

Strickland Middle School
Denton Independent School District
Kathleen Carmona, Principal
Community and Student Engagement Survey
2016-2017

Strickland Middle School was established in 1968 and is named after Chester O. Strickland, a former administrator and superintendent for Denton ISD. Strickland is known for creating “learners of today and leaders of tomorrow” in our classrooms and through our various clubs and organizations. Strickland students, staff and families are very involved in our school and community. Our staff and students participate in a variety of community outreach activities. For example, students have demonstrated this mindset by creating quilts to honor veterans, making toys for neighborhood daycares, taking part in numerous food drives for the needy, random acts of kindness, and playing musical concerts for the elderly in the community, as well as performing at the Denton Arts and Jazz Fest each year. Our staff assists parents with online registration by taking computers to the community centers in our neighborhoods and helping parents complete this process.

Strickland students, family and staff believe in working together to develop a solid academic foundation. We transition our sixth grade students to campus with our WEB program (Where Everyone Belongs). This transition program is led by trained eighth grade students and helps our sixth graders smoothly make that difficult transition to middle school. Students at Strickland can enroll in gifted and talented classes, enhanced and pre-AP courses, career and technology courses, and in dual-language programs that build on English and Spanish language skills.

Strickland also offers fine arts courses in band, choir, orchestra, handbells, art, and theater. We have a variety of athletics options available including football, volleyball, tennis, boys and girls basketball and track. More than ninety-five percent of Strickland students are involved in fine arts. All of our music performing arts groups, band, choir, and orchestra compete and have numerous opportunities to perform for our community throughout the year. In addition, Strickland has nationally-recognized programs like National Junior Honor Society, Student Council and numerous community-oriented clubs to help students adapt and socialize together. We have a very large, active and successful GOAL for both boys and girls (Guys/Gals Operating as Leaders) program which gives our students the opportunity to learn leadership and goal-setting as well as participate in soccer tournaments. Many Strickland students (130+) are involved in our Communities in Schools ACE program after school. Our Rachel’s Challenge Friends of Rachel Clubs do considerable community service projects within our SMS community and the Denton community as well. This program is a cornerstone of our Bully Prevention program.

Strickland has an amazing technology savvy staff. Every effort is made to help the students be successful and to assist them in reaching their maximum potential. PLC 4 REAL and Look 2 Learning strategies help our staff to continuously learn and improve our teaching and student learning. Our students regularly benefit from using five computer labs, computers in the classrooms, iPad carts, Chrome book carts, document cameras in all classrooms, Mobis, CPS systems and interactive projectors.

SMS has a very active, connected and supportive Parent Teacher Student Association. Their fundraising efforts include concessions at every home game, Viking Day, and hosting the Night of Shining Stars which supports our STAR program. The STAR program recognizes and rewards students for academic achievements, twice each semester.

Mission: The faculty, staff, students, and parents of Strickland are committed to providing educational experiences which develop individual potential while promoting and maintaining an atmosphere of respect and consideration for others and encouraging all students to become life-long learners of the world community.

This document was completed by our campus leadership team as both a self-reflection and communication tool supporting our emphasis on continuous improvement as a school community.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Fine Arts	Compliance	Does the campus provide TEKS-based fine arts courses taught by content specialists to meet state and local graduation requirements including the Arts and Humanities Endorsement?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide multiple opportunities for parents and community members to attend public shows & performances?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with a variety of evidence for evaluating fine arts programs?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide fine arts students numerous opportunities to interact with arts experts such as through private lessons, clinics, master classes, and university/community arts collaborations annually?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide students with opportunities to promote school and community culture/climate?	Yes	

The campus fine arts curriculum is based on the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills. Our campus offers multiple courses in visual and performing arts, the majority of which are TEKS based. More than 95% of Strickland students are enrolled in fine arts courses. The culminating products in fine arts courses are a variety of shows and/or performances. All of our performances are very well attended by parents and families. All of our musical performing arts groups (band, choir, and orchestra) recently earned superior or excellent ratings at UIL competition. We have had several collaborative performances this year, including a combined Jazz Band – Show Choir performance and multiple handbells and band combined performances. We are fortunate to have access to numerous arts experts who provide valuable experiences for our students such as: private lessons, master classes, clinics, field trips, and guest artists/performances. Our fine arts programs are often showcased in schools and throughout the community during pep rallies, assemblies, athletic events, holiday performances, Denton Arts and Jazz Festival, and at the third annual Denton ISD Art Show at UNT on the Square.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Wellness and PE	Compliance	Does the campus seek information from parents related to food allergies at the time of new student enrollment?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus offer opportunities to participate in community health and wellness events?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide community health and wellness resources and information?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide developmentally appropriate bullying prevention education programming?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have procedures in place to assist students and staff during crises?	Yes	

SMS promotes health and wellness on campus through PE, Athletics, Health class and guidance lessons. The Health curriculum emphasizes the teaching of healthy habits that students can take home with them and share with their families. Information on community health resources are provided and made available to all parents. SMS also has an extensive program with the counseling department to promote good communication skills and teaching assertiveness that aims towards limiting bully behaviors. We have school wide participation in the Rachel's Challenge Assemblies that stress anti-bullying, looking for the good in everyone, and treating others with kindness as well as a very active Friends of Rachel club. We transition our sixth grade students to SMS through a WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) program that is led by trained eighth grade students. SMS has a crisis team that meets throughout the year to discuss crisis prevention as well as procedures during a crisis.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Community and Parent Involvement	Compliance	Does the campus welcome parents and community members in planning initiatives?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus implement programs to increase parent and community involvement including families without currently enrolled students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have a comprehensive, proactive communication plan to inform community members and parents regarding campus events?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for students and parents to be actively involved together on campus?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide students with opportunities to participate in activities that help the community?	Yes	

Strickland Middle School always has community members on our Campus Leadership Team, and we invite all parents and teachers to participate. The PTA has a Facebook page and announces campus events on that page. All communication at Strickland is done in both English and Spanish. We also regularly have phone messages and emails that go out to our families in both languages to remind them of various events and important dates and happenings. We have many concerts, athletics events and art showings. We have a family library night monthly with a variety of programming for students and families. Our Industrial Arts classes reach out to the community by building toys for daycare centers. Our Garden Club grows flowers and vegetables for use by the school and community. Our 21st Century ACE after school program provides numerous evening opportunities for students and parents to interact with each other and with staff. NJHS participates in Trick-or-Treat for Unicef and collects pet food, toys and supplies for donation to the animal shelter. Our student council collects baby supplies for the Denton County Friends of the Family shelter. Strickland's Rachel's Challenge anti bullying program creates welcome bags for new students and recognizes members of our community with posters showing appreciation. Our GOAL program participated in the Serve Denton food drive and collected over 1500 lbs. of food for the local food bank.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
21st Century Workforce	Elementary Compliance	Does the campus guidance curriculum teach students the interpersonal skills necessary for college/career readiness?	Yes	Exemplary
	Secondary Compliance	Do the campus CTE programs include district and community stakeholders in an advisory capacity?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus actively cultivate business, community, and university partnerships to support 21st century workforce development?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus have systems in place for including parents in their child's preparation for the 21st century workforce?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer enrichment and/or competitive events for the students to reinforce their 21st century workforce skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus host "college days," "career days" or other events for students to show interest in post-secondary education?	Yes	

SMS has an emphasis on our students furthering their education after high school. The Talent Search program sponsored by UNT targets middle school students who are college bound and helps them with resources and guidance on getting into a college that is best suited for their interests. We also sponsor an "Education" week each year that places a huge emphasis on getting students interested in attending college or a technical school after graduation. Teachers include projects in their curriculum, we sponsor hall and room decorating contests, and colleges come to our campus during lunch to speak to students one on one. We also have a speaker that presents information on how college helped to shape their lives and careers. We have a Path to Scholarships program for our ELL 8th grade students to encourage them and assist them with preparation for college. Transition meetings for students and parents each spring emphasize college and career readiness along with choices in course selection at all grade levels. Our CTE courses all place an emphasis on getting students ready for the workforce by using "real world" projects and simulations that model what skills students need to be successful in the 21st Century. Our students have the opportunity to participate in UIL academic competition and robotics club and competition.

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Second Language Acquisition	Compliance	Does the campus provide yearly LPAC training for all required staff?	Yes	Recognized
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for non-English speaking parents to know about student programs in the school and community?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide communication in both Spanish and English?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have procedures in place to promote students' exit from BIL/ESL within 5 years of identification in elementary and 3 years of identification in secondary?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus offer opportunities for students to be exposed to multiple languages to promote second language acquisition?	No	
<p>In addition to yearly required LPAC training, our campus trains all staff on a variety of SIOP and ESL strategies to support our English language learners. All of our ELA teachers are ESL certified. Phone out announcements, newsletters, parent letters, parent meetings and the marquee are all done in English and Spanish so that most of our parents are able to understand and participate. Our ESL and Dual Language program provides a variety of services and programming to meet the needs of our diverse population. We have Two-Way Dual Language, Sheltered Instruction in all core content areas, as well as inclusion support for our ELL students. Monitoring of ELL student academic and linguistic progress is on-going and collaborative.</p>				

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Digital Learning Environment	Compliance	Does the campus conduct annual training for students regarding digital citizenship and acceptable use of technology?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide technology training and professional development opportunities for all teachers, parents, and community members?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide a public Wi-Fi signal that parents and guests can use to connect to online resources?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize specialists in instructional technology to engage teachers and students with technology integration?	Yes	
	Student	Do the campus teachers actively leverage technology to engage students in the learning process?	Yes	
<p>For students, there is a big emphasis on AUP and digital citizenship throughout the semester as well as the initial training done by our campus ITS at the beginning of the year. There are many opportunities for all teachers to learn new instructional technology integration strategies both before school starts each fall as well as ongoing professional development opportunities throughout the year. Our ITS teaches and models technology integration. Teachers also teach each other how to integrate technology and use technology for more effective formative assessment on the SMS Campus. Our campus has a wide variety of devices available to staff such as desktops, iPads, Chromebooks, mobis, document cameras and CPS units. Staff and students have access to Google Apps for Education, Office 365, IXL, Brain Pop, and other software and online tools to enhance student learning. We have family library night each month. Our focus for the adults attending several months this year has been technology training.</p>				

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Dropout Prevention Strategies	Compliance	Does the campus have a system of intervention (<i>Response to Intervention</i>) for supporting all students?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus direct parents to research/information regarding the relationship between poor attendance and drop-out rates?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide opportunities for parents that reinforce the importance and value of education to students' futures?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus have a systemic plan for maximizing attendance/minimizing absenteeism?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus utilize age appropriate opportunities to engage students in college and career readiness activities to increase graduation rates/prevent dropouts?	Yes	
<p>SMS uses AWARE and Google sheets for teachers, counselors and other staff to document RTI strategies in weekly meetings to support students both for academic growth and social growth. Teams meet regularly to discuss interventions and adjust as needed. During College Week the entire school participates in stressing to students that college is an achievable goal for any student who wants to attend. We participate in Talent Search and have a Path to Scholarships program. SMS has a systematic plan that addresses absenteeism. During course selection each year parents are provided with opportunities to learn about higher education and planning necessary to help their students achieve their goals.</p>				

Evaluation Category	Question Type	Questions	Answer (Yes or No)	Campus Rating
Education Programs for Gifted and Talented Students	Compliance	Does the campus have a systemic plan to ensure that Gifted and Talented teachers meet the professional learning standard for new teachers (30 hours) and for annual updates (6 hours)?	Yes	Exemplary
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with the opportunity to participate in meaningful experiences related to the education of gifted students?	Yes	
	Parent	Does the campus provide parents with opportunities to participate in the nomination/consideration of students for gifted and talented services?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide opportunities for gifted and talented students to participate in extracurricular activities that reinforce a variety of academic and creative skills?	Yes	
	Student	Does the campus provide a variety of instructional and support services for gifted and talented students?	Yes	
<p>At SMS, our EXPO teachers serving GT students have earned specialized professional designations through the completion of the initial 30 hours of training in the field of gifted education and maintain 6+ hours annual update. Parental support is offered through DAGT and campus/district informational tables/meetings that provide information about identifying and programming for MS GT students. Input from parents is sought through an annual survey and opportunities such as chaperoning are made available to parents. Parents and/or students are able to refer for GT testing. Our campus provides enrichment through the UIL, Pre AP, Chess Club, and Robotics Clubs and advanced instruction in Algebra 1 and Geometry. Duke Talent search programming is available to identified academically gifted students. GT students also benefit from academic differentiation of daily lesson plans/tests/and class work.</p>				