AUDUBON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Owensboro, KY

Audubon Elementary School

Grades Preschool-5

454 Students

30.9 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

46.7% free lunch

11.2% reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

6.2% African American

.7% Asian

4.6% Hispanic

84.1% White

$8,419per student spending

Preparing Every Student to be College or Career Ready

Innovation Snapshot

Authentic Learning

Audubon Elementary will ensure successful transition to their vision of personalized learning by focusing on intentional, methodical, and authentic implementation. They will focus on learning and growing as practitioners; evolving their philosophies and beliefs, then their practices. As a result, this work will help to empower their students and enable them to find true success.

Key Elements

Innovation
- Leader in Me

Innovation
- Standards-Based Grading

Innovation
- Thinking Strategies

kid-FRIENDLy Supports

- Data Retreat
- Leader In Me
- FRSYC Funds
- Personalized Learning Symposium
- Communities of Practice

Authentic Learning

Audubon Elementary School
2015 Race to the Top Snapshot
Caleb York, Principal

Description of the personalized learning future

- Through the Race to the Top grant we hope to provide numerous opportunities for students to find success. We believe that success has multiple definitions for learners and we are responsible for opening doors that lead to each student's personal definition. By 2017 we hope to have full integration of the Leader in Me program. Our hope is that leadership development becomes a cornerstone in our programming. We also hope to improve learning opportunities through homework. We believe that homework should be an opportunity to explore topics and find application to content taught in the classroom. We hope that moving from the typical skill work to a more meaningful and relevant model will also help to engage parents. Finally, we hope to move to a more meaningful and comprehensive grading system. As we explore ways to give true feedback on a student's progress, we have found that traditional grading does not indicate a student's growth and performance. Standards based grading should provide us the opportunity to truly measure each student's growth and development. It is our hope that this work helps to empower our students and enable them to find true success.

Compelling Strategy

- To ensure successful transition to our vision of personalized learning at Audubon Elementary School, our staff will be focused on intentional, methodical, and authentic implementation. Our focus will be on learning and growing as practitioners; evolving our philosophies and beliefs then our practices. We refer to this process as "Authentic Learning."

Learning Shifts

- At Audubon we believe that true "shifts" take time. We realize that change must come from the inside out. We also know that implementation of a program or new mandates do not bring meaningful and lasting change.

Data/Insight/Research

- We came to this approach based on current input from the Audubon Community. Parents and staff both feel that the current model of reporting student progress is not a true picture of student performance. As we have internally discussed the grading practices we have found a wide variance of practices and reporting. We feel the exploration of Standards Based grading would provide uniformity to both practices and reporting. The change in homework practices is also a result of informal parent input and surveys. Parents and teachers feel current practices do not provide opportunities to further thinking and learning with content.

Current Capacity and Supports

- Work with the Communities of Practice as well as Leader in Me implementation have been great supports as we move forward in our journey. As we move closer to implementation of all of our targeted areas, the continued support as well as professional learning opportunities will be crucial. Having the opportunity to participate in Thinking Strategies training during summer 2015 will also further the work of our teachers and students.

Current Status

- We are currently in Year 2 of the Leader in Me program. Our staff has been trained and we are in the process of building the necessary structures to ensure LIM is ingrained in our school. We are still in the planning and development stage with our homework and movement to standards based grading. We have currently begun to look at our practices and their impact on students. Our next steps will be to research standards based grading and other homework policies. We will work to educate our staff and community. From that point, we will form a committee to determine the best options for Audubon.