



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools_09302024_14:09

2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

**Middlesboro High School
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Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Middlesboro High is a 126 year old institution with a population of approximately 358 MHS students. It is located in the southeast corner of Kentucky a few miles from the Tennessee and Virginia borders. We may be the only city in America located in a meteorite crater. This is the first school year since March 13, 2020 that all of our eligible students are in person at school each day. The population of male students is 183 and female is 175.

We continue to have 28 certified educators, 1 principal and 1 assistant principal, 1 counselor, 1 family resource youth service center employee, 6 classified para-professionals, and 3 custodians. Each of the 3 schools in our district participate in the "Community Eligibility Option" feeding program, which allows all students to eat free. If this option were not available to our students approximately 70-75% would qualify for free or reduced lunch. The community is unique and has several challenges that must be considered when providing services to students and families. Over the past decade we have witnessed what has become a major concern for our area: the economic impact of the closing of several area mines, continuing loss of tax-based revenue, and local ancillary supporting businesses.

We slowly continue to lose families due to relocation for them to be gainfully employed. The current population of Bell County is 25,899 with a growth rate of -1.28%. Our county has experienced a population decline since 2010. Middlesboro currently has 9,219 residents. Middlesborough is currently declining at a rate of -1.0% in 2022 and its population has decreased by almost 200 residents since 2020 indicating a loss of -1.98% of the population in two years. According to World Population Review, our town has lost approximately 700 residents since the beginning of the 21st century. Middlesborough's reached the largest population of 14,482 in 1950. Spanning over 7 miles, Middlesborough currently has a population density of 1,229 people per square mile. The average household income in Middlesborough is \$35,924 with a poverty rate of 33.24%. The median rental costs in recent years comes to \$548 per month, and the median house value is \$72,400. The median age in Middlesborough is 40 years, 38.3 years for males, and 40.6 years for females.

The coal industry has ceased to exist, and the unemployment rate is high. The impact of job loss and the COVID-19 pandemic has negatively impacted the economic, academic, and social-emotional state of our community. Most of the jobs here are in the areas of medical services, retail, education, food services, civil support, and manufacturing. With major employers having moved from the area, a declining population continues to be a major concern for our local schools. A sizable portion of our student population resides in apartments managed by the

Housing Authority of Middlesboro which manages 13 housing developments in Middlesboro.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the percentage of people below poverty level in Kentucky is approximately 18.5% compared to 44.7% in Middlesboro. The median household income in Middlesboro is \$22,443 versus the median household income for our state is \$43,740. Middlesboro has more than double the number of people unemployed and living in poverty, while we survive on less than half the median household income.

These statistics reveal a significant challenge for our school and our community. The continuing struggles with poverty, the community substance abuse culture, and a continuing rise in unemployment plagues our school with issues that require our staff to continuously look for strategies that challenge and support our young learners despite their difficult circumstances. The need for outside agency support with behavioral and mental health problems continues to increase. The district has attempted to help with this issue by hiring two additional itinerate counselors as well as a school psychological testing administrator. However, much more may need to be done to address the learning needs of Middleboro High School students.

Middlesborough Demographics

According to the most recent ACS, the racial composition of Middlesborough is:

- White: 91.64%
- Black or African American: 5.33%
- Two or more races: 2.39%
- Other race: 0.55%
- Native American: 0.09%
- Asian: 0.00%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.00%

While the student population of Middlesboro High School is:

- White: 83.35%
- Black or African American: 5.21%
- Two or more races: 7.14%
- Hispanic/Latino: 1.84%
- Native American: 0.01%
- Asian: 1.68%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.00%

*Data was taken from <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/middlesborough-ky-population> and the MHS Infinite Campus student enrollment summary report.

School Stakeholders

Identify and describe the school's stakeholder groups. How does the school ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in the improvement planning process?

Stakeholder groups include teachers, students, parents, community members. We have an SBDM council that consists of teacher representatives elected by their peers and parent representatives represented by their peers. We provide multiple opportunities for community members to become involved at the school level throughout our JAG program. We also have multiple open house nights to encourage parent involvement.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs, including the year in which they were last reviewed or revised. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

The guiding purpose of Middlesboro High School is to prepare our students to become thoughtful contributors to the community in which they choose to live after high school. Our course offerings are designed to provide students with skills necessary for the career path they choose to follow. Whether students choose an early AA/AS degree with KCTCS, the college readiness / AP / dual-credit path, one of our ATC / vo-tech / business pathways, STEM / coding / pre-engineering pathway, or JROTC military pathway, students may explore a variety of possibilities that may prepare them for the next phase of life. Our focus is on academic preparation, social-emotional wellness, and soft skills. Our efforts are centered on developing student ability to collaborate, communicate, research, create, and live peacefully as part of a diverse community. Through our connections with SECC-KCTCS, Bell County ATC, local businesses, JAG, LMU, and others, our students are provided with community supports to prepare them with the skills they will need for life beyond public school.

MISSION STATEMENT

Middlesboro High School will work with the community and our families to ensure our students become college or career, and ready for life beyond high school.

VISION

Middlesboro High School continuously strives to cultivate an all-inclusive and diverse cultural experience that promotes social, emotional, and intellectual growth. We envision a successful school as one in which everyone is an excited and engaged member of our Yellow Jacket community. Our school culture should continuously promote a caring environment of friends, leaders, and life-long learners that allows our students to achieve optimal success. Our community should accept their responsibility as an integral force in the education of our students. Our school community should strive to understand and support diversity and promote cultural acceptance. We will do all to ensure students are prepared to

achieve post-secondary goals in order to become thoughtful, contributing members of society.

VALUES

We value relationships between the staff, students, and community. We strongly support the personal and professional growth of our staff; provide a rigorous curriculum and thoughtful guidance support system for our students, and constantly seeking the involvement of all our stakeholders. Our work begins and ends with the relationships we forge with our students. Supportive, positive relationships with an empathetic mindset between all stakeholders is essential to our success. We will continually challenge ourselves to provide a thoughtful, rigorous, and engaging high school experience that puts learners first and prepares every student for college or career, and life.

Developing a belief in one's potential and abilities is a crucial factor in doing well in school and life. Teachers must be positive and well trained to embed these core beliefs into the mindset of our students. Though the training we received prior to COVID-19's arrival was good for the time, our needs have changed greatly. The quality and depth of training needed to move forward through the post-pandemic era is yet to be received.

We also believe pride is the core value that provides the impetus for success in school and life. We define pride as persistence, respect, integrity, determination, and excellence. Our staff and faculty must help students to develop and maintain a positive attitude to perform at their maximum ability and succeed. School Profile: Middlesboro High School consists of grades 9 through 12. Students have access to the Diploma of Distinction, Advanced Placement Honors courses, Pre-College Diploma, the MHS Early College Academy with KCTCS Southeast Campus, dual credit classes through the Kentucky Southeast Community College (KCTCS), the CTE Diploma with the local ATC Kentucky Technical and Vocational School, and a Credit Recovery Program called New Horizons. Stakeholders collaborated on the development and continued revision of our vision, mission, and values statements.

MHS offers the following graduation tracks including Vo-Tech with the local County ATC, STEM/Engineering, Pre- College, Diploma of Distinction (AP), and an Early College Academy Program. Early College is a program partnership with Southeast Community College that allows MHS students who have met the Kentucky ACT benchmarks to be college ready to dual enroll as a student at SECC and work toward an Associates Degree. These unique offerings are supported by the administration, faculty, KCTCS - SECC, and a collaborative educational foundation. To date we have 24 students who have earned an Associates Degree. We are on track to have 4 additional new graduates in the Spring of 2023. There are 9 students currently enrolled in our 6th and 7th ECA cohorts. Approximately 35% of our students leave MHS with between 3 and 24 college hours that were achieved via dual-credit.

MHS further offers the Job's for America's Graduates (JAG) Kentucky program and JROTC. All seniors take the senior seminar class that introduces seniors to financial

literacy skills, FAFSA, basic life skills, college visits, community business connections, and access to military recruiters.

Our Gear-Up program also offers our students access to outside agencies and academic supports to help them develop personal goals for life beyond high school.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Areas of Achievement

- Full-time in-person school: consistent face-to-face instruction
- Instill a positive school culture within our classrooms
- 4 students graduated with an Associate's degree in May 2022 before they earned their high school diploma
- The Cheer team won 1st place at Nationals Competition.
- The Choir had 10 kids qualify and perform at All-Festival (Region)
- 4 Choral students were selected and performed at KMEA All-State Choir
- Baseball/Softball District champs
- Softball All-A regional champions

Areas of Improvement

- Improved communication with students and families via open houses, social media, letters to home.
- Gifted and talented services were provided on a regular schedule for high school students utilizing a pullout and targeted assistance system.
- Behavior incidents decreasing overall. Number of THC/ drug related incidents decreased.
- Band has improved and increased student membership. Band currently has 70 members.
- New Science labs will be available in the 24-25 school year.
- Continued efforts remain in strengthening content area proficiency across all grade levels.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Our department chairs have worked together to examine student performance data from 2023 to spring 2024. We have redesigned our approach to working with juniors and freshmen. With faculty turnover, we are trying to overcome the gap in teaching experience.

As most understand, the issues of isolation, generational poverty, learned helplessness, absence of self-efficacy, were each exacerbated by the pandemic. Combined with the increased learning gap, there is a tremendous academic mountain to climb. Use of student data from the ACT, soon to be released state accountability data, and formative/summative classroom data, will allow us to target our student's needs and work to provide services that help them grow and be prepared for now and for life beyond high school.

As noted in prior CSIPs, the MHS staff and faculty, students, families and our community faces many challenges. We live in an extremely impoverished area with high unemployment. We have witnessed a dramatic change to the family structure. Many of our students are being raised by grandparents, other kin, or friends of families. The homeless population continues to grow and many of our families are impacted by the growing and long-term substance abuse epidemic. Through the commitment and dedication of stakeholders within our school and community, MHS is progressing toward excellence, working together as one team, united, for the sake of our students.

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Middlesboro High School

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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