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LEWEL UP LEARING



STATE OF THE SCHOOL 2025-2026





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OUR TEAM



Camron Nystrom



Lora Robertson







Kelly Brockway





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OUR DATA



Commendable

While we were Exemplary two years ago, we still hover right around that cutoff each year, striving to improve each year.



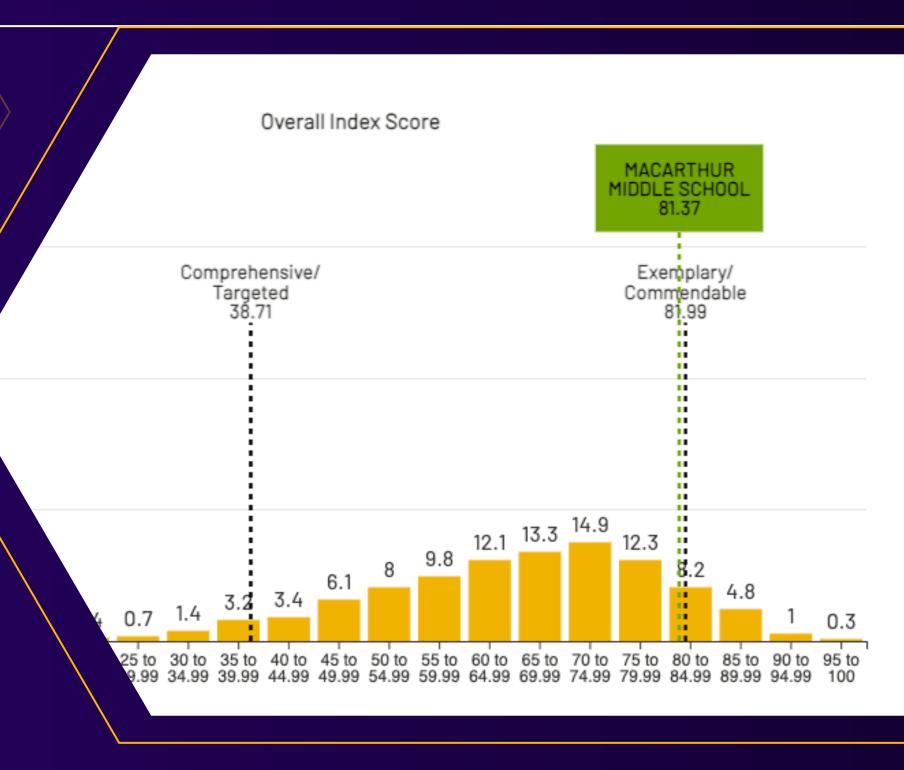
Green Growth

Overall Growth

- 0.18

Expected Growth





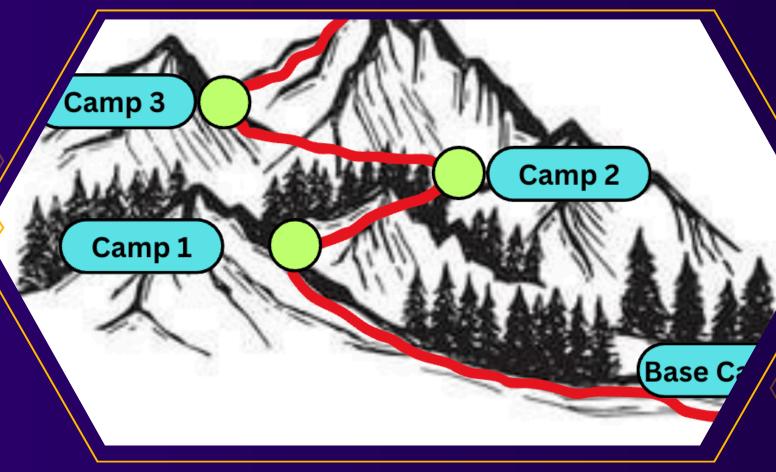






THE QUEST







Mission 1:

Our Foundation

Mission 2:

The Climb of the Year

Mission 3:

Hall of Fame





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MACARTHUR EMPOWERS ALL LEARNERS TO THRIVE



Stone Cutter Metaphor

When nothing seems to help, I go and look at a stonecutter hammering away at his rock perhaps a hundred times without as much as a crack showing up in it.

Yet at the hundred and first blow it will split in two, and I know it was not that blow that did it, but all that had gone before.

This is our work. We show up. We swing. We reflect. We try again.







MACARTHUR EMPOWERS ALL LEARNERS TO THRIVE



Our Strong Ground Foundation

- 1.Building a learning culture with **vulnerability** & reflection
- 2. Seeking diverse ideas & opinions
- 3. Focusing on **discipline**, hard work, & fundamentals
- 4. Connecting with people with both care & accountability
- 5. **Daring experimentation** for joy and meaning, not external validation





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Student Success

Ensure ALL students are well rounded and emotionally and academically prepared for succes in high school.

Family & Community Partnerships

Actively engage & communicate with all families to foster collaborative relationships that benefit student learningand understanding of district priorities.

D23 STRATEGIC PLAN - OUR FRAMEWORK

Students are engaged, inspired, and empowered to collaborate, learn, & grow Engage ALL students in experiences that inspire EACH to grow as a learner, individual, & community member

Our Work intersects the four "realms"

Teaching, Learning, & Innovation

Encourage a learning environment that emphasizes and retains high-quality staff.

Facilities & Financial Planning

Advance effective use of resources to support safe, learner ready facilities and to maximize student learning.









MTSS

Refine and implement MTSS
Tier 1, 2, and 3 practices with
fidelity, leveraging ECRA data
trends to make evidencebased decisions and ensure all
students receive targeted
support by name and need,
fostering their actual growth.

Artificial Intelligence

Leverage Artificial
Intelligence to provide
differentiated opportunities
that support student
enrichment and assist in
closing learning gaps.

MACARTHUR BUILDING GOALS



Zeroing in on the middle grades.

Standards-Based Practices

Develop and utilize common assessments across courses to ensure aligned evaluation practices and reliable inference of student learning.

Stakeholder Communications

Enhance communication
with parents and
guardians through
identified strategies and
more frequent, meaningful
interactions.









STUDENT SUCCESS

Achievement Unlocked: Strengthened MTSS Implementation

Proactive Tier 1 practices preventing need for intensive

interventions



Planning for

DOUBLE

interventions due

to high need

NOW: Drastically

reduced intervention

numbers &

streamlined

entry/exit

Expanded exploratory

Business & Marketing,



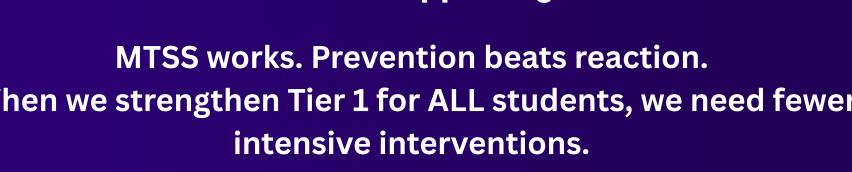






When we strengthen Tier 1 for ALL students, we need fewer

That's the real win.









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COLLABORATION

- D23 Principal Team
- Networking local middle school principals (25, 26, 59, & 62)
- State-wide at Illinois Principals Conference
- National connections at American Middle Level Educations
 Conference

 In-house instructional coaches for myself and teachers for feedback and growth

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- Presenting to peers with "Engineering a Powerful Partnership" across the state
- Strengthening teacher success through StudySync partnerships with Libertyville & Northbrook





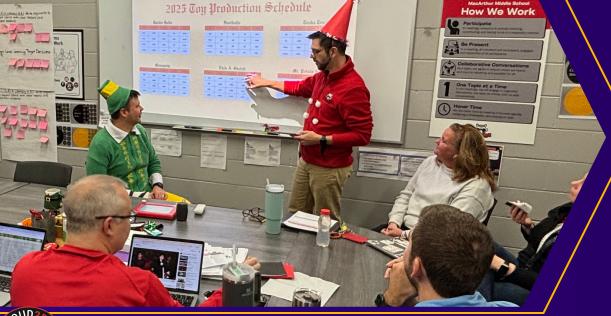


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TEACHING & LEARNING





WE ARE IN YEAR 2 OF OUR MASTERY JOURNEY:

Where We've Been (Year 1): Building the Foundation: Priority Standards

Where We Are Now (Year 2): Deepening Clarity Through Disciplined, Weekly Work

- Clarity Mondays have become the driving force behind our progress.
- Content teams meet each week to move through a disciplined progression:
 - Priority Standards → Essential Questions → Learning
 Targets → Success Criteria → Common Assessments
- It is deliberate, cumulative work
- Teams are developing a shared language, shared expectations, and a shared understanding of what mastery looks like.
 - Shifting from "MY students" to "OUR students."





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COLLABORATIVE PRACTICES

• POWER UPS FOR TEACHER GROWTH:

 Gamified PD/(Level Up Learning), Clarity Mondays, Facilitating Instructional Rounds

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• CLASSROOM UPGRADE QUESTS:

Using feedback cycles to refine and level up instruction.

• 8th GRADE SOCIAL STUDIES REBOOT:

Redesign Social Studies into themed, essential-question-driven units

 Spotlight on AI and its societal impact to power deeper student inquiry and collaborative discussions among students.

• CROSS-DISTRICT GUILD PORTALS:

 Connecting teachers from multiple districts to exchange strategies, unlock new instructional ideas, and level up collective expertise







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WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU LISTEN TO KIDS?

THE VICTORY

- Integrated AI tools with literary analysis and creative thinking
- Created multi-modal presentations connecting history to character
- Demonstrated critical thinking and creative collaboration

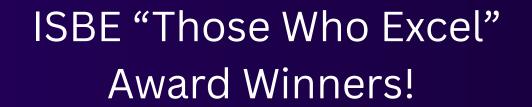
THE POWER: This award isn't about using Al. It's about using Al thoughtfully. Students used Al as a thinking partner to enhance their orginial works, not a replacement. That's the difference.

FINAL LEVEL: Show the world!

- Presented at AMLE Conference
- Empowering Young Minds: "A 6th Grade Journey with Al, Critical Thinking, and Creative Collaboration"











WHO CAN HELP US OUT?

THE CHALLENGE: PACE Framework for Career Education

- We have always had a careers unit in FACS class but not everyone takes FACS class
- Career Pathway's Fair
 - 40 local career vendors
 - Aligned to D214 Pathway Program & Electives
 - Information Slideshows for all students in Advisory
 - Vendor/Career
 - Elective Night

THE POWER: Real time learning. Empowering the next step

One more AMLE Presenation about our Career Education "Career Matchmakers: How to 'Swipe Right' on Community Partnerships for Comprehensive Middle School Career Exploration""















LISTENING, RESPONDING, BELONGING



- · Soccer club we implemented inaugural season
- · eSports club planning for January
- · Guitar class we added elective for 8th Grade
- · Business & Marketing we added elective for 8th Grade
- · Communication constructing student announcements







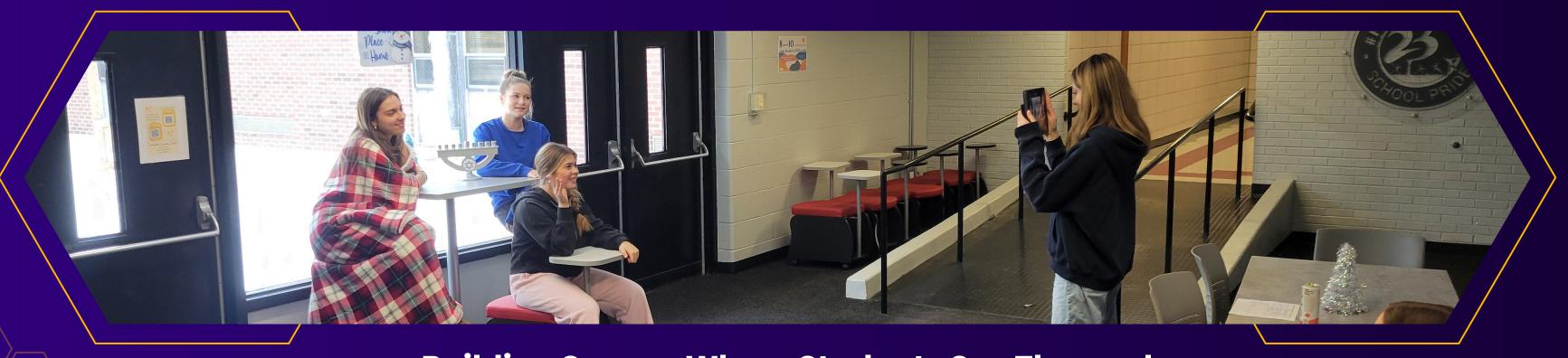


MESSAGE: We listen. We respond. That builds belonging and opens connections for students to the school, adults, and peers.



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EVERYONE BELONGS HERE

Building Spaces Where Students See Themselves

- New clubs launched: Soccer, eSports, Speech
- Student lounge enhancements
- Library Mural (Douglas MacArthur history)
- Advisory meetings with school Administration

When students have voice, belong, and see themselves reflected in their school, they stay engaged and thrive.









STRENGTHENING CONNECTIONS HNMF



THE GOAL:

More frequent, more meaningful family partnerships that support student growth across all dimensions.



Sharing out!

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That partnership is where real transformation happens.

- Comprehensive 'whole-child' reporting (academic, social, emotional)
- Regular communication cadence & frequency
- Meaningful, frequent family interactions

WHY IT MATTERS:

When families understand their child's whole-child progress, not just grades, they become powerful partners in support.

Regular, authentic communication builds trust and alignment between home and school.



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OUR MVPS





Teachers who embrace vulnerability and growth
Families as partner-players
Students as the real heroes



THE WINNING STREAK:

- National Banner Unified School status (achieved twice)
- ISBE 'Those Who Excel' Award (Lora & Dina)
- Multiple AMLE conference presentations

SUSTAINED PERFORMANCE:

- Consistently meet growth targets
- Maintain Commendable/Exemplary designation







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We are grateful for your partnership as we continue to level up.



Thank you for believing in what's possible when we all show up.



