



# CHARLES B. PEARSON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Frisco Independent School District  
2323 Stonebrook Parkway ★ Frisco, Texas ★ 75036  
Principal ★ Jamie Wisneski

## ***Campus Profile***

Pearson Middle School (PMS) staff members have been committed to meeting the needs of our learners, with a focus on making decisions that are best for students. The Pearson mission is “Working together to pursue excellence through academic growth and character development.” During the past couple of years, we have been spending time studying and working on what it means to be a true learning organization. We examined our beliefs around teaching and learning and how that integrated with our campus policies. By changing our focus, which is grounded in the visioning document, we were able to abandon some old policies. Our North Star is the profile of a Future Ready learner. We operate as a professional learning community that holds ourselves accountable for our Future Ready work by our Community-Based Accountability System (CBAS). All stakeholders worked collectively to identify the goals for the kids of Frisco ISD and Pearson; they wanted to focus on more than academics only. They asked for their kids to be loved, seen, and heard—and most of all to have a voice. All stakeholders felt this would prepare our students to take on the world whether for college or career, enlisting or becoming an entrepreneur. Traditional accountability ratings will not achieve what our community is asking from our school. We use the Future Ready Learner Profile to inform our instruction in the classroom (academic and behavioral) and report progress to our community through our Community-Based Accountability System.

Through CBAS, Pearson has identified three areas to focus on: (1) Designing and delivering **standards-based practices** that support student learning for all. (2) Ensuring that all learners are demonstrating **academic growth**. (3) Responding to and supporting the academic, emotional, and **behavioral needs** of students. Article III “Assessments for Learning” aligns with the areas we identified in our CBAS to transform our students’ learning.

PMS currently has 1,027 students in sixth through eighth grade with 103 staff members who support and serve our Patriots. 7% of our population qualifies for either the free or reduced-lunch program. Pearson also has a large gifted and talented program in all three grade levels, comprising 22% of our student body.

## ***Standards-Based Practices***

As part of a district that is committed to becoming Future Ready, PMS administration has focused on instruction and student learning from the beginning. To help support learning and progress with standards-based practices, Pearson teachers are currently participating in a campus badge program centered on standards-based practices (mindset/grading). During this ongoing professional learning, our focus has shifted to aligning standards with the planning process in order to be intentional with the level of instruction, common formative assessments, data protocols, interventions, and station rotations with small group instruction.

This means that we have had to rethink our assessment practices to be better aligned with standards/skills. We have examined grading practices such as our approach to homework, reassessments, late work, zeroes, and most recent evidence of mastery. These are huge shifts for teachers to take on, especially considering challenges from the pandemic. In fact, these grading practices had not been reconsidered since our school district was founded.

PMS has also recognized a need for a different approach when working with teacher teams to support standards-based practices and Future Ready instructional practices, including gamification, blended learning, and inquiry-based instructional practices. We took a risk and reconsidered our instructional coaching model, eventually adjusting personnel to create two dedicated instructional coaching positions to allow for more intentional focus on teacher learning and growth. This allows ICs to work with a digital learning coach, librarian, and administrators in support of teachers and highly functioning collaborative teams. This is our first year with

the new IC model, and teachers and administrators are seeing great improvements and growth from staff as well as higher levels of collaboration with teams on supporting Future Ready instruction and Tier 1 instruction.

Teachers meet with planning partners regularly each week. They follow a planning process modeled after Wiggins and McTighe's Understanding by Design as well as create standards-based curriculum and assessments. They break down the state standards that we have identified as power standards to ensure that they are aligned and that the rigor of the standards matches the level of the instruction and assessment. They design various levels and types of formative assessments leading to the summative assessments. Teachers collectively analyze the data after each formative assessment to plan for different intervention groups based on deficiencies in a specific standard. Of course, this process is cyclical, so they are always in one of the phases for planning. Because of our intentional collaboration, we have seen an improvement in our district snapshot scores.

### ***Student Growth***

The Frisco ISD mission to "Know Every Student by Name and Need" keeps Pearson teachers focused on being intentional about ensuring student growth via personalized learning. Pearson teachers work in multiple ways with students—individually, small groups, or whole class—based on need. Small groups during class time in stations or pulling small groups during our intervention (Patriot Training) time are the most powerful. Teachers have found that if they use the blended learning strategies—such as station rotations, choice boards, or playlists—during instructional time, students are able to work at their own pace to allow for individual processing time. Some teachers even give students personalized playlists based on their understanding of the content, as shown by assessment data. Our Patriot Training time is used three days each week for student choice activities that encompass intervention, enrichment, and student interest topics. On the other two days, we are focused on social and emotional learning while building a classroom family culture.

### ***Behavioral Support***

Educators know that if you don't connect with your students, then they won't listen to you to learn. Behavioral support needs to be intertwined with academics in our classrooms to support Future Ready instruction. Pearson is in its fourth year of implementing PBIS and its first year of implementing Restorative Practices. These two programs support our campus with our alternative in-school suspension. Patriot Academy, a relationship- and accountability-focused program, was created with Restorative Practices and behavior change in mind and replaces ISS at Pearson. When students make a negative choice, they are required to attend Patriot Academy (time amounts vary) based on their actions/choices. During this time, they work with our Patriot Academy teacher to complete a personalized lesson based on their behavior to reflect, take accountability for their behavior, and relearn appropriate behavior for the future. Depending on the level of the behavior, they might also meet with parents to discuss their learning from Patriot Academy. Once the lesson is complete, students return to the classroom to continue academic work and repair relationships.

### ***Conclusion***

Pearson Middle School transforms learning because we are constantly reflecting on our way of "doing" school to ensure that we are becoming a true learning organization. Our focus for 2022-2023 is to deepen our knowledge with standards-based grading by exploring social contracts to address student behaviors that create barriers to learning as well as Depth of Knowledge (DoK) for each standard. Our assessment of learning is an ongoing process with continuous improvements for what is best for our Pearson Patriots. We grow teachers who grow students so that students will grow to love learning. We are Patriot Strong!

Nominator: Principal Jamie Wisneski, PI Cohort 8

Superintendent Signature and Endorsement:

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ . Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Mike Waldrip, Superintendent Frisco Independent School District