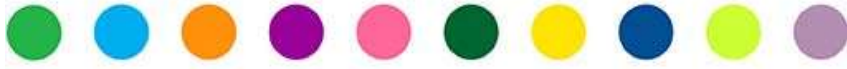


Strategic Priorities



Building a Better Gwinnett

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE: Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Priority

Dear Parents and Guardians,

When it comes to your student's education, I know you want the very best. I hope you believe that's what your child is getting here at Brookwood Elementary School.

You may have heard me say that, here at our school, our "core business" is teaching and learning, with the emphasis on learning. The Strategic Priority for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment captures the key elements of our core business, including a challenging curriculum, rigorous instruction by highly qualified teachers, and a comprehensive and meaningful assessment program. Together, they engage our students in learning and help ensure that our kids reach their academic potential.

Let's take a look at each of those elements— curriculum, instruction, and assessment:

On Curriculum... You're probably familiar with our AKS. The school system developed its own comprehensive Academic Knowledge and Skills (AKS) curriculum with the support of the community and the work of hundreds of Gwinnett teachers. The AKS reflects what students should know and be able to do to be successful at the next grade level, and, ultimately, to be prepared for college and the workplace. Each year, we revisit the curriculum to ensure that it's current, relevant, and on target for the knowledge and skills needed by a 21st century learner. We want to make sure that our students are ready for the world. Gwinnett students get a well-rounded and rigorous education, which balances core academics with technology, the arts, languages, and research. Foundation skills are integrated into other subject areas.

On Instruction... At our school, we have clearly defined best practices for effective teaching. These research-based Quality-Plus Teaching Strategies are effective with all types of learners across grade levels and subject areas. Our teachers believe every student can learn and these education professionals do what it takes to reach and teach every child. Our classrooms are exciting places where students have challenging learning experiences. We know that kids need to see how what they are learning today will help them in the future and teachers strive to make lessons relevant and meaningful.

On Assessment... Since we can't improve what we don't measure, we make appropriate, timely, and ongoing assessments an important part of our improvement plans. Our assessment program lets us monitor students' academic progress to ensure that they are prepared for the academic challenges ahead. Assessment data helps our teachers evaluate their own effectiveness and gives them a snapshot of where students are in their understanding. It's not enough to cover a unit or check off an AKS. We need to know that students fully understood what was taught and can apply their learning.

Throughout the school year, I will highlight one or two of GCPS' Strategic Priorities each month until we've looked at all 10 priorities. As I explained in October, the priorities keep us moving in the right direction to ensure that Gwinnett County students in 2020 will be as successful as today's students.

Everything— from what we teach, to how we teach, to how we measure our students’ progress— is aligned. I think you can see how our teachers connect curriculum, instruction, and assessment to help all students achieve desired results.

I look forward to continuing the strong school-home connection that makes such a difference for our students. I encourage you to review the Priority for Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment on the school system website. Please let me know if you have any questions about the impact of these key elements—curriculum, instruction, and assessment— on our strategic direction.

Together, we’ll work to make sure that Gwinnett County Public Schools becomes the system of world-class schools we want for our children and

Sincerely,

Karen Head
Principal
Brookwood Elementary