

Meigs High School

Meigs Local School District (Meigs)



School Profile 2004-2005	
<i>2004-2005 School of Promise in Reading</i>	
School Rating	Continuous Improvement
Enrollment	643
Grade Levels	9-12
Percent Economically Disadvantaged	51%
Percent Racial/Ethnic Minority	2%

District Profile 2004-2005	
District Rating	Continuous Improvement
District Enrollment	2,010

Lesson 1: Providing Rigorous Instruction Aligned to Standards

Applied Academics: Meigs uses Applied Academics, an approach to learning in secondary education that focuses on motivating and challenging students to connect what they learn with their personal experiences and interests, so they will pay greater attention, retain more, and apply what they learn to their own lives. Teachers use “hands-on” innovative teaching methods and promote problem-solving skills. Teachers also vertically and horizontally align content and instruction in subjects and across grade levels.¹

Preparing Students for Work and College: A college prep track integrates academic and career education through a comprehensive career center. Many vocational students participate in academic classes while academic students take vocational classes. Teachers collaborate on joint lessons. One teacher had students in a pre-calculus class visit an electronics course so they could see a demonstration on how waves affect working situations.

Lesson 2: Providing Leadership That Results in Continuous Improvement

Collaboration: The principal provides opportunities for collaboration and teacher leadership. To promote discussion and shared planning, teachers in mathematics, reading and science meet together regularly. The principal holds regular staff meetings, as well as discussions between career education and academic teachers. One innovative method for shared planning time involved monetary incentives for teachers to share instructional strategies while they graded practice assessments.

Professional Development in Technology: A Carl Perkins grant allows Meigs to purchase state-of-the-art technology and provide professional development. A technical director oversees the training and use of this new technology, which includes new computers and Smart Boards. Teachers receive training in the practical use of new technology in classroom instruction and learning.

¹ For more information, see <http://www.hocking.edu/~aaffairs/APPLACAD.HTML>

Lesson 3: Designing Instruction to Ensure Every Student's Success

Accelerated Reader: The school has also adopted Accelerated Reader,² a web-based reading program and reading management software that provides teachers with a way to monitor students' guided reading practice. Students choose their own books, and then complete targeted assessments on the books they read. The program has especially helped to improve reading skills among the school's Career and Technical students.

Study Island: To prepare students for the Ohio Graduation Test (OGT), teachers use Study Island,³ a web-based state assessment preparation program and standards-based learning program. Teachers and administrators feel the program is engaging for students. The school also purchases special OGT books to help students prepare for the test and offers a summer program to help students focus on specific areas of the test.

Teacher Sensitivity: Classroom observers noted a high level of teacher sensitivity. In most classes, students seemed comfortable asking questions or for assistance and freely shared comments during class discussions. Teachers monitored the students throughout the period to provide help or assistance. One teacher used her extra time to work with a student who had joined the class late in the year to help her catch up. In another class, students worked in small groups to complete a set of mathematics problems. Students also helped each other when the teacher was busy assisting another student. One teacher was very enthusiastic and tried to make students excited about the lesson.

Lesson 4: Engaging Parents and Community to Support Student Success

Washington State Community College Partnership: Meigs has a strong partnership with Washington State Community College (WSCC) in Marietta. The principal said last year he was approached by college staff and they talked about the desire to focus on math within the career and technical environment. The college provided all of the math teachers and career and technical teachers with a tub full of manipulatives they could use to create lessons.

Career Preparation: Meigs participates in The Washington-Morgan-Meigs College Tech Prep Consortium, a partnership among Morgan high schools, Washington County Career Center, and Washington State. This consortium combines college prep academics with solid career technical training beginning in high school and extending through college.⁴ This provides a pathway to advanced skills technical associate degrees at a community or technical college, apprenticeships, enrollment in a bachelor's degree program, or direct employment. An articulated agreement with Washington State allows tech prep students to attend Washington State and earn college credits.

Lesson 5: Creating a Culture Where Each Individual Feels Valued

Discipline and Respect: When behavior problems occur, staff members quickly address any misbehavior and try to prevent additional problems. The assistant principal spends significant time working with students who have been in trouble and deals with discipline issues. Many classrooms have rules and procedures for the class clearly posted on the wall. Teachers effectively monitor classes and address behavioral problems. The principal and staff emphasize mutual respect.

Pride: Teachers say they often have to combat the perception among students that people in southeast Ohio are not as smart as other regions in the state. Such attitudes create difficulties motivating students in the classroom. But the principal, staff, students, and parents are proud of the school. They have strong values and a belief in the importance of hard work. Staff recognizes that they are playing an important role in students' lives, and the students appreciate their efforts

² For more information, see <http://www.renlearn.com/ar/>

³ For more information, see <http://www.studyisland.com/>

⁴ For more information, see <http://www.wscce.edu/techprep/index.asp?section=TEPR#wmmconsortium>.