Wright Middle School
COMMUNITY ACHIEVES STRATEGIC PLAN 2019-2020

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

- Increase the number of students proficient/advanced in math from 4.9% to 11%, the school's AMO for TN Ready.
- Increase the number of students proficient/advanced on ELA TN Ready from 7.6% proficient to 13.4%, the school's AMO for TN Ready.
- Increase the number of English Language Learners scoring proficient/advanced on ELA TN Ready from 3.5% proficient to 9.5%, the school's AMO for TN Ready.
- Decrease the chronic absenteeism rate from 20.9% to 15%.
- Provide SEL training to all teachers to build classroom management capacity in order to reduce disciplinary referrals by 75%.

As a community school, Wright 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 (2018-19) coordinates resources within the pillars of support, and (3) information about how the school wants community partners to support the school in its efforts to achieve goals for students in 2019-20.

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS & KEY DESCRIPTORS

Wright Middle is a “UNITED FAMILY” that is focused on meeting the needs of our students and families, so that all students may achieve academic success. Our students are citizens of the world representing over 30 countries as well as native Nashvillians. We are proud to be part of the Glencliff cluster of schools.

For 2019-2020 it projected that we will have 836 students with the following demographic break downs:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black/African American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>Pacific Islander</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Economically disadvantaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>19.05%</td>
<td>62.75%</td>
<td>0.12%</td>
<td>13.69%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*statistics for economically disadvantaged are determined by the enrollment in government benefits (SNAP, WIC, etc) and does not accurately represent all students living in poverty.
**FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Wright Middle serves nearly 800 families in southeast Nashville. The majority of families we serve come from non-English speaking backgrounds and are not very familiar with the American school system. Wright has a small number of active parents but has had success getting parents into the building for fun events. The challenge that lies ahead is activating families in becoming partners in their student’s education.

In 2018-2019, Wright Middle:
- Hosted 10 family engagement events, with 393 unduplicated families attending the events
- Did not host any family engagement events around college and career readiness
- Launched a PTO
- Hosted First Annual Heritage Festival, with great teacher support and positive parent feedback
- Took a family field trip in December and received very positive parent feedback

To grow parent engagement in 2019-2020, Wright Middle needs:

**Donations of meals or snacks or items for incentives**

Wright strives to be a place of hospitality. Donations of snacks, meals, and bottled beverages help us make parents and families feel welcome and comfortable in our building. Events hosted at Wright offer prizes and incentives to create excitement as well as to thank parents for being present in the school. We are requesting gift cards, donations of services, and tangible gifts.

**Adult ESL opportunities during the school day**

Parents of students have requested adult ESL during the school day. We are seeking an adult ESL teacher to teach a one-hour weekly class at Wright between 9:00-3:30. This could be an agency that is already offering ESL during the day, but would be willing to host the class in our building.

**Financial Support for buses**

A large barrier to family engagement is transportation. To get our families to the school and continue the tradition of family field trips (without cost) requires financial donations. $170 will cover one bus for three hours.

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**COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS**

Wright Middle became an AVID school in 2018-2019, which brought with it a college going culture throughout the building. College logos were painted around the campus and teachers were encouraged to share their college experiences with students. From here we need external support. We need partners to support our goal of helping our students with college exposure and opportunities to interact with a variety of careers.

In 2018-2019, Wright Middle:
- Scored below the district average in both the categories of reading and math on the MAP assessment in both fall and spring last year.
- Saw a flat line of progress in the areas of reading and math for our 5th and 8th graders between the winter and spring administrations of the MAP test.
• Saw significant growth among 6th graders in both reading and math
• Our chronic absenteeism (missing 10% or more of all available school days) rate dropped from 20.1% in 2017-2018 to 14.9% at the end of the 2018-2019 school year.
• Hosted JA in a Day for our 5th grade students
• Held successful career and college fair
• Our school has a high EL population, with 17% of our student body in the first two levels of English proficiency.

To grow College and Career Readiness in 2019-2020, Wright Middle needs:

**Attendance Assistance Program**
Because our school day begins at 8:55, many Wright students get themselves out the door and to the bus on their own. When these students miss the bus, they are left alone at home and miss an entire day of school. We are requesting that a church or organization that has use of vans, would partner with us to create an attendance assistance program that could help get students to school on days they miss the bus or the family car isn’t working.

**Sponsors for a 5th grade transition academy:**
We would like to host a week-long half summer program to give our incoming fifth graders a chance to acclimate to the school and prepare for their entrance into middle school. To make this happen, we need financial support for the bus, donations of snacks, and partners to offer enrichment opportunities during the week.

**Technology**
Wright Middle School currently has fewer than a 3-to-1 ratio of computers to students. Our students are unable to access powerful resources, online textbooks, and student grading platforms due to the insufficient number of internet-capable devices in the building. We have a great need for laptops and tablets. Not only are students missing out on resources, they are not able to learn the 21st century skills associated with technological literacy.

**University Partnerships**
On a recent trip to Lipscomb, only one student had been to the campus before. When asked what he did at the campus, he replied, “I was helping my mom. She is a janitor here.” Wright Middle School wants our students to see college as place for them to learn and grow and not simply a potential employer in a few years. We are seeking university partners to host our students on campus, come and speak to our students, host our students at band competitions, and sporting events, or bring university students to Wright Middle to talk with our students about what college is like.

**Sponsors for Junior Achievement Experiences for our students**
With the global population that we serve at Wright Middle, the majority of our students are unfamiliar with the United States banking system and lack financial literacy. We are seeking a donor to help us pay $3000 to take all of our 5th grade students to Junior Achievement’s Biz Town. We are also looking for one-day volunteers to help with our Junior Achievement days.

**Financial Support in the purchase of a vocabulary curriculum**
Under the advisement of our Literacy coach, our students could greatly benefit from a vocabulary curriculum that is not available for purchase out of school funds. The cost of the program is $500.
Tutors
One-on-one tutors are needed to support students who are behind grade level in reading and math. Tutors are also needed to work with our beginning level English Language Learners (ELL’s). Tutors support our students both by helping them learn skills and by helping them gain confidence. Tutors should be available no less than 2x per month, times are flexible.

HEALTH & WELLNESS
Wright Middle serves a population of students that face a number of health risks and challenges. Many of our students have had Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE’s) that impact their total body health. We have many partners and volunteers that support the work of mentoring, providing mental health services, building positive relationships, providing prevention education, and connecting students with resources for their physical health, but we still have work to do.

In 2018-2019, Wright Middle:
- 88% of students ate breakfast and 78% ate lunch at school
- Had 441 behavior incidents involving 235 students, representing 22.7% of our total student population
- Had 30 students in mentoring groups or one-on-one pairings
- Nearly 90 students received mental health services at the school building
- Partnered with Hope Clinic For Women to offer a sex education/pregnancy prevention program for 7th and 8th grade students
- 127 students were given the Early Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, Treatment (EPSDT) exam. Our students were higher than the district average for:
  - At risk of being overweight
  - At risk for mental health issues
  - At risk spinal problems
  - Elevated glucose levels
  - Instances of anemia

To grow Health and Wellness supports in 2019-2020, Wright Middle Needs:

Lunch Buddies and Lunch Mentor Groups
In 2018-2019 Wright Middle School served 28 students in mentor lunch groups, the majority of which were girls. Our students benefited from one-on-one or small group time with community members. In talking with adults of varied careers and experiences, our students expand their horizons, build trusting relationships, and build self-confidence. Wright would like to be able to provide more students with the opportunity to participate in a lunch group, especially male students. Volunteer opportunities available daily, in 30-minute slots, between 11:00-1:30.

Donations of healthy snacks
Many of Wright’s students participate in after school programs, with some students spending over 10 hours a day on the campus. It is vital that students have access to healthy snacks during the extended school day.
Teacher Incentives
47% of all Wright Middle teachers have 0-3 years of teaching experience. Each year we experience a high amount of teacher turn over. Our teachers need support and encouragement from the community to help sustain their energy and effort. Wright Middle School is need of snacks, gift cards, and small treats that can be distributed to teachers throughout the school year and especially during teacher appreciation week. Staff breakfasts are also needed throughout the year to give teachers a boost.

Money for field trips
Wright Middle School students have demonstrated a significant reduction in student disciplinary referrals when comparing 2018-2019 data to the year prior. It is important that students are rewarded for their positive changes in behavior, but we do not have funds to take students on reward field trips. For $175, 65 students can enjoy 2.5 hours in our city’s parks and museums.

SOCIAL SERVICES & ADULT DEVELOPMENT
Wright Middle School students took the Panorama Student Survey about their neighborhood. 12% of Wright students are home alone after school and 29% of students said that they didn’t have somewhere safe to hang out outside of school hours. Wright Middle has the opportunity to be the safe place for students and families outside of school hours.

In 2018-2019, Wright Middle:
- Distributed 44 weekend snack bags each week
- Distributed 1058 items from the Community Achieves room, with the largest number of items being clothes
- Nashville Community Education hosted classes in our building through the fall, spring, and summer

In order to grow in the area of Social Services and Adult Development, Wright Middle needs:

A van/bus
Many of our families miss out on offerings from the school due to lack of transportation. It is a barrier that can be alleviated by the provision of a van. The van would be used to bring families to the school as well as to bring our staff out into the community. One of the big goals for Wright this year is to do home visits to families.

Digital Marquee
Wright Middle School is located on a busy street with lots of car and foot traffic. There is currently not a good way to let the community know about all the events that are happening at the school. Changing our current marquee is difficult and limited. We do not have the space or the lettering to share information in multiple languages. A digit marquee would grant us the opportunity to get current information out quickly and to more people.
**Parent Event Sponsors**
Does your company or organization do any parent education programs? We need partners to come to offer classes for families on financial education, safety information, positive parenting, restorative practices in the home, understanding the school system, etc. If you are already offering these kinds of events, please consider hosting them at Wright Middle to help our families gain access to these supports.

**Donations of high-need items (clothing, school supplies, and toiletries)**
Donations of any color collared shirt and any color solid pants are vital to keeping kids in dress code and in school. Girls underwear (all sizes) and both boys and girls socks are also a high need. Toiletry items are needed to stock our toiletry closet to support families throughout the school year.

**Weekly Snack Bag Sponsors**
Each week 44 Wright students receive a snack bag with shelf-stable, ready to eat food. There is a waitlist for students to receive this support. We need partners to sponsor weekly snack bags for students. Partners can choose how many students they would like to serve and funds would be given to Second Harvest on our behalf.