TAYLOR COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Campbellsville, KY

Taylor County Middle School

Grades 6-8

574 Students

33.5 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

46.3% free lunch

10.5% reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

1.9% African American

.7% Asian

1.7% Hispanic

93.7% White

$7,125 per student spending

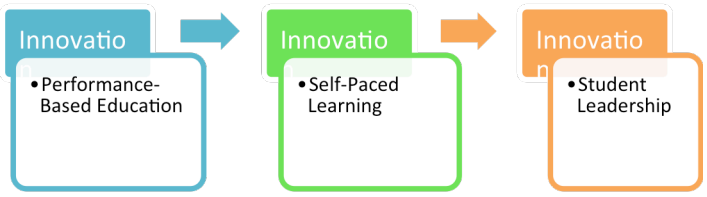
Preparing Every Student to be College or Career Ready

Innovation Snapshot

Every Child, Every Day

Taylor County Middle School will seek to give every child the opportunity to work at their level of potential each and every day. The school will ensure that students will leave with the skills needed to be successful, productive, and college and career ready.

Key Elements



kid-FRIENDLy Supports

- Leader In Me
- FRSYC Funds
- Personalized Learning Symposium
- Community of Learners
- Community of Practice

TAYLOR COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Taylor County Middle School

Innovation Snapshot

"Every Child, Every Day"

Taylor County Middle School's vision for the future of our students is providing the opportunity for ALL students to reach their maximum potential. This includes all students having the skills they need to be successful, productive and college and career ready. As we strive to reach these goals, Performance-Based Education will be the compelling strategy that leads us to that future. We are currently in our sixth year of Performance-Based Education and test scores and classroom data indicate we are making gains in meeting our goals. At this time, all students have access to iPads throughout the school day and many are able to take them home at night and over the weekends. These iPads allow all students to work at their own pace.

While Taylor County Middle School has implemented Performance-Based Education for several years, we are in need of more supports to expand and enhance our program. We currently have adequate supports to implement self-pacing in reading and math. However, opportunities in science and social studies are limited. We are in need of funding to support assessments that will help to identify students who are gifted in these disciplines so that these courses can truly be performance-based. We would also like to expand project-based learning, but are hindered by a lack of funds. In addition, on-line courses are expensive and the number of students participating must be limited. Finally, the lack of flexibility in the testing system is detrimental to our process. Students who are taking above grade level courses are being tested over content that they covered up to 3 years earlier.

As stated earlier, the heart of "Every Child, Every Day" is Performance-Based Education. All Taylor County Middle School students have the opportunity to participate in self-paced math classes. That means every child in the classroom may be at a different level. Teachers provide a target pace that every student must maintain, but allow students the flexibility to accelerate at their own pace. We also have several self-paced reading classes and are in the process of implementing a self-paced science class. We believe no student should be held back in any subject area and should be pushed to reach their fullest potential.

As a district, we have reached a zero drop-out rate and failure is no longer an option. Taylor County Middle School's retention rate has been at zero percent for the past six years. We work to provide an environment suited to the needs of each student. Our Response to Intervention Program identifies students in need and allows us to deliver the interventions they need to be successful. Students enrolled in the RTI program are given weekly strategic monitoring probes in their area of identified need and targeted interventions are put in place. Interventions are also available for students not qualifying for RTI to assist in getting all students to grade level in reading and math.

Taylor County Middle School strives to provide a wide variety of supports for our students. A Drop-Out Prevention Specialist targets at-risk students for individual counseling. The Drop-Out Prevention Specialist collaborates with administration to create individualized plans of action. The Youth Services Center works

with individual students and families to remove barriers to learning and on-site mental health and nursing services are available to all students.

Taylor County Middle School is also working to ensure all students are college and career ready and that the playing field is leveled for "at-risk" students. The $5 per student YSC allotment is utilized, in part, to take all eighth grade students to Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. While there, students are given an overview the programs available there and hear the stories of several instructors who were considered "at-risk" in their youth. Students are educated on careers that do not require extensive theory learning and are geared toward more hands-on skills. In addition, eighth grade students participate in an industry tour that allows them to visit various industries within our county. Employers discuss soft-skills, job and education requirements.

In addition, our school offers numerous initiatives for our students, staff and families. These include:

- Cyber snow days so students can continue learning when school is not in session
- Bump Up Day allows students to experience a snapshot of the next school and allows for a smoother start to the school year
- Early Release Fridays allow for professional learning for teachers every Friday
- Students Teaching And Reaching Students (STARS) Program that replaces traditional aides with student tutors
- Cook's Kids mentoring program for students needing academic, behavioral or social support
- Roger Awards recognize teachers for evidence of student growth, differentiation, collaboration, use of technology, relationship building and creating a welcoming classroom
- District Parent Advisory Council Meetings keep parents and community members informed and allow for input from the audience
- Leader in Me initiative will continue. Students are painting murals throughout the school, taking on many leadership roles within the school day, issuing daily leadership challenges and expanding the role of the Student Lighthouse Team. We strive to empower every student to find their full leadership potential.

Taylor County Middle School's "Innovation Snapshot" is centered on our belief that every child should be given the opportunity to work at their level of potential every day. We believe no child should be limited regardless of the interests or barriers they may face in school or society. Our motto is "Every Child, Every Day" and we hope to expand the opportunities available to those children daily.

TAYLOR COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL