School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

**Academic Excellence**

- Faculty and department meetings are used to fill teachers’ toolboxes with instructional strategies and research to increase student engagement and increase student performance.
- Team meetings are held at least twice a month to discuss specific student concerns regarding academic or behavior issues. Individual meetings with teachers are held to review goals, monitor progress, review data, and make adjustments.
- Small group or guided instruction is a focus at SCW to help hone in on students' individual needs.
- Students needing the challenge are offered the opportunity to participate in language arts plus...
classes which offer higher level reading experiences and more in depth writing assignments.
-To celebrate academic success, students earning quarterly honor roll receive a HAWKS card which awards special privileges.

**Developmental Responsiveness**
- Every Friday morning at SCW, students and teachers ‘circle up’ in HAWKS groups to engage in meaningful conversations to build trust, foster empathy, and strengthen relationships among one another.
- HAWKS groups extend beyond Fridays into HAWKS games where teams compete in games such as flag football, basketball, volleyball, and softball.
- Beyond classroom experiences, students have the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of clubs and sports—Builders, SCA, Running, TSA, SchoolsNEXT, Fiber Arts, Debate, Recycling, Environmental, STEM, Choir, and VA Rules.
- SCW’s school resource officer sponsors a Virginia Rules Club informing students of the importance of knowing and obeying laws.
- All SCW teachers participated in trauma training through a partnership with the Community Services Board in the spring of 2018.

**Social Equity**
- Social and cultural awareness is developed through HAWKS circles creating a strong community.
- Teachers use instructional strategies such as collaborative learning groups, critical thinking activities, and oral and group presentations to enhance students’ ability to communicate their knowledge to others, to reach diverse learning styles and provide every student with the opportunity for student achievement.
- Chromebooks in all classrooms allow teachers the ability to easily differentiate assignments without calling attention to the varying levels of assignments.
- Middle School 101, a transition program allowing rising sixth graders to visit SCW for a half day in the summer prior to entering sixth grade, helps ease both students' and parents' minds regarding the transition from elementary to middle school.

**Organizational Support**
- Recent changes in administration have allowed for a greater focus on proactive measures versus reactive measures.
- The school leadership team meets monthly to discuss current concerns and develop plans for the future.
- Administrators among all the elementary, middle, and high schools in the division communicate regularly to articulate goals and concerns to ensure vertical alignment.
- Families and community members are informed of SCW’s goals through information night sessions, social media, monthly newsletters, and word of mouth.