

School Transforming Learning Essay

Step through the doors of Minett Elementary School in Frisco ISD and you immediately feel that something is different happening inside the walls of this school. Minett Elementary School began with a vision for what type of environment could support students' learning, and a dream for doing school differently was ignited. Minett Elementary School opened its doors in August of 2022 and is led by principal, Dr. Kyla Prusak. Campus demographics include 48% Asian, 24% White, 11% African American, 11% Hispanic, .05% Two or More, .05% Low SES, 11% Special Education, .03% 504, .06% Dyslexia, and 20% Emergent Bilingual.

As we developed our guiding mission statement, we began our journey of ensuring that all voices and passions are at the core of everything we do. In order to truly live out the supporting premises for organizational transformation, we knew it was essential that we create a safe, inclusive, and engaging learning environment. Our focus in ensuring this includes the implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support, the development of our Minett House system, and continuous learning on how we can effectively utilize each space on campus as a tool for learning. In our initial parent survey sent during our first semester, we were reinforced with how we are meeting our goals of creating our intended climate and culture. Based on a 5-point Likert scale, 97% of parents responded that their child feels safe at school, 90% of parents responded that their child feels connected to their school, and 87% of parents responded that their child is engaged in the learning environment.

Another guiding principle for our work at Minett Elementary School is our focus on providing all students with rigorous and meaningful future ready learning experiences. We utilize a variety of instructional models that focus on student experiences and outcomes, including the implementation of a co-teaching model and a school-wide intervention and enrichment system. Furthermore, our campus is piloting an integrated science and social studies instructional model. As a part of this work, our staff has used various inquiry models to develop a campus-wide inquiry model that allows us to use a common language for students Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Ultimately, the work we do in any learning organization must be that we are ensuring all learners are demonstrating growth and grade level achievement. Our major work this year has focused on the development of a school-wide fall and spring data analysis protocol that ensures teachers, students, and parents can all speak to student's individual growth in reading and math. A key component of this system is our focus on professional learning and autonomy centered around ensuring we are utilizing a variety of assessments for learning. We strongly believe that our teachers know their students best, and they are given ample opportunities to design instruction and assessment, based on what their students need. Our students also get the opportunity, each month, to visit our Instructional Leadership Team during our Goal Getters event where students bring their individual goal cards to celebrate when they meet their goals.

Our Minett community gets to come into our building each day and experience a state-of-the-art environment that allows them to push their thinking on what school can be and what we can do within the walls of an elementary school. However, the building can only provide so much. Our people, our students, staff, families and partnerships are the heart that brings our school to life.