



KENTUCKY SCHOOLS TO WATCH SCHOOL PROFILE

Belfry Middle School



Redesignated 2011
Designated 2008

Belfry Middle School

- Pike County Public Schools, Kentucky
- Principal: Matt Mercer
- School Address: P O Box 850
Belfry, KY 41514
- Phone: 606-353-9673
- E-mail: mathew.mercer@pike.kyschools.us
- School Web site: www.bmspirates.com
- <http://go.pike.kyschools.us/belfrymiddle/>

2007-10 School Statistics

Community: Small, rural, Appalachia area

Enrollment: 576

Grade Levels: 6-8

Number of Certified Staff: 32

School Schedule: Six period day

Student Demographics

0%	Hispanic
97%	White
2%	African American
1%	Asian
68%	Free/Reduced lunch
1	English Learners
19%	Identified gifted/talented
11%	Special education

Average attendance rate 2009-10: 95.77%

2010 AYP: 13/13

2009 AYP: NA

2008 AYP: 11/11

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- High expectations are set for all students and students strive to meet them.
- The staff is totally focused on student learning.
- Over the past four years there has been outstanding, continued academic improvement on assessments.
- Teachers stay on a voluntary basis without pay after school for two hours on a rotational basis to tutor students.
- Gender-based reading classes and science labs enable students to stay focused on content in the classrooms.

- The principal meets with parents/guardians of students making low grades and in danger of failing to recruit their support in providing assistance to struggling students.
- Bellringers are used by most teachers to optimize instructional time.
- Common content planning provides time for teachers to utilize curriculum maps, develop common lessons and assessments, and analyze student work.
- Three classes (Algebra I and II, Spanish I) are offered for high school credit.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Students are recognized on a regular basis for both non-academic (e.g., good behavior, attendance, birthdays) as well as academic performance.
- Students are comfortable talking with the principal as their suggestions have been used to change and/or improve the school.
- Every student receives a student agenda book which is regularly checked by teachers and used for communication with families. The principal randomly enters classrooms and checks agenda, handing our Pirate Bucks to students who have kept their agendas up-to-date.
- The school vision statement was developed by students.
- A safe, personalized learning environment to support each and every child has been developed and is maintained.
- The staff works to develop alliances with families for the purpose of supporting students and to enhance the well being for all students.
- There is a wide variety of extra/co-curricular activities offered to students and new clubs are formed in response to student requests.
- The staff, parents, community, and students have tremendous pride in the school.
- Pirate Bucks are given for various performances and may be used to purchase snacks during break time.

Social Equity

- The guidance counselor regularly meets for lunch with target groups of students (e.g., divorce, anger management, eating disorders, social issues) in the Pirate's Cove.
- Hotlists are developed to target at-risk students and students needing additional assistance. Names are added to and removed from the list as individual student needs change.
- Students are accepting of each other and enjoy helping each other.
- Students are polite, courteous, and respectful.
- Communication with parents and families is done regularly and in a variety of ways including Twittering.
- Families are invited into the school for holiday lunches with students.
- To the fullest extent possible, students with disabilities participate in regular education classes with high academic and behavioral expectations.
- All adults in the building recognize and honor all students.
- New students are welcomed into the school and embraced by the Belfry family.

Organizational Support

- Although the principal is clearly the leader of the school, he shares leadership with the assistant principal, teacher leaders, and other stakeholders, as needed.
- The principal and assistance principal circulate regularly throughout the building visiting classrooms and talking with students.
- Students and teachers use Twitter daily. The majority of students and families are trained on Twitter use and follow staff Twitter accounts.

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- The local health department provides a full-time nurse in the school.
- All new hires are welcomed and assisted by the whole school.
- Teachers are supported and respected by administration. The principal empowers his teachers to be leaders.
- All of the school community buys into and lives the school's mission: BMS – Kentucky's Best.
- The school solicits community partnerships to provide resources and services necessary to foster a healthy physical and emotional environment for all students.
- Staff, students, and the community possess and cultivate a collective will to persevere as evidenced by the determination of the school community to reopen the school after the flooding of the school in 2009. The school has come back from that event stronger.