzed and discussed among grade level, department and staff. Also, teachers are attending other training that include state conferences and bringing information to share with other staff members.

Parent and Community Engagement

Parent engagement efforts are a challenge for our school as many parents work during the school day. As a strategy to increase volunteer hours, the school is hosting a volunteer orientation in September, 2016. 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. We are hoping to also offer parent information nights on various topics in both English and Spanish. We also work with community members including AARP to recruit volunteers and mentors. We will be hosting a fall festival, sponsored by our PTSA that will bring in community vendors and solidify more business partnerships such as with restaurants, tutoring companies and the like.

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