



2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools_09092025_11:39

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Middlesboro Middle School
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Table of Contents

<u>2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools</u>	<u>3</u>
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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 1134 students enrolled in the district. Middlesboro Middle School has an enrollment of 297 students serving grades 5-8. Demographically, male students slightly outnumber the female students 152 to 145. We have a minority enrollment of which 85% Caucasian; 8% Two or more races, 3% 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 1:1 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 and two teachers with Doctoral degrees. 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 ELA and Social Studies and three regular classroom teachers for math and science. Art, music, and physical education teachers from throughout the district provide services for MMS students. There are four special education teachers, one resource teacher, and one self-contained FMD teacher with an aid. Middlesboro Middle School is a Verizon Innovative Learning School.

Through Verizon, every student has a personal chromebook to use, making MMS a 1:1 school. Through Verizon, MMS is in the process of installing a state of the art STEM lab. Middlesboro Middle School has recently earned the status of a STEM certified school through the National Institute for STEM Education. The library at

MMS is equipped with computers for use by the Lego League team for robotics, as well as, Samsung Galaxy tablets, VR headsets, and 3D printers for use in STEM lessons and projects. Every classroom is equipped with a NewLine Smartboard or interactive panel. One classroom is equipped with multiple computers for use in intervention instruction. Teachers at MMS also have Micorsoft Surface Pros to aid in instruction. Technology is integrated into every classroom at Middlesboro Middle School.

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 Verizon, Arizona State University and the Heart of America foundation to construct a state of the art STEM lab that will expose students to many STEM pathways. We have partnerships with Berea College and GEAR-UP, Innovative Approaches to Learning, Save the Children, Americorps-Hindman Settlement Literacy, and 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 supplementary 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 and Vision statements for MMS were reviewed in July 2025. 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". The vision statement for Middlesboro Middle School is: "Middlesboro Middle School will empower all students to meet or exceed expectations for academic, social, and emotional growth and success." Middlesboro Middle School has the motto: "Be Respectful - Be Responsible - Be Engaged". Middlesboro Middle School offers after school tutoring in conjunction with 21st Century Grant and Partners for Rural Impact who provide teachers to to work with students after school to ensure every student has the opportunity for success. Also, every student is tracked academically throughout the school year using

various methods to predict student achievement and to 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 has acquired the services of a reading and writing consultant to work with ELA teachers to increase success in the areas of reading and writing. Middlesboro Middle School accepts the responsibility for the following goals: 1. Proficiency Increase - By 2026, Proficient/Distinguished percentage in Reading scores for all students will increase from 40% to 60%. Math scores for all students will increase from 29% Proficient and Distinguished to 50%. In Social Studies the percentage of students scoring Proficient/Distinguished will increase from 30% to 50%. Science proficiency for all students will increase from 25% to 50%. Combined Writing scores will increase from 27% proficiency to 50%. 2. Novice Reduction - The percent of students scoring Novice in reading will decrease from 26% to 15%. Math students will decrease the Novice from 42% to 25%. Social Studies Novice scores for all students will decrease from 48% to 25%. In science, the percent of students scoring Novice will be reduced from 31% to 20%. Combined writing Novice scores will show a reduction from 34% to 20%.

Notable Achievements

Describe the school's notable achievements in the last 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 through a partnership with Verizon, Arizona State University and the Heart of America Foundation 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. Middlesboro Middle School just became a National STEM certified school through the NISE program. 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 Berea College and Gear Up to provide our school with a Career and College Navigator that will work with our students to provide opportunities for exploration of career and college pathways. 73.1% of teachers have earned a Master's Degree or higher. Over the past three years, the middle school has demonstrated steady growth and consistency. Quality and school climate have remained positive and consistent, supporting student engagement, safety, and overall satisfaction among students and staff. Based on internal data and recent performance trends, we anticipate academically that reading and writing will increase, while math scores will remain stable, reflecting effective instructional practices and curriculum alignment. In addition, the school achieved a major milestone by becoming nationally STEM certified with NISE. In addition, the school achieved a major milestone by becoming nationally STEM certified with NISE. 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, 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 RtI (Response to Intervention) classes based upon their individual needs. The RtI classes have reduced class size and offer group and individualized instruction using computer based programs and additional resource supplements. The Academic Team at Middlesboro Middle School is a three time Regional Governor's Cup Champion. MMS is also entering the second year of competition with Lego First Lego League competition. Middlesboro Middle School is entering the third year of a Entrepreneurship Club where eighth grade students are able to earn a Lean Six Sigma national business certification. Three of the program graduates have already started their own small business. We have 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. MMS also improved overall attendance last year - having the highest percentage of attendance in the district 9 of the 10 months last year.

Areas of Improvement

Describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

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 2025-2026 attendance goal 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. Through a relationship building program, MMS has a goal of reducing the percent of students with chronic absenteeism from 40% to 35%. Also, MMS realizes that we have to address the fact that our writing scores are not where we would like them to be 50.31 and we have to make gains in the Separate Academic index area and increase our scores in this component. We have contracted with a reading and writing consultant to work with our school and district on improving writing scores. While reading and math scores have remained stable, math saw an increase in novice students, making novice reduction a primary focus. Social studies continues to be a focus area, with 48% of students performing at the novice level. Writing showed slight improvement, particularly in 8th grade, likely due to the implementation of a dedicated writing block; 5th grade has implemented a similar block this year. The school aims to increase its overall index within two years by improving performance across all subjects. Efforts will focus on reversing declines in science, social studies, and writing through curriculum enhancements, targeted professional development, and tailored interventions such as after-school programs, tutoring, and differentiated instruction. Regular assessments and data analysis will guide instructional adjustments, while continued attention to school culture will support a positive learning environment that promotes student growth and achievement.

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 Arizona State University 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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