Gra-Mar Middle School
COMMUNITY ACHIEVES STRATEGIC PLAN, 2019-20

Gra-Mar Middle School has identified 3 priorities as part of the School Improvement Plan (SIP) for the 2019-20 school year:

• Increase the Percentage of students on track for standards mastery by 3-5 % percent from 2 % to 5 % in ELA.
• Increase the percentage of students on track for standards mastery by 3% percent from 5.2% to 8.2% in Math.
• Climate & Culture. Reduce behavioral incidents by 3-5% from 49 incidents to 46 incidents. Decrease chronic absenteeism by 3-5% from 16.3% to 13.3 %.

As a community school, Gra-Mar Middle School strives to improve conditions for learning through collaborative work with our partners to bring community support to the school, as organized around four pillars of support that we believe are important to preparing the whole child for success:

• Family Engagement
• College and Career Readiness
• Health and Wellness
• Social Services and Adult Development

The purpose of this strategic plan is to present (1) a brief snapshot of our school’s data and other information to demonstrate the need to coordinate resources within the pillars in support of the priorities, (2) information related to how the school currently coordinates resources within the pillars of support, and (3) opportunities for community partners to support the school in its efforts and strategies to achieve goals for students in 2019-20.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS & KEY DESCRIPTORS

Gra-Mar Middle School At a Glance

• Community School
• Enrollment – 5th-8th 342 students
• School Status – Priority
• Demographic – Asian 2, Black 251, Hispanic 55, White 34
• Economically Disadvantaged - 245
• English Learners - 53
• Students with Disabilities - 60
• Behavior Incidents - 185
• Mobility Rate – 36
• Average Attendance Rate – 94.4
• 48 Community Partners
FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Where we are: Gra-Mar hosted more than 20 family engagement events. We had sign in sheets for some of those events showing us at about 563 participants with 420 of the participants being unduplicated.

What’s Next: The key to family participation in events has a lot to do with planning. Events that had a great turnout were well planned at least a month in advance. We had several events that were hosted at the last minute and the attendance rate was poor. The way we plan to remedy this problem is through planning and promotion. Making sure that the CA Site Manager is always at the table for events to help with event promotion and planning. A lot of the lateness had to also do with last minute funding and teachers and staff simply having too much on their plates to focus on parent events. This year we will actually have a true Community Achieves Team who will handle the planning of all events. We will also push the submission of Event Forms which holds anyone wanting to host an event to the 30 day planning standard.

COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Where we are: College and Career Readiness is improving at Gra-Mar Middle School. Students attended more college tours, and aligned more through activities with our cluster High School Maplewood. We were also awarded the Gear Up Grant.

Listed below are our percentages for the end of the 2018-2019 school year.

Attendance was at 94.4%

ELA Proficiency on TN Ready/EOC the number of students on track increased by 2% from the 2017 school year.

MATH Proficiency on TN Ready/EOC the number of students on track decreased by 1% from the 2017 school year.

What’s Next: We have approximately 77% of our students reading two or more grade levels below where they should be. Because of this we will continue to focus our efforts on Literacy. We have a really great attendance plan and we will continue to push that plan through the upcoming school year adding grade level incentives to encourage students and teachers to push GREAT Attendance. We are also lucky that we will have a GEAR Up Lab onsite which will help to really push a college going culture.
HEALTH & WELLNESS

Where we are: Gra-Mar is very lucky that we are able to provide onsite screening opportunities for students. We offer physicals, vision, and hearing screenings. Gra-Mar is also a participant in the NFL Fuel Up Play 60 Grant.

We have about 30% of students that struggle with being over-weight, More than 30% of our students have failing vision.

What’s Next: The areas that concern us most is that we offer free screenings and the participation numbers are very low. We will look at offering incentives to get signed permission slips. We will do a better job letting our families know about the screenings through better communication.

SOCIAL SERVICES & ADULT DEVELOPMENT

Where we are: Last year we were able to serve approximately 354 families with either food, supplies, and or clothing.

What’s Next: We will be more strategic this year and really promote all of the resources we offer at Gra-Mar Middle School. We will start the school year with a Resource Fair not only for our families, but for our teachers as well so they will know just how much support we can offer our students.

We will bring more opportunities onsite at Gra-Mar to the Parent Center which will increase the use of that space providing families with much needed resources.