

TYNER MIDDLE ACADEMY

Creating a supportive learning community where every person engages in exciting and rigorous learning experiences.

Tyner Middle Academy has experienced much success in the past several years. In order to continue to meet the needs of our students, the faculty and staff will focus on four school goals beginning with a **balanced literacy approach** across the curriculum and increasing the rigor of our **math curriculum and instruction**, guaranteeing success for more of our students at the high school level. We will also improve and develop programs to support students during the middle school **transition** years. TMA (Tuning Minds for Academics), student recognitions, character education, summer leadership workshops and a Network Learning Community will all enhance the success of our students' transition. Our plan is built on the foundations of a knowledgeable and collegial faculty. A **staff development** plan and the formation of several **professional learning communities** will build capacity among our staff.

With an awareness of the needs of our students in the area of **literacy**, the faculty has chosen to incorporate literacy into all classrooms. Teachers will use a variety of literacy strategies in all classrooms as it relates to that content area. In order to accomplish this goal, a **literacy consultant** will work with the staff and guide them as they strive to incorporate literacy into the content area classes. The faculty will also share literacy strategies they have used in the classroom during grade-level meetings, departmental meetings, and other learning communities. The strategies will then be placed in an electronic library, which will be made available to all teachers. This creates a valuable resource for teachers, which can be used as they plan for the varied learning needs of students. The development of classroom libraries filled with student-centered books will also encourage students to "read for the fun of it".

As a means of developing relationships with students and providing support for struggling students as well as opportunities to participate in community service and develop other areas of interest, Tyner Middle has reorganized TMA (Tuning Minds for Academics) time, which meets each morning. In an effort to increase student performance through increasingly rigorous instruction, our math and language arts teachers will continue **academic intervention and enrichment classes** for students during this TMA time.

To assist our families with ideas and knowledge to support school instruction outside the school day, our academic teachers will conduct **family nights** for parents and families. They will share content knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in their classes. The success of the event will be measured by parent participation and feedback (through survey) as well as teacher reflection.

Students will also participate in several school-wide **interdisciplinary thematic units**. Teachers will collaborate and plan together to create a unit with a central theme organized around our **Student Performance Indicators (SPI)**. The interdisciplinary units will encourage teachers to differentiate their instruction and create alternative modes of assessments. The themes will allow students to connect content from one class to another and see real world relevance as well as strengthen the significance of each subject. All units will highlight or imbed our magnet theme of Math, Science and Technology. Parents, students and community members will then be invited to join in the **celebration of student work**, which will be displayed in a school-wide exhibit.

As middle school educators we have an acute awareness of the **transitional needs of our students** both from elementary school to middle and middle to high school. We realize our sixth grade students exhibit the need for coaching in organizational skills as well as academic and social skills. Eighth grade students have developed social skills but continue to lack the academic and organizational skills to transition smoothly to the ninth grade. Working together with the elementary feeder schools and Tyner Academy, teachers of these schools will plan together to support student needs in all three areas. **Student recognition and character development** will also play a part in our effort to encourage students to do their best on a daily basis to master the skills needed to succeed in school.

Professional educators should constantly seek to enhance their abilities in the classroom. We have chosen to engage in **Professional Learning Communities** as one of our school goals. Through this we hope to strengthen the capacity to develop our professional skills not only in the content areas but also in the art of teaching. We will meet in small learning groups throughout the year. Groups will have a different learning focus each time encouraging growth in many areas. Flexible scheduling will provide time for groups of teachers to share best teaching practices, observe other colleagues, and critique student work. Teachers will also have the chance to seek professional development opportunities at conferences, seminars, and workshops.

To oversee and monitor the progress of the grant and create sustainability in our school, a **change coach** will be added to the staff. The change coach will model best practices, plan with teachers, obtain needed resources, encourage parent and community participation in the school, participate in **professional learning communities**, as well as assist with staff development.