



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

Middlesboro Middle 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 Middle School is part of an independent school district located in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Middlesboro is a town of near 10,000 residents at the point where Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia join. Cumberland Gap National Park is a notable local landmark recognized in other parts of the country. This district consists of three A-1 schools spanning grades K-12 and an alternative school that serves grades 8-12. There are currently 1130 students enrolled in the district. Middlesboro Middle School has an enrollment of 286 students serving grades 5-8. Demographically, Male students slightly outnumber the female students 154 to 132. We have a minority enrollment of which 81% Caucasian; 9% Two or more races, 6% African American; 3% Other races. Currently, all our schools participate in the "Community Eligibility Options" feeding program which allows all students to eat free breakfast and lunch, as well as a third meal on designated days. While 78.8% of the district's students are economically disadvantaged and would be considered Free/Reduced Lunch. If the free meals if the program were not available, 81.9% of the Middlesboro Middle School's students would qualify. The unemployment rate for Middlesboro exceeds the national average. The average income per person for Middlesboro residents is \$15,810, while the national average is \$26,154. The median household income in Middlesboro is \$25,223 as compared to the national median household income of \$50,935. The Housing Authority of Middlesboro manages 13 low-income housing developments within the city limits of Middlesboro. In 2021-2022 the total revenue per pupil was \$18,251 which was comparable to Kentucky's district average of \$16,422. The district student-to-internet-connection instructional computer ratio is 1.7:1. Middlesboro Middle School has a 1.4:1 ratio with 100% of technology meeting the state minimum standards. The 2021-2022 district attendance rate was 92.3%. Middlesboro Middle School's 2020-2021 attendance was 92.9%. The district employs the equivalent of 87 full time teachers with an average of 12 years of teaching experience. MMS has the equivalent of 26 full time teachers with an average of 13.6 years teaching experience. The staff of MMS is 92.6% highly qualified with 94.1% of teachers having earned a Masters degree or higher. We have two teachers with an Education Specialist degree. District wide, the student-teacher ratio is 15:1, while the MMS ratio of 13:1 with an average core class size of 24. Currently, there are four regular classroom teachers for each grade level. Art, music, and physical education teachers from throughout the district provide services for MMS students. There are four special education teachers, and one self-contained FMD teacher with an aid. Middlesboro Middle School has the following technologies: two MAC labs with 27 computers each, two mobile labs, two classrooms with computers creating 1:1 ratio, two classrooms with multiple computers to provide intervention/remediation services to students, multiple student response systems, and lab quest data probes. MMS has a Next Generation classroom equipped with a Mondo pad, high definition conferencing camera, document camera, and mobile ipad lab. In addition, each grade level has a mobile

set of Chromebooks for their grade level along with a school wide set housed in the library. We are currently partnered with Verizon Innovative learning and every Student in the district has a chromebook and every teacher in the building has a interactive panel and most an Ipad to interact with the panel while walking around the room to interact with the students. Middlesboro Middle School also offers Project Lead the Way classes to seventh and eighth grade students which emphasize science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education. Seventh grade students are offered an introduction to computer science and eighth grade are offered an introduction to engineering. Middlesboro Middle School is accredited by AdvanceEd (formerly the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Also, MMS is in the process of building a new STEM Lab and we are currently in the process of starting to become a STEM Certified School through Cognia. We have partnered with MIT and the Perseid Foundation to increase STEM opportunities for our students.

School Stakeholders

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

Middlesboro Middle School has increased the stakeholders that have involvement and engagement in our schools and communities. We have partnered with Verizon Innovative Learning to provide every student and faculty member with a LTE capable chrome book to ensure all of our students have internet access. We have partnered with the Perseid Foundation and John Shoffner to increase STEM approaches to learning. Due to this partnership our students and teachers have access to professors at MIT and we also have personal relationships with NASA and the abundance of resources they offer. We have partnerships with Berea College and GEAR-UP, Innovative Approaches to Learning, Save the Children, Americorps-Hindman Settlement Literacy, Partners for Rural Impact through Berea College. We have a local partnership with Lincoln Memorial University and the LMU School of Medicine, they provide us with intervention resources and work with our students in our after school programs. We have a partnership with the 21st Century Grant that provides our students with after school resources for tutoring and intervention programs.

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 mission statement of Middlesboro Middle School is: "We believe all students can learn and every student matters. We accept the responsibility for creating a safe learning environment that will allow students to learn and grow; providing them the knowledge to be life long learners, productive citizens, and be Career and College Ready upon graduation". Middlesboro Middle School offers after school tutoring in

conjunction with LMU-DCOM students to ensure that every student is given the opportunity to be successful in the classroom. Also, every student is tracked academically throughout the school year using various methods to predict student achievement and make sure the students not on track are placed in proper RtI groups to ensure they are receiving the proper instruction to get them back on track. Middlesboro Middle School accepts the responsibility for the following goals:

1. By 2025, Proficient/Distinguished percentage in Reading scores - for all students will increase from 40% to 60% P/D by 2025 - for students participating in free/reduced lunch program Reading P/D will increase from 38% P/D to 65% - for students with disabilities Reading P/D will increase from 43% to 65% - By 2025, Math scores - for all students will increase from 17% Proficient and Distinguished to 50% - for African-American students P/D will increase from 27% P/D to 45% - for students participating in free/reduced lunch program, math P/D will increase from 24% to 50% P/D - for students with disabilities Math P/D percentages will increase from 33% to 50% P/D. By 2025 the combined reading and math Proficiency indicator score - for all students will increase from 52.4 to 72.3 -The Separate Academic Indicator Score (Science, Social Studies, and Writing) will increase to 63.3 for all students by 2025. The science P/D% for all students will increase from 25% P/D to 50% P/D, Science scores for students that are Economically disadvantaged will increase from 18% P/D to 40% P/D, Science for students with IEP will increase from 31% P/D to 40%. By 2025 the social studies P/D% will increase from 29% P/D to 50% P/D for all students. Social Studies for 2 or more races P/D% will increase to 66.5%, Economically disadvantaged will increase from 26% P/D to 50% and students with IEP will increase from 24% P/D to 50%. -The Writing Scores P/D will increase from 22% P/D to 50% P/D for all students, Economically disadvantaged students will increase from 20% P/D to 45% P/D. By 2025 our growth will increase to 63.6% - By 2025, the percent of students scoring Novice in reading will reduce from 30% Novice to 20%. In math Novice will reduce from 38% to 20%.

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.

At Middlesboro Middle School, We are proud to say that our school and school district is building a state-of-the art STEM lab designed by MIT that will allow our students to be a part of a movement that will steer our school and community into a STEM certified school and create a STEM pathway for our students and our community. We are creating partnerships with MIT, NASA, LMU school of Engineering, among others. The students will be taught the engineering design approach to problem solving, to which they will apply to solve everyday problems in both the classroom and community. Middlesboro Middle School has partnered with PRI and Gear Up to provide our school with Academic Interventionist that will work with our students to reduce the percentage of novice students we have and expose our students to college pathways. 73.1% of teachers have earned a Master's Degree or higher. Middlesboro Middle School showed a significant increase in Quality of School Climate Survey and Increased over 13 index points to a 78.2 Every classroom in the building is equipped with an interactive panel to increase student

engagement and every student in the district is supplied a chromebook. MMS teachers incorporate various computer/internet based programs to support and enhance learning environment. Programs used include Edmodo, Moby Max, Odysseyware, PLATO, and IXL. Middlesboro Middle School uses STAR 360 results in math and reading, the most recent KPREP scores, classroom grades, and teacher recommendations to identify struggling students. Students are then assigned to Enrichment and Rtl (Response to Intervention) classes based upon their individual needs. The Rtl classes have reduced class size and offer group and individualized instruction using computer based programs and additional resource supplements. Middlesboro Middle School teachers realize that challenges still exist for our students and the responsibility to make improvements rest solely on the shoulders of the faculty and staff. Students receiving free and/or reduced meals and students with disabilities are the two populations that make up our gap group. Improving the academic performance of these students is our top priority. Attendance is a key factor for student learning. Middlesboro Middle School has attendance goal for 2024-2025 of 95%, MMS is committed to identifying and helping those students who have attendance issues. As a school. MMS has to address these issues and be successful in correcting these deficiencies. Also, MMS realizes that we have to address the fact that our writing scores are not where we would like them to be 43.1 and we have to make gains in the Separate Academic index area and increase our scores in this component. We have to improve our Math and Reading scores, even though we are maintaining our index, we have to reduce our Novice Percentage. We have began a partnership with Verizon Innovative Learning and provide everyone in our district a chrome book with LTE internet capabilities. Also, Verizon provides us with state of the art learning experiences and professional development to ensure we are providing our students with STEM opportunities. Verizon also provides our school with a VILS coach that works with our teachers and students to incorporate STEM into our daily learning opportunities. Partners for Rural Impact grant Full Service Community Schools has been awarded to Middlesboro District and this grant brings together community partners, more resources and opportunities for student and families, and a concentration on chronic absenteeism. The FSCS grant has become a top resource for collaboration between community resources and students of need to establish our schools as a place of safety and well being. We have also incorporated First Inspire Lego League Robotics to our enrichment programs for some of our Tech Students.

Additional Information

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

Middlesboro Middle School is a part of a community in which people with degrees and diplomas are far below the national average. Below is a comparison of our area to the national average: 1. High School Graduation: 60.33% vs. 80.82% 2. Two Year College Graduates: 3.52% vs. 6.48% 3. Four Year College Graduates: 5.08% vs. 16.02% 4. Graduate Degrees: 5.14% vs. 8.97% Furthermore, our area has been adversely impacted by substance abuse. The community has the presence of a drug awareness/prevention/counseling project as UNITE. Middlesboro Middle School has personnel available to help students with their problems and concerns. The goal is

to help students make the best choices concerning drugs, alcohol, and teenage pregnancies. Therefore, these issues of poverty, lack of education, and substance abuse are all part of the declining culture of our community. All of these factors directly influence students of Middlesboro Middle School. The staff and faculty have the task of helping students overcome these barriers to learning in order to break the cycle and become successful and productive members of society. Middlesboro Middle School is building a State of the Art STEM lab designed by MIT that will allow our students to be exposed to a different STEM pathway that will hopefully help them and our community overcome some of the barriers placed on our community due to poverty.

Attachment Summary

| Attachment Name | Description | Associated Item(s) |
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