

LOOKOUT VALLEY MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

The unique focus of Lookout Valley Middle/High School is to support educational experiences for all 6th-12th students to attain the skills necessary for post-secondary options (higher education, vocational training, work force, military) and to evolve as responsible, self-directed and civic-minded citizens in our ever-changing global society. We are creating a student-centered learning community that focuses on literacy, integrates technology, and is a real-life, project-based curriculum that develops behaviors for lifelong learning and offers real-world experiences. We believe family/community involvement and communication are essential factors in supporting the foundation for student success. Our Middle/High Schools for a New Society goals, in conjunction with our School Improvement Plan, drive our school's vision and mission for student achievement.

Maintaining and expanding our professional development program are integral components to accommodate a variety of learning styles; support a rigorous, engaging, and relevant curriculum; improve instruction; and provide teachers with research-based strategies to enhance teaching and learning. Through professional development and collaboration in a networked learning community, teachers will expand their teaching strategies and tools by participating in local curriculum-based workshops and conferences, developing and collaborating on interdisciplinary activities, sharing and networking with partner schools to increase student achievement, and attending training sessions provided by curriculum-based consultants. In addition, opportunities for teachers to individualize and improve teaching and learning will be supported by release time for classroom observations, school visits, advisory training, technology training, expansion of our school professional library, and the continuation of our school-based teacher mentoring program. The Change Coach/Literacy Coach will continue to assist teachers by modeling skills and strategies that establish proficiency in teacher learning, student achievement, and reading comprehension.

Expansion of course offerings will engage all students in grades 6-12 in a wide variety of choices and provide a more rigorous, relevant curriculum. The school will be expanding its offering of Pre-AP and AP classes. Beginning with grade 6, teachers will focus on the integrated higher-order thinking skills that are important for success both during and after high school, and students will begin a planning process, which identifies career and educational goals. During the 2006-2007 school year, Lookout Valley Middle/High School will pilot a program in grades 8-12, which focuses on ACT SPI's and helps teachers monitor and document students' academic growth. In the 8th grade, the EXPLORE test will be given to each student as a diagnostic tool to establish a baseline with respect to the English, reading, mathematics, and science SPI's. EXPLORE will identify students' strengths and weaknesses early in their educational development and enable teachers to seamlessly document student progress and plan high school course work. The PLAN test will be administered in the 10th grade to determine growth and predict individual performance on the ACT and college readiness. All seniors will take the ACT. Scores will be tracked each year to evaluate the amount of growth, and each of these curriculum-based assessment programs will help in the instructional planning process for successive grade levels and curriculum adjustment.

Our flexible scheduling will continue to accommodate our Literacy Life Skills/Advisory initiative. Continuing the advisory program will provide opportunities for students and teachers to establish and maintain positive relationships that build rapport and assist students in meeting and exceeding their personal and educational goals. Advisory teachers will assist students in developing and maintaining a personal plan for progress, conduct student-teacher conferences

to ensure interaction between teachers and students, and communicate with families to guarantee that their students' educational progress and options are being met. Student-teacher conferences will promote academic success by providing opportunities to meet the individual needs of each student.

Continuation of the 6th and 9th grade summer transition programs will provide students with a non-threatening, comfortable atmosphere that prepares them for the transition from elementary school to middle school and middle school to high school. This program allows the students opportunities to succeed and build self-esteem. Sixth-grade students will participate in a variety of activities designed to alleviate fears and concerns about adjusting to middle school. Students will also become familiar with expectations, responsibilities, administrators, and teachers. Personalized opportunities for 9th grade students and their parents will be provided. These individual sessions will address Carnegie units, schedules, personal four-year plan for progress, and a career/college survey.

Lookout Valley Middle/High School expanded its former Cornerstone Academy program for at-risk ninth graders. The success of this program, along with MSNS/SNS goals, established a foundation for a Freshmen Academy. Beginning with the 2005-2006 academic year, our school implemented a Freshmen Academy. The Freshmen Academy actively engages students in rigorous and relevant academic work and supports increased student achievement. In addition, all students have opportunities to participate in internships and job-shadowing activities with community-based businesses. The activities provide real-world experiences and open new doors for post-secondary options.

Believing that family and community engagement is a critical component for student success, our school will involve families through student-led conferences, theme-based family nights, and technology training programs. These activities will make the walls of our school transparent and extend learning opportunities beyond the traditional four walls of the building. Families, the community, and students will have access to the school through an interactive school web page that will support additional avenues of communication between the school and stakeholders. Through this technology, students and families will learn to use the computer for more than a homework retrieval system.

Lookout Valley Middle/High School offers a seamless 6-12 learning environment that supports life-long learning. Students are involved in a variety of technology-rich, project-based experiences that are essential factors in supporting the foundation of student success. As indicated in our school's mission and vision, Lookout Valley Middle/High School is focused on increased student achievement for all students by extending teaching and learning beyond the four walls of our school by allowing teachers, students, and the community to explore and discover their future together.