

## Preliminary Report, Highlights: Hawks Rise, Leon County

Overall High Performance

*Hawks Rise not only wants to contribute to raised student achievement within its school walls, it wants to participate in efforts that elevate education reform.*

**MONITOR PRECISELY:** The School uses the Sunshine State Standards as their roadmap. All teachers set up their plans and lessons according to the benchmarks. Everyone can check these lesson plans and share the knowledge about what is happening in individual classrooms. In order to make sure the roadmap is taking students where they need to go, the school leaders and staff practice very precise monitoring of progress. In addition to in-depth analysis of standardized test scores and teachers' class tests, the school uses Star Reading and Math; Pierson Learning's computer-designed programs, to monitor skills daily and to estimate where they are and where they need to be; and the Accelerated Reader. The principal meets with teachers frequently to co-analyze this data and support efforts to prescribe changes and provide remediation.

**Results:** FCAT Accountability Report, Reading: 96% of 3rd and 89% of 4th graders at level 3 or above

### Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Involving teachers in the decisions about what is assessed and how it is assessed
- Providing detailed, easily accessed information online for parents on student progress compared to benchmarks
- Providing extensive professional development for teachers and staff on assessment and analysis

**DEVELOP EXCELLENCE:** The Principal's leadership is student-focused. She is there to personally lead their education and support staff to do the same. She has a photo of all 800 students and connects names to faces so that she can personally greet them. She also has in-depth knowledge about their progress, from cross-referencing data and from teacher information. She is apt to ask them about what books they are reading now or how they are doing on a specific reading goal. She sends "postcards" home with each Report Card focusing on the positive that a student achieved. Now she is working on setting up meetings with every student to share with them what the data says about where they are, and where they could be. She believes this will motivate and empower students even more to be full partners in their own improvement.

**Results:** School grades: 2000: A; 2001: A; 2002: A

### Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Investigating and choosing research-based instructional programs that inspire higher order thinking
- Sharing literature with teachers about quality education development and strategies for discussion and incorporation
- Using the district's program that brings back retired teachers to mentor new ones

**BE PART of the SOLUTION:** One of the school's parent leaders has a straight "A" student and one who struggles. He got to see and appreciate, how the school responds to students with varying needs. The parents credit communication that is consistent, detailed, assessment-oriented and interactive. This parent and others constantly communicate with their children's teachers and the Principal through e-mails, meetings, and phone conversations. Comparing notes with parents whose children attend different schools, including private schools, he concludes informally that the curriculum, communication, and consistency is superior. When students transition to middle school, they hear back that the students are remarkably well-prepared. Parents report that teachers at Hawks Rise are dedicated to hard work and committed to children and parents.

**Results:** Chosen as High Scope Pre-Kindergarten Model (certified and national model site)

### Practices that Promote High Performance

- Analyzing, responding to, and incorporating suggestions from the parent surveys into school operations
- Establishing strong relationships with new parents and students immediately, whether new class or transfers
- Providing workshops for parents on curriculum programs in use at the school