

J. E. Turner Executive Summary 2016-17

The largest school system in Alabama, the Mobile County Public School System, serves 59,000 students in 90 schools. JE Turner Elementary School is situated on a beautiful campus in a rural farming community. The school is located at 8361 Lott Rd. in Wilmer, Alabama. The area known as Wilmer/Georgetown as it is located between the two communities.

Turner has experienced several demographic changes over the past three years. There has been an increase in enrollment since last year which has been a challenge. Last year's 20 day enrollment count resulted in a loss of 2 teachers units. This has caused some overcrowding in second and fourth grades.

The demographics of the school reflect a mostly white, low-income community. Cotton and peanut farms, nurseries, and small businesses employ most of the parents and guardians. There is very little industry in the immediate area. Turner presently has 542 students enrolled. The number of students has steadily increased over the past three years. Although there has been an increase in the number of students, the number of teachers at Turner has decreased from 37 to 34. Currently there are 6 paraprofessionals who serve the students, one more than in previous years.

Two years ago Turner went through a huge transformation of gaining a new principal and a majority new staff. A major strength of the school is our supportive community and parent involvement. J.E. Turner has an extremely active PTO and many volunteers who help with various aspects of the school day. There is always someone to help with Teacher Appreciation, student recognition, classroom tasks, and as mentors. The strong family atmosphere at Turner has always been a positive asset.

Our greatest challenge is our high poverty student population. We work daily to provide resources for our students and parents. Many community partners assist with resources, but the needs are great. Attendance rates, especially tardies and early dismissals continue to be a challenge. We work hard to educate parents and students on the importance of being in school all day, every day, and on time! "Lunch with the Principal" is an incentive we started last year. Our attendance rate has increased and tardies and early dismissals have decreased. We will continue the lunch incentive this year. Our community churches provide the lunches, which make "Lunch with the Principal" possible.

This year we will focus on our ASPIRE reading scores. Our scores indicate that all grade levels are in need of extra support. We will use Soudy System Phonics program, Triumph Learning Common Core Coach, skills targeted extended day, pull out intervention, as well as daily classroom intervention. Extended scheduled computer time will help with the online test format. Finding appropriate passages for teaching and assessing continues to be a struggle. With no district reading plan or reading materials in place for the last several years, teachers are left to their own resources to find relevant text with the appropriate text complexity to prepare for the ASPIRE.

Our purpose is to create, enrich, maintain and alter instructional settings to capture and sustain the interest of all students. We believe all students can learn. We believe all students should be treated equitably and that by recognizing the differences that distinguish one student from another and taking in account these differences that we can achieve this goal.

We hope to meet this goal by establishing a culture of academic and personal excellence for all learners by providing rigorous and relevant learning opportunities for all students and teachers alike. This will be achieved through the implementation of project and performance based learning opportunities for students and teachers alike. This will be achieved through the implementation of

project and performance based instruction and assessment, by transforming our media center into a digital literacy center, by implementing the Talents Unlimited critical and creative thinking skills model and by incorporating Franklin Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People" and "Leader in Me" tenets.

We are also in the process of adding to Turner's mission, vision, and beliefs. This process involves the faculty and staff. The mission drives our teachers and staff to have a hand in creating a mission, vision, and beliefs to guide their instruction in the school and classroom.

JE Turner is part of the Discovery Education Digital Media Transformation. This gives us the opportunity to provide resources and coaching to all of our teachers in the project based and performance based instruction and assessment.

We will also implement a school wide, district approved innovation plan, a unique, customized plan to ensure our student's academic success. Successes will be measured on district end of semester exams and high stake tests.

All teachers take part in the Scholastic Instructional Review Process. This identifies the levels of rigor, relevance and student engagement in the classroom. For the past two years Coaches from the International Center for Leadership Education worked with administrators to master the observation/coaching tool. We will continue this process using the CIR Tool and the Eleot tool so we have a true gauge of student engagement and level of rigor.

Areas of improvement that Turner is striving towards are to increase the average daily attendance rate and to create a positive culture of learning. We are working to build a shared leadership in the school by teachers, students, and community stakeholders. To increase student attendance we have implemented Lunch with the Principal where community churches provided and will continue to provide the food and drinks for students with perfect attendance. This has had a very positive impact on our attendance and discipline referrals. We increased our ADA to over 95% and reduced our office referral by 40%. To develop leadership among all stakeholders we plan to have Professional Learning Teams and to involve teachers, parents and students in programmatic decisions. We also have a Student Council, Broadcasting Team, and Safety Patrol for our intermediate students. Second semester we will introduce school wide clubs as a part of The Leader in Me program.

ASPIRE scores have been and continue to be an area of focus for grades 3-5. Our reading scores over the last three years have stayed within 2 points beginning in 2014 with 32.4% proficient, 2015 34.9% proficient, and 2016 32.4% proficient. ASPIRE math scores 2014 51.7% proficient, 2015 47.4% proficient, and 2016 52.5% proficient. ASPIRE science scores 2014 40.7% proficient, 2015 30.1% proficient, and 2016 34.6% proficient. Our plan is to increase these scores for the 2017 ASPIRE by 3% in the areas of reading, math, and science. A major challenge is the number of special education students who attend our school and participate in the ASPIRE test. We plan to increase ASPIRE scores by using Triumph Learning Common Core Coach, Sonday System Phonics, 6 Traits of Writing, providing 2 sessions of tutoring (one fall and one winter) for students who have scored close on the ASPIRE test. Implementation of Talents Unlimited, Discovery Education's Digital Literacy and AMSTI provide opportunities for students to be engaged in their learning and to make learning connections. We will also provide additional intervention with pullouts by the intervention teacher twice weekly to focus on moving our close students to ready. We will also have all students involved in intervention/enrichment to maintain our numbers of students that are Exceeding or Ready on the ASPIRE.

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We will also be focusing on the results of our Advanced Ed Surveys as areas of improvements. According to our survey results, for the second year in a row there has been a decrease in our early elementary (13.02%) and intermediate students (11.65%) feeling that families are not asked to come to the school or don't like to come to the school. The implementation of Covey's "Leader in Me" program along with Parenting Day Picnic, PTO Meetings, and parent volunteers/room mothers will help to improve parents positive perception. In addition, according to the Advanced Ed Surveys, 22.2% of the staff at Turner does not feel that all teachers adjust curriculum based on assessments and do not believe teachers offer feedback to students. Again, incorporating "Leader in Me", grade level meetings, and data meetings will allow the faculty the opportunity to discuss these issues and determine a plan for increasing our scores. Finally, 44% of teachers surveyed by Advanced Ed do not feel all teachers participate in collaborative learning communities. This year all teachers will be involved in multiple collaborative learning communities. All of these will be areas of focus over the next three years.

J.E. Turner takes great pride in our student-centered environment. Our goal is to prepare students for the world of work in the 21st century. We do this by creating an atmosphere where students are leaders and problem solvers. By integrating models such as Talents Unlimited, Digital Literacy, project based learning and the Leader in Me, our teachers have become the facilitators for learning. The responsibility of learning falls on everyone not just the adults in the building. We have very few discipline referrals. Students are involved in decisions affecting their learning.

We have an extremely young faculty. We have 5 first year teachers and 7 other non-tenured. This is approximately one-half of our staff. This gives us a very motivated and enthusiastic group of teachers, but also creates many opportunities for improvement! Our staff is very positive and strive to work together to meet the needs of all children. We are truly a family. The positive culture and climate is evident from the moment you walk into our school.