W. C. Stripling Middle School

FORT WORTH INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

KERI FLORES, PRINCIPAL
BILLIE WATSON, MATH DEPARTMENT CHAIR
STACEY CALDWELL, SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT CHAIR
LACEY ESPREE, ELECTIVE TEAM LEADER
SUSAN WALKER, 7TH GRADE TEAM LEADER
The Faces of Stripling Middle School

- One of 29 Middle Schools in Fort Worth ISD, which services 85,000 students.

- 650 Students
  - 6th grade – 216
  - 7th grade – 218
  - 8th grade – 216

- 68% Economically Disadvantaged
9 years ago

- Roughly 500 students for 6th-8th grade
- Academically Unacceptable by state standards
- Not meeting AYP by federal accountability (NCLB)

2015

- 670 students
- Met all 4 state indexes
  - Student Achievement
  - Student Progress
  - Closing Performance Gaps
  - Postsecondary Readiness
- Received 5 Distinction designations
- 100% of students taking Algebra I passed the End of Course exam (73 8th graders and 11 7th graders)
- 93% of students taking English I passed the End of Course exam (83 8th graders)
- Double digit gains in Math and Reading for LEP and SPED students
Challenges that faced our school

- Low Morale
- High number of disciplinary incidents
- Bad reputation in the community
- Teacher turn-over
- Low expectations for student performance
- Lack of parent engagement
Culture of Academic Excellence

- Teachers: Strong in content knowledge, assign homework, share data with students
- Developed our Pre-AP program and high school class offerings
  - Algebra, Geometry, English I, Biology, Art I, Spanish I
  - 50% of students are in honors classes
- Created a Program of Choice within the school
- Focus on Literacy – Accelerated Reader/STING
- High expectations for all student groups
- No Excuses
  - Tutoring, Parent Conferences, Support Staff, Learning, Phone Calls
- Academic Pep Rallies Each 6 Weeks
  - An average of 60 A-Honor Roll medals given, 200-A-B Honor Roll medal given, 75 Principal’s Awards given. 50% of student body honored each six weeks.
One team, one vision

- **Vertical planning within Professional Learning Communities**
  - Content Specific
  - Grade Level Specific
  - Professional Development

- **Shared Leadership**
  - Leadership Team
  - SBDM
  - Admin Team

- **Community Involvement**
  - Lunch on the Lawn
  - Curbside Coffee
  - Concert on the Lawn
  - Community Partners
Framework for success

• Block Scheduling (74 minutes)
  ◦ tutoring

• Academic Teaming
  ◦ Student Focused
  ◦ Conferences – student or parent
  ◦ Cross Curricular Planning

• Student Led Conferences

• Consistency in discipline
  ◦ Team level expectations
  ◦ Administrative expectations
Suggestions

- Know where you want to take your school – Shared Vision
- Develop a strong leadership team
- Develop your teachers
- Put academics first