Westridge Middle School

9300 Nieman Road  
Overland Park, KS 66214  
913-993-1200

Principal: David Kanne  
Grades Served: 7 & 8  
KSDE Bldg #: 8868

Feeder Pattern: West

Notable School Characteristics

- Comprehensive school serving students in grades 7 & 8  
- Meets the needs of a diverse body of students  
- Works collaboratively with a variety of community partners  
- Title 1 School  
- Flexible learning spaces have been developed to meet the needs of all learners  
- Implementation of student leadership programs including Jag K and Sources of Strength

KSDE Building Report Card

Westridge Middle School Building Report Card

Sec. 8. On and after July 1, 2021, K.S.A. 72-1163 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-1163. (a) Each year the board of education of a school district shall conduct an assessment of the educational needs of each attendance center in the district. Information obtained from such needs-assessment shall be used by the board when preparing the budget of the school district to ensure improvement in student academic performance. The budget of the school district shall allocate sufficient moneys in a manner reasonably calculated such that all students may achieve the goal set forth in K.S.A. 72-3218(c), and amendments thereto. The board also shall prepare a summary of the budget for the school district. The budgets and summary shall be in the form prescribed by the director pursuant to K.S.A. 79-2926, and amendments thereto.
Needs Analysis

What barriers must be overcome for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on assessments?

Some of the key barriers that must be overcome at Westridge Middle School include:

- Student attendance
- Transient population
- Students that do not speak English fluently;
- Retaining high quality teachers
- Social emotional well-being of students

What budget actions should be taken to address and remove those barriers?

The Shawnee Mission School District including Westridge Middle School has taken several measures to remove barriers to student growth. Increased salary to recruit and retain highly qualified certified and classified staff, additional staff members hired to meet the individual learning and SEL needs of all students (including a social worker, Recovery Room aide, and an instructional coach), increased funding and time for PLCs to meet, and additional substitute teachers including building substitutes. In addition, fully funding special education by the State would aid in removing barriers. Additional all staff training on best practices for ELL instruction in the general education classroom, as well as staff training on integration of social emotional learning into classroom instruction.

How much time will it take for each student to achieve grade level proficiency on the state assessments if the budget actions would be implemented?

While assessment scores are one measure, Westridge does not believe that students’ assessment scores should be the sole measure of student proficiency, especially when the assessment has zero impact on their future. We measure growth each year and document in our KESA plans our success on a variety of student success factors. We emphasize growth for all students. Although we do this and are proud of the work we do, many factors make it impossible to estimate a time that every student achieves grade level proficiency. Such factors include:

- Student attendance
- Transient population

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- Students that do not speak English fluently
- Retaining high quality teachers
- Social emotional well-being of students

Board Rationale/Comments

The Shawnee Mission School District faces challenging budget needs given the commitment to meeting aspirational state and district education goals for every student. The district continues to work to limit central administrative costs to less than 5% of the total budget. Following an analysis of student needs, the district has worked to maintain in the district budget a full-time social worker position in every school, a full-time instructional coach in every school, and Real World Learning counselors at each of the five comprehensive high schools.

The following positions have been added to support buildings to better meet the needs of our 26,440 students: two (2) assistant principal positions at our larger middle schools; three (3) intervention specialists; two (2) Special Education instructional coaches; two (2) ELL teachers; six (6) additional teaching positions and thirty (30) paraprofessional positions. The district will continue to analyze budget funds for the 2024-25 school year, in order to determine the ability to maintain the following positions that were added with ESSER funding: additional support for nursing services; additional secondary math teachers; building substitutes for every building; and class-size reduction at the elementary level.

In addition, the district has increased professional learning opportunities for all teachers, including hosting a major conference on Professional Learning Communities and sending large numbers of staff to a conference on Response to Intervention. We will continue to prioritize equitable allocation of resources to create a welcoming and engaging learning experience for every student — facilitating personalized learning plans, targeting career and college readiness, with the interpersonal skills for life success.

Westridge Middle School is the only Title 1 Middle School in the Shawnee Mission School District. The building reports struggling with student absenteeism and meeting the needs of English Language Learners. This budget includes additional investment in ELL teachers to support schools like Westridge. SMSD middle schools have recently implemented a late-start on Thursday, which allows our educators additional time for professional development, particularly for Professional Learning Communities (PLCs.) Hopefully this time can be used to support the unique needs of Westridge learners.

Our routine use of multiple measures to assess student growth, school climate and equitable practices will serve to inform the best use of finite resources looking ahead.

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