

# Margate STEM Magnet Middle School



Home of the Spartans

*Sabine B. Phillips, Principal*

Margate Middle School is a S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Magnet school with SELECT+ (Students Embracing a Learning Environment for Collegiate Training) which is an advanced college readiness program, located in Margate, Florida. Concurrently, Margate Middle School is a Title I school that has a diverse population of 1186 students.

The demographics breakdown of the student population by race is: 7% Caucasian, 60% Black, 25% Hispanic, 2% Asian, .005% Native, and 3% Multi-Racial backgrounds. The student population includes students that are: English Language Learners, Specialized Varying Exceptionalities, students with Exceptional Student Education eligibilities, as well as students in General Education classes. The demographic breakdown of the student population with specific needs include: 89 students that are English Language Learners (ELL), and 203 students with an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) eligibility. Therefore it is clear that Margate Middle School is a multi-cultural, multilingual, minority school with a substantial percentage of at risk students. There are over 80% of students receiving free or reduced lunch within the last three years. Over the last three years, Margate Middle School has experienced an influx of students that are of English Language Learners due to Margate Middle School's centralized location.

## ***School's Purpose***

Margate Middle School (MMS) is dedicated to promoting a safe learning environment that provides an integrated learning experience emphasizing Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics. Using a problem and project-based learning approach, students will use a combination of analysis, discovery, problem solving, communication, and creativity to attain 21st century skills that will allow them to be empowered lifelong learners and responsible citizens. Margate Middle School believes in supporting positive behavior among the student population and promoting a culture of character education. Margate's ClassDojo Positive Behavior System initiative rewards students for displaying positive behaviors such as: being on time to class, being prepared for class, assisting peers, being respectful, turning assignments on time, and having a fully charged iPad device. This focus on the positive aspects of students' behaviors enables us to curtail discipline issues by helping students to model appropriate

behaviors. The result is an inherent drive in the students to do what is right when faced with a challenging decision. Teacher's implement ongoing lessons in Social Emotional Learning through the Homeroom class and morning announcements. Accrual of Dojo points are centered our Spartan Honor Code Schoolwide Expectations.

**Goal-oriented**

**Respectful**

**Accountable**

**Empathetic**

**Trustworthy**

### ***Notable Achievements***

Margate Middle meets the needs of all learners by offering intensive enrichment with reading. For students who are meeting expectations, we offer project based learning and high school classes to help them realize a higher level of competency. The STEM program further offers students real world experience getting them ready for 21st century college study or careers. Margate Middle School offers Extended Learning Opportunities (ELO) that include before and after school tutoring, as well as Saturday Academic Camp. Students also experience additional remediation through pull outs, which are held during elective classes. ESSER Coaches conduct small group reading intervention to ensure learning gaps are being filled. Margate Middle School students prepare themselves for Florida Standards Assessment testing, as well as careers, by use of computer-based programs such as: USA Test Prep, iReady, ST Math and Vocabulary.com. Margate Middle School offers further small group assistance to students with Individualized Education Plans by push-ins and pull-outs daily with an Exceptional Student Education Support Facilitator. Margate Middle School is also a partner of the Crockett Foundation, which is a grant funded program that offers academics and social support for at risk, under educated and students of low-income families. The extracurricular activities provided by the Crockett Foundation is provided to students at no cost. The incentive reward donations to Margate Middle School help to encourage students to attend the many ELO's. Thus, the school continually seeks out support from business partners to support these programs and other school initiatives for an even greater impact on students.

### ***Areas of Improvement***

Margate Middle School is focused on executing a continuous improvement model with teachers, staff and students. Margate Middle School works in collaborative professional learning communities to analyze instructional plans that are the suitable for each individual learner. Group analysis of common formative assessments informs retooling of instructional delivery, so that each student's education is relevant to their needs and goals. Remediation and enrichment is further aided by the scaled up use of computer programs: GIZMOS (Science

program), USA Test Prep (Reading, Civics, Math and Science) and Vocabulary.com (all content areas). Effective Instructional strategies are monitored schoolwide using the BRIDGES Florida Teacher Evaluation Model. The Math department is using "flipped classrooms" monthly, so that students can get exposure to another teacher's expertise in the content. The Science department has created "Immersion days" in conjunction with the Museum of Discovery in Science (MODS) where students are exposed to the science curriculum (earth/space science, life science, and physical science). Margate Middle School has designed "Model" classrooms with an open-door policy that allows for other teachers to visit and see the highly effective strategies being implemented. The staff also engages in monthly instructional rounds, visiting expert teachers to observe and acquire best practices.

### ***Parent Resource/Curriculum Nights***

Parent and school community outreach are important tools in connecting and partnering with our school community. To this end, we hold a series of resource nights that invite parents to come and learn alongside their children. An example of such an event is our Parent Resource/Curriculum Nights. The format for these events features instruction on supporting students in their academic endeavors, as well as an immersion of project-based assignments, so that parents can fully understand the curriculum. Parents and students work collaboratively to complete each task. Each content area is covered through these events, so that parents feel they can cultivate the best outcomes for their child in every subject area.

### ***District Collaborative Professional Learning Communities***

Margate Middle School works in a district (Professional Learning Communities) PLC group of 23 schools from similar (Socio Economic Status) SES bands, which generates content for common formative assessments and measures results competitively. This enables the school to accurately measure our progress towards curriculum goals and to plan for remediation against a wider goal of students performing well against state goals. Our school consistently performs in the top quartile for these common formative assessments and provides invaluable feedback to assist the district PLC group as a whole. Innovative concepts are also the result of the district collaboration. Through group brain-storming against results, we are able to enhance curriculum delivery that best reflects a rigorous and relevant coursework designed to lead to greater Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) success. STEM Projects across Content Areas Grade level PLC's feature instruction in real world hands on authentic STEM projects, but also in adding a new technology component to the instructional base (i.e. Google Docs, Google Drive). Teachers can create a product goal, while formulating the instructional path to the goal that includes all core content areas as well as technology electives. Lead teachers take 3 charge, increasing the efficacy of the overall project by ensuring all the elements are in place and working well. An example of a project is the eighth grade concussion prevention project that will entail research

(Social Studies), calculations for a stronger sports helmet (Math, Science and Technology), and writing up the project report (Language Arts). Each grade level has a specific requirement to complete a fourth quarter S.T.E.M project.

### ***Cross-Curricular Instruction***

The responsibility for reading and writing is whole-heartedly shared across curricular areas. All teachers are in-serviced about Reading and Writing strategies and are observed for inclusion in instruction. Specific programs that demonstrates a cross-curricular and rigorous approach can be seen during the Writing Wednesdays, in which all grade levels and core classrooms require that students engage in a writing component, thereby making their base of exposure to writing stronger, and increasing resiliency. Likewise, interdisciplinary units for math, science and reading are executed during the school year across all content areas. It is believed that students will increase their potential when more than one teacher offers instruction in specific and important core content; hearing it from another perspective is often the key to increased content acquisition.

### ***Extended Learning Opportunities***

Studies show that students in high risk groups from lower socioeconomic backgrounds can catch up to their peers, by the end of middle school, if offered enough hours of extended learning opportunities. Margate Middle School is keenly focused on creating increased opportunities for students to be exposed to curriculum content through pullouts, before school computer laboratory access, after school programs; Immersion Days (Math, Science and Reading) and weekend tutoring through Saturday Camp. Margate Middle's ELL students receive additional reading strategies in all four English language domains (reading, listening, speaking, and writing) through Language Enrichment Camp. Margate Middle School has over 30 before and after school programs and clubs which include.