

2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

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Dixie Heights High School
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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 1,480 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, African, French, Arabic, and Southeast Asia. While there are challenges associated with the educating our population of ELL, exposure to new cultures has helped to enrich the student experience for all at DHHS. To meet the needs of these students we have added a full 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 approximately 40% of their students who receive free or reduced lunch services. 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 meet 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.

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 collaborated to develop the "Dixie Way" to assure that all students will be supported in the vision statement of Dixie Heights. Goal: We believe that ALL students can be successful. We will utilize

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to ensure that ALL students will have the skills necessary to achieve their goals after high school. ■ We are the biggest difference maker in each student's life. ■ We can connect, inspire, and energize ALL kids. Commitment: To ensure that all students grow and improve, we commit to being intentional in the following areas: ■ Building authentic relationships Student relationships contribute to higher achievement. ■ Teaching executive functioning skills All students need to be effective in organization, planning, & goal setting. ■ Implementing innovative instructional strategies Engaging instruction empowers students. ■ Utilizing behavior supports Teaching positive expectations through a restorative approach encourages proper student choices. At Dixie Heights, we are a successful school based on overall state assessment data. We have students who are successfully completing college level classes through AP courses and/or dual enrollment courses. However, when you examine the data more closely, we need to improve with students who have specific barriers. The purpose of "The Dixie Way" is to become intentional in doing our business in a way that meets the needs of every student in the building. Students from all demographics come with barriers to their learning and at Dixie, most of them have been able to overcome the barriers to find success in school. However, we must believe that ALL students can be successful and it is our professional obligation to make sure we are providing an atmosphere that will allow ALL students to reach their full potential. "The Dixie Way" has been developed through collaboration among teachers at Dixie Heights and is a guideline for the expectations for every person who comes in contact with our students.

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 2019-20 State ACT testing results: 1. 4 students scored a perfect score of 36 on the ACT. 2. We were above the state average in ACT composite score with a 20.6. 3. We were 9th out of the top 32 largest schools in Kentucky for the ACT composite score. In the 2019-20, 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 the 2019-20, the school continued in their tradition of offering Dual Credit courses. 1. Increase the number of Dixie Faculty who can teach dual credit classes through local universities. 2. 4 dual credit partners: NKU, TMU (tied to business, pre-law pathways, & ENG 255), EKU (currently online options only), Gateway (logistics, construction, & automotive career pathways). 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 have begun 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). We have added a full time ELL teacher to work with our English language learners. We have aligned our special education collaborating teachers to have common planning time with their collaborating teachers to improve on instruction for students with IEP's. 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 other programs offered by KCSD programs. We have a College and Career Readiness Coach who is working on adding more opportunities for students to earn certifications in vocational programs.

Additional Information

CSI/TSI Schools (including ATSI) Only: Describe the procedures used to create the school's improvement plan and briefly state the specific efforts to address the causes of low student performance and resource inequities.

N/A

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 Ignite Institute. We offer many extra-curricular opportunities and have students who excel in these activities. BOYS GOLFACADEMIC TEAM BOYS SOCCER AMATEUR RADIO CLUBCHEERLEADING FOOTBALL CROSS COUNTRY MARCHING BANDBETA CLUB GIRLS GOLF CHOIR SAGAGIRLS SOCCER VOLLEYBALL DRAMA CAPERNAUM BUDDY CLUBDRUG FREE CLUB ARCHERY BOWLING ENVIRONMENTAL CLUBBOYS BASKETBALL FBLA GIRLS BASKETBALL FUTURE PROBLEM SOLVERSSWIMMING GALLERY CURATORS WRESTLING BASEBALLBOYS TENNIS GIRLS TENNIS GIRLS TRACK SPANISH NHSLACROSSE BASS FISHING MOCK TRIAL ODYSSEY OF THE MINDNHS SOFTBALL SPEECH/DEBATE STUDENT COUNCILNext, Dixie Heights High School has many students participating in the Ignite Institute, a regional school. The Ignite Institute offers the following pathway options: 1) Biomedical Science, 2) Informatics, 3) Future Educators, 4) Engineering and 5) Gemini College Academy. The Ignite Institute provides another educational option that has instruction geared to reach our 21st century learners as it facilitates the students' growth in their career field of interest while having the opportunity to earn an associate's degree and job shadowing opportunities. The KCSD offers a Young Scholars Academy on an application process that allows for students to graduate with an associate's degree from NKU. Additionally, the KCSD offers industry certification programs through Gateway such as Automotive Technology, Building Maintenance, Logistics, and STNA.

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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