

Preliminary Report, Highlights: Martin Luther King Middle School, Santa Rosa County

TEACHERS AS TEAM PLAYERS: Martin Luther King (MLK) Middle School utilizes a variety of team strategies to ensure students get the best education possible. Common team planning time with regular teachers, special teachers and administrators allows staff the opportunity to plan for the total needs of the students. Teachers also team vertically across grade levels to brainstorm effective strategies for improving the seamless flow of instruction and allow for a smooth transition to the next grade. This strategy has shown to be beneficial for both teachers and students. Curriculum mapping and data driven-decision making are regular outcomes of team planning meetings and help contribute to their success. Teachers are actively involved in the interviewing and hiring of new staff, assisting the principal in the identification and selection of new faculty who will best fit into King Middle School family. To better understand the community they serve, teachers actively seek opportunities to visit and tour the many rural areas.

Results: School Grade: 2001 A; 2002 A; 2003 A.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- The school uses a variety of “team” strategies to ensure students get the best possible education
- Teachers tune in to the needs of students and the communities served
- Planning time provided for teachers to enhance instructional strategies

COMMUNITY OF CARING: The staff at King Middle School embraces the principal’s philosophy of demonstrating a high level of concern and caring for the students. Having effectively served the school for 31 years, this principal knows her community, parents, students, and staff well. When asked about their success as a school, teachers noted that the principal’s hard work and caring is the foundation on which all educational initiatives are built. The principal’s philosophy is reflected in the statement “children don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care, and if you care about them, they are going to work for you.” Also reflected in this community of caring is the principal’s open door policy for all stakeholders.

Results: FCAT NRT higher than state in all areas with continuous progress.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Staff employs a “work hard” attitude
- Teachers show a genuine concern for the welfare of all students
- Principal maintains an open door policy for all stakeholders

PARENT INVOLVEMENT: Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children’s education, they are only a phone call away and are exceptionally supportive of the programs at King Middle. Many of the parents are former students of the school and have known the staff as both a student and a parent. A diverse group of parents serve on the school improvement team and are actively involved in the decision making process at King Middle. Parents are instrumental in helping to create a close knit and involved community. Good communication and mutual support are very evident.

Results: : FCAT Writing: 94% of 8th grade students scoring 3.5 or higher; FCAT Reading, 62% of students scored level 3 or higher; FCAT Math, 74% of students scored 3 or higher.

Practices that Promote High Performance:

- Parents actively involved in their children’s education
- Diverse group of parents involved in decision making
- Close knit and involved community allows for good communication and mutual support