

Classroom Walkthroughs



Northridge Middle School is Making it Happen!



WE ARE Northridge Middle School is located in northern Montgomery County in Crawfordsville, Indiana. We are primarily a rural school with just over 400 students that utilize a trimester schedule. We are the only middle school in our district serving grades 6 through 8.

OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES Northridge Middle School has a 93% white population and 40% free and reduced. We also serve an 18% special education population.

OUR TEACHERS Northridge is home to 34 educators with a diverse number of years of teaching experience ranging from 37 years to 1 year. Our teachers teach four 65 minute instructional blocks along with a 25 minute advisory period that begins the day. Teachers are with advisory students for all three years in order to develop close relationships.

OUR PROMISING PRACTICE is school-wide walkthroughs. Our administrators and Teacher Leadership Team have a predetermined schedule. Teachers are expected to complete two walkthroughs each week of any classroom in the building using an online template. Data from the walkthroughs are not used as part of the teacher evaluation process. Instead results are analyzed to determine professional development needs.

OUR STEPS

Northridge worked with our Outreach Coordinator to create a walkthrough template that identified best practices. Walkthroughs began first with building administrators. Our Teacher Leadership Team then began to participate as well. Results were discussed weekly. Our next step was to include all teachers. Our team created an on-line document that was accessible to all teachers and outlined expectations for staff. Results from the walkthroughs are analyzed by the leadership team.

IN OUR OWN WORDS

The walkthroughs have been different than what I expected. In education we often get so wrapped up in our own classroom, our own world. The walkthroughs have helped me to see outside that world. I have the chance to see how others handle students that are problematic in my classroom. I see my students in a different light.

I've had the chance to see how others teach similar concepts, and I've seen classroom organization ideas that work and are simpler than what I do. It's allowed me to "steal" ideas from all over the building. It has also started great conversations with peers as we discuss the practices we've seen that are working. A teacher will be more likely to ask another for ideas on a problem they are having in the classroom. Not only that but they can get suggestions from others about someone who has the solution which they can go observe and see in action. -Erin Yeager, 8th grade science teacher

For more information about our school or corporation, email: bmoores@nm.k12.in.us
or visit our website: www.nm.k12.in.us