

School Data and Analysis, created by Julie Papperman, November 4, 2017

Northfield Elementary School, Howard County, MD

The Community

Northfield Elementary School is in Ellicott City, Maryland. Ellicott City is a town located 15 miles outside of Baltimore. Ellicott City has an historic section that dates to when the town was founded.

Makeup of the Community:

According to the Maryland Report Card, Northfield has 710 students. The school demographics are as follows:

Ethnicity	Number of Students	Students Receiving Special Services	
Caucasian	349	Service	Percent of population
Asian	207	Special Education	7.1%
African American	59	FARMS	6.2%
Two or more races	55	LEP	5.3%
Hispanic	37		

Over the past five years, the demographics of the school has seen some changes. The Asian population increased from 138 students in 2012 to 194 students in 2014. It has increased slightly to 207 in 2017. The African American population has increased from 24 in 2012 to 59 in 2017. The Hispanic population has also increased from 29 in 2012 to 37 in 2017. The Special Education population was higher in 2012 at 8.2%, but declined to 5.9% in 2014. It has been on a slight increase since then. The FARMS population has increased from less than 5% in 2012 to 6.2% in 2017. The LEP population has varied, but the last two years has held steady at 5.3%. Students do not tend to move. Only 9.7% of the student population is mobile.

The majority of students attending Northfield Elementary come from a high socioeconomic status household. The median income of a household for 2015 in Ellicott City was \$114,916 which is above the state average of \$74,551. Most residents in Ellicott City are well educated with 65.6% of people over the age of 25 having a bachelor's degree or higher. As the above chart indicates, a small percentage of students at NES receive free or reduced meals. All students at the school have access to computers at home.

Due to the diverse population at Northfield Elementary, many different languages are spoken. According to the librarian, Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Hindi, Urdu, Farsi, Russian, and African languages are spoken in the homes of the students.

Students have access to information in the community and surrounding area. The public library is about two miles away at the Miller Branch Library. Students can visit various museums in Washington D.C. that is about 30 miles away and in Baltimore that is about 15 miles away.

The School

Northfield Elementary School Mission Statement:

“We cultivate a vibrant learning community that prepares students to thrive in a dynamic world.”

Northfield Elementary Vision Statement:

“Every student is inspired to learn and empowered to excel.”

Northfield Elementary School has 710 students, 32 grade level teachers, 13 related arts teachers, four special education teachers, three gifted and talented teachers, one ESOL teacher, three curriculum specialists, and two guidance counselors. The school offers special programs such as Chorus, Orchestra, Band, Gifted and Talented, and in-school banking program partnered with First National Bank. The PTA is strong, providing the school with various programs including a Cultural Arts program, Start with Hello, after school drama club, after school yoga program, peer mentor program, and jazz band.

Trends in test scores:

Results show percentage of students that met and exceeded expectations on PARCC.

Test	2015 Test Results	2016 Test Results	2017 Test Results
3 rd Grade English	80.2%	59.9%	63.5%
4 th Grade English	72.1%	83.9%	73.8%
5 th Grade English	71%	66.4%	75.2%
3 rd Grade Math	73%	72.1%	63.2%
4 th Grade Math	65.3%	78.6%	67.5%
5 th Grade Math	63.3%	60%	54.3%

In English, third grade decreased but is beginning to rise, fourth grade increased then decreased, fifth grade has increased but dropped in 2016. In math, third grade decreased, fourth grade increased then decreased, fifth grade has decreased. Overall, students are performing better in English than in math.

On the Maryland School Assessment for fifth grade science in 2016, 90.1% of students received a Proficient or an Advanced score.

The chart below shows the percentage of Special Education students that are meeting or exceeding expectations on PARCC for 2017.

Test	Special Education
3 rd grade English	≤ 5%
4 th grade English	50%
5 th grade English	No serviced students
3 rd grade Math	20%
4 th grade Math	40%
5 th grade Math	No serviced students

Media Center:

The library is on a fixed schedule with classes coming right after each other with little transitional time for the librarian. Whole classes have access to the library during their media instructional time. The primary users are teachers and students. Students are checking out books based on their interest. Teachers are checking out books to support their curriculum.

Analysis

The information collected about the community is essential because it tells about the students' backgrounds that attend the school and environment they live in. Gathering data about the background of students meets the ALA/AASL Element 1.1 Knowledge of learners and learning, which states, "Candidates support the learning of all students and other members of the learning community, including those with diverse learning styles, physical and intellectual abilities and needs." This knowledge impacts the materials the librarian carries in the collection to support the specific needs of students that attend Northfield Elementary. Students that attend Northfield Elementary mostly come from high socioeconomic households, have educated parents, and have computers. This information shows students have access to information and digital tools at home. The librarian can encourage students to access digital library resources outside of school. The librarian also has greater reason to purchase digital resources since students can easily access those resources. With a diverse community and access to cultural institutions, students have an awareness of various cultures. The library needs to have these cultures represented in the collection. The collection should specifically include books about Asian cultures and characters since the school has a significant number of Asian students. The library should also include books depicting Hispanic cultures and characters since there is an increase in that demographic.

The information about the school is essential because it provides insight to students' learning. Collecting data about the school's academic programs and how students are performing academically meets the ALA/AASL Element 1.1 Knowledge of learners and learning. While the librarian supports the learning of all students, the academic information allows the librarian to focus on the weakest areas in need of help. The special education scores are an area of concern. The PARCC scores for special education students indicate students had difficulty meeting the third and fourth grade English and math standards. For these students, the library should carry high interest low level books to provide resources to help raise their English scores. The librarian can also speak with special education teachers as well as general education to see what literacy skills can be supported in the library to increase English scores of all students. The PTA supports the school with special programs. The library collection can support these programs with books on those topics such as yoga, drama, and jazz bands. The librarian can seek parents to give input about books they would like the library to carry. Since there is a Gifted and Talented program, the library should include books at a high reading level on topics of interest for those students. Making sure these books are included in the library will help students feel empowered, as the school vision states, about their learning. They will have the resources they need to be successful.

Works Cited

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