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Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

Dixie Heights High School
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Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

Executive Summary for Schools

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Dixie Heights is located off of I-275 at Dixie Highway in Crestview Hills, and also serves other surrounding communities, including Crescent Springs, Villa Hills, and Edgewood. The school has a current enrollment size of approximately 1,510 students in grades nine through twelve, and reflects the diversity of the surrounding community. Over the past three to five years Dixie has seen a leveling of the number of students who need assistance through our English Language Learners program. The ELL program services all students who speak English as a second language which includes Hispanic and a population from Southeast Asia, specifically Myanmar. While there are challenges associated with the population from Southeast Asia, as there are limited translator options, exposure to new cultures has helped to enrich the student experience for all at DHHS. To meet the needs of these students we have a part-time ELL teacher who meets these students on a daily basis and students are enrolled in coursework that helps to address the needs that have been identified through their personal learning plan (PLP) and work to achieving at the same level as their peers. Additionally, Dixie Heights currently has over 40% of their students who receive free or reduced lunch services. This has continued to increase over the last three years and is currently at 42%. To meet the needs of these students a full time Family Resource Center is in place and actively works with these students to provide a wide range of services from weekend meal packs to outside counseling services. Additionally, a school team meets on a bi-monthly basis to discuss students who are at risk for graduation, including students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, and develop specific plans for each student to ensure that they can be successful at Dixie Heights High School. Dixie employs a teaching staff of approximately 100 educators who work tirelessly to offer a rigorous and relevant curriculum to every student. To this end, the staff and administration of Dixie have worked to provide all students with career/ college readiness skills and maintain the current growth trends on state assessments. Our staff uses CERT testing with freshman, sophomores, and juniors each trimester so that our staff can gauge student learning. The teachers use this information to identify students' specific skills they have mastered or need additional assistance to learn. This data proves useful to teachers who are planning differentiated lessons in the classroom and targets the skills that students need to improve on their understanding. Although we serve a diverse student body and community, Dixie Heights strives to ensure that all students are given an equal opportunity to excel and be involved in all aspects of the educational process. In addition to a wide range of course offerings, a school to work program, academies, dual credit, and advanced placement courses are available to students. Students' diverse strengths and needs are met through a variety of clubs and organizations as well as Extended School Services, remedial, and gifted/ talented programs. Support services are available in special education, credit recovery programs, speech/ language therapy, ESL and occupational/ physical therapy.

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School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs.

Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Dixie Heights High School's vision statement is "All students, faculty, and staff treat one another with respect and work toward a common goal of academic achievement so that students can be globally-competitive and self-sufficient in the real world." The faculty, staff, and administration embody this vision as we are dedicated to nurturing, challenging, and motivating students to meet high expectations. Through engaging and rigorous teaching, we encourage students to work toward their potential success in the world tomorrow. DHHS prepares students for the future by providing practice on skills that will help them to be successful in the 21st century. DHHS offers a wide variety of courses to meet the educational needs of all students. To ensure that the students are getting the most out of these offerings, the staff and administration at DHHS work collectively to ensure a rigorous and viable curriculum that is aligned with local, state, and national standards.

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Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Dixie Heights has many notable achievements that give the students and staff pride. Academic success is visible in several areas at Dixie Heights High School. In the 2017-18, the school continued in their tradition of excellence with our AP program as we continue to serve a large number of our students using this rigorous national curriculum in which we had a 73% pass rate for all AP students tested. While we have a large portion of our student body taking these rigorous classes, our students continue to achieve at high levels which can be seen as we exceeded the national pass rate in AP Art, AP Spanish, AP Bio, AP Chem, AP Lit, AP Lang, AP Government, AP European History and AP US History. In fact, Dixie Heights HS was 7th in the state for AP scores. There is always room for improvement and we have identified for our priority areas that we will focus on are Gap and CCR. In order to obtain this growth we are beginning to align our master schedule to facilitate teams of teachers working in Professional Learning Communities to focus on four essential questions of a PLC: 1. What do we want students to know? (Essential Standards) 2. How will we know they have learned it? (formative/summative assessments) 3. What will we do when students do not understand it? (interventions) 4. What will we do when students already know it? (enrichment) Next, we are looking at ways to increase the number of students who complete a pathway by having students select a career pathway during student scheduling. We have 4 identified business pathways in our school and offer pathways for career readiness through the KCAIT programs. We have a College and Career Readiness Coach who is working on providing more opportunities for students to earn certifications in vocational programs.

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Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Dixie Heights High School is very proud of other aspects about our school, including our extra-curricular opportunities as well as students' participation in the Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology. We offer many extra-curricular opportunities and have students who

excel in these activities. We offer clubs, such as, Academic Team, All State Choir, Amateur Ham Radio, Art, Astronomy, National Beta club, National Honor Society, Odyssey of the Mind, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Concert Band, Marching Band, Drama, Drug Free Club, Environmental, FBLA, Future Problem Solvers, German, Spanish National Honor Society, Journalism, Mock Trial, Principal Advisory club, Bowling club, Ski club, STLP, Student Council, Student Vision Team, Student Advisory Committee, Tech Olympics, Math Competition Team, Yearbook, and Young Writer's Club. We offer many sporting options, such as, archery, baseball, basketball, fast pitch softball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track, volleyball, and wrestling. Next, Dixie Heights High School has many students participating in the Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology. The district offers the following academy options: 1) Biomedical Science, 2) Informatics, 3) Military Preparation 4) Future Educators, 5) Engineering and 6) Gemini College Academy. The Academies are geared to reach our 21st century learners as it facilitates the students' growth in their career field of interest giving them a competitive edge post- graduation.

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ATTACHMENT SUMMARY

Attachment Name	Description	Item(s)
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