

WILLIAM H. NATCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Cloverport, KY 40111

William H. Natcher Elementary School

Grades: Pre School - 5th Grade

187 Students

10.98 Certified Staff

Rural Setting

Socioeconomic:

61.5% free lunch

15.5% reduced lunch

Ethnicity:

3.2% African American

0% Asian

1.6% Hispanic

95.2% White

\$6032 per student spending



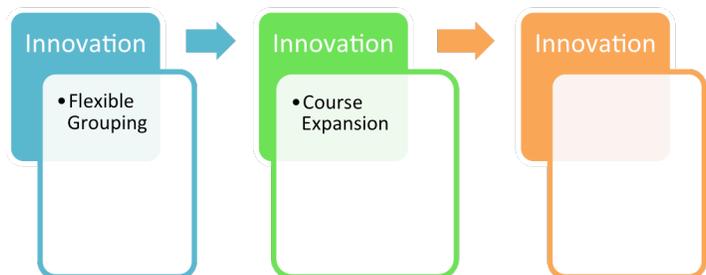
William H Natcher
Elementary School
(Overton Independent)

Innovation Snapshot

Flexible Scheduling

William H. Natcher Elementary will facilitate individualized learning opportunities for each student. Additionally, they will expand the course offerings traditionally provided to elementary students to encourage interest and creativity.

Key Elements



kid-FRIENDLY Supports

- Data Retreat
- Leader in Me
- Community of Learners
- Community of Practice
- Personalized Learning
- FRSYC Funds



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Innovation Snapshot

Cloverport Independent School District

Personalized Learning Future

By 2017, our hope is that our students' educational opportunities will be boundless. At the elementary school level we will begin providing greater flexibility in instructional groupings, ensuring that each student is receiving instruction in reading and math at his or her instructional level. Additionally, students will have greater opportunities to explore foreign languages, technology, the arts, and college/career options.

At the middle school level, much the opportunities available in elementary school will continue. However, students will slowly be introduced to the opportunity of self-pacing through a digital curriculum. This opportunity will allow students to accelerate or remediate their learning as appropriate. In addition, students could potentially begin earning a limited number of high school credits by advancing through the required middle school curriculum early.

Our high school will without question offer the most personalized learning opportunities. Essentially, the core high school curriculum will be entirely self-paced and digitally based. Students will have the freedom to work in an environment that is comfortable for them on coursework tailored to their wants and needs. A tremendous emphasis will be placed on ensuring that students are genuinely prepared for college or career, as well as life in the 21st century.

Strategy

In Cloverport, we are "Recalculating Our Course". Our elementary and middle school will utilize project-based learning at least once per school year. This will require professional development for our staff to ensure that they truly understand exactly what project-based learning is and how to effectively implement it in their classrooms. Additionally, at all grade levels we will be phasing in competency-based learning. This will entail a tremendous amount of work. Teachers will have to establish clear exit criteria for every course and develop benchmark assessments for all standards. Naturally, this work will aid in the development of standards-based grading systems, which we hope to enact as well.

The largest body of work that will need to be completed will be at the high school level. Initially, as we move to a self-paced learning model, we'll rely on an existing digitally-based curriculum such as FuelEd or GradPoint. We hope to transition to our own teacher-created curriculum over time, however. This will require a great deal of infrastructure planning and development.

Data, Insights, and/or Research

There are many sources that have helped point us in this direction. Several administrators have had the opportunity to visit schools and districts that are "experimenting" with innovative techniques and structures, such as Salt Lake City's Innovations Early College High School, Nashville Big Picture High School, Trigg County Public Schools, and Taylor County Public Schools. These visits allowed us to see things we've read and heard in practice in real classrooms, sometimes not too far from home.

Capacity & Supports

Technologically, we are in excellent shape for this rollout. We have a one-to-one initiative that's been in place for several years now, so our students have the technology necessary to implement digitally-based curricula. Our staff is fairly proficient in using this technology as well.

The biggest support we'll need at this point is professional learning in relation to project-based learning, standards-based graded, self-paced learning, and competency-based learning. Most staff members have

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a general knowledge of these concepts, but lack the in depth expertise needed for effective implementation.

Status

At this point, we have a general outline of what next school year will look like in regard to school structure and curriculum and have shared this with the staff. We're still deciding on a vendor for the high school curriculum, but have determined our general course catalogue for next year. We're in the planning stages in regard to communicating specific details with students and parents. This is a very important detail and we want to get it just right!