

HUNTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

As we embark upon the MSNS reform initiative our overall vision ***Because we CARE and CAN make a difference, KIDS come first!*** is the driving focus for implementing and achieving our goals.

Our overall goal of improving student achievement in the areas of literacy and mathematics will be accomplished by our reform in the areas of personalization, rigorous and relevant curriculum, flexibility, and our professional learning community. Our faculty, comprised of four committees, was given the task of reflecting upon our current status in each of the four areas for reform. From these reflections four mission statements emerged. Our school data, coupled with our baseline reflections, was the foundation for the development, implementation, and accountability of our comprehensive action plan based upon our school-wide mission statements.

Our beliefs reinforce our high expectations for all students by providing extended learning opportunities for remediation and enrichment, which is evident in our action plan. This reform plan allows for high levels of success. A strong academic focus, as stated in the following mission statements, is the building block of our reform efforts here at Hunter Middle School.

- **Personalization:** Hunter Middle School creates a learning environment that promotes total involvement of all students through academics, athletics, and extra-curricular activities while also promoting positive self-esteem and a feeling of ownership in the school.
- **Rigorous, Relevant Curriculum:** Hunter Middle School students leave the 8th grade with an ability to read various grade level text with understanding so that they are able to: evaluate sources, analyze content, think critically, and apply what is read to themselves and their community, as well as their nation.
- **Flexibility:** Hunter Middle School seeks to create a flexible program that enhances a learning driven environment that engages learners and faculty in the opportunity to think, question, reason, and imagine.
- **Professional Learning Community:** Encourage collaboration and partnership within the school and community by providing opportunities to enhance educational learning, performance, and evaluation of educators and students.

Current educational research has shown that the most significant way to increase a student's achievement is through the use of meta-cognitive strategies, differentiated instruction, and alternative assessments within the classroom. With this in mind, the concentrated effort of this reform is the professional development and support system necessary to build capacity within our professional learning community to sustain and increase student achievement. Hiring a change coach to model, to educate, and to support our teachers is vital to the overall change in the academic culture of our school. The change coach is an imperative component of our budget and integral to the success of our reform in the areas of strengthening our rigorous and relevant curriculum and building the depth of our professional learning community.

As cited in our action plan, flexibility in scheduling is a necessary element to bring about school reform. Our flexibility affords us the opportunity to have job embedded professional development by grade level teams and departments. Upon reflection, a faculty decision was made for the removal of bells that will allow for teacher autonomy within their academic block of instruction.

Another benefit of our flexibility is the use of all staff members to address the various individual needs that are unique to the middle school student through a daily-directed studies/advisory session, *Hawk Time*. These sessions focus on academic extended learning opportunities, personalization, transition, and extra-curricular activities.

Recognizing that personalization can reduce anxiety experienced by students and parents during the elementary to middle school transition, our faculty has developed a comprehensive plan addressing the specific transitional needs of upcoming 6th graders as well as new students to the Hunter community. A focused effort at the beginning of the school year to develop personal connections among students, parents, faculty, and staff will greatly enhance the overall climate of Hunter Middle School. Building on these relationships, we have periodic personalization activities to be implemented in each grade level during *Hawk Time* throughout the school year. Acknowledging the need to support our parents in the academic and social development of adolescence, our action plan provides opportunities for parents to partner with the Hunter family to ensure a positive experience while enhancing the personal plan of success for each student.

This reform is designed to adhere to our vision... ***Because we CARE and CAN make a difference...KIDS come first!***

Reform Team Members

Students

8th – Casey Reese
7th – Madison Dell
6th – Tanner Griffin

Parents

Deone Eversole
David Johnson

Administration/Faculty

Gary Kuehn - Principal
Ronda Lyons – Asst. Principal
Gus Stone – Assistant Principal
Margay McGee - Guidance
Cindy Rigsby - Guidance
Diane Holmes – 6th grade
Joan Roueche – 6th grade
Karen Settles – 7th grade
Karen Underwood – 7th grade
Suzy Hall – 8th grade
Doug Womack – 8th grade
Denise Fitzsimmons – Ex. Ed.
Karen Parker – Ex. Ed.
Teresa Brannon – Related Arts