School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence
- The implementation of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
- The implementation of standards-based grading, where students grades are comprised of formative assessment (20%) and summative assessment (80%). The International Baccalaureate grading system is used.
- The inclusion of Professional Learning Communities that meet weekly to disaggregate data and plan future lessons.
- Sustained Silent Reading is held each day for 20 minutes.
- Master Schedule allows for common planning time within interdisciplinary teams and also Curriculum Teams.
- In Social Studies classrooms students participate in rich field trips such as the Manassas Battlefield, Marine Corps Museum and Constitutional Hall.
- Quarterly Achievement Assemblies to honor all students who make Principal’s Honor Roll and A/B Honor Roll.
- Each classroom is equipped with a SMART Board, WiFi, and access to desktop, laptop, and tablet computers.
- Differentiated instructional strategies are implemented across disciplines.
- Student work is displayed throughout the school to show pride in their work.
- After school SOL Academies are held each year to prepare students for their tests.

Developmental Responsiveness
- Implementation of the PALS Program which assigns an adult mentor to students.
- We engage in Career Days that are organized by our guidance department which exposes students to different professions across a wide array of interests.
- Each marking period students are recognized for their positive behavior with Positive Referral Day.
- Implementation of the Olweus Anti-Bullying Program with weekly class meetings to discuss ways of handling bullying.
Our Science classes conduct field studies to the Manassas Battlefield as part of a watershed project.
Creation and implementation of the Positive Alternative School Suspension Program; including school social worker and guidance department
Outstanding community relationships through PTA and multiple business partnerships
The SCA president is an active member of the school Advisory Council
The School Community Liaison assists with translations and interpreting and eliminates the language barrier for many parents and teachers.
Students feel they have a voice with the implementation of many clubs that interest them and a very active Student Government.

Social Equity

- All students receive the benefit of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme
- Clear message that all students will succeed because of the high expectations for them.
- Diversity of the student population and their acceptance of one another
- Expansive afterschool program that meets the students’ interests
- Communication with parents with translation services provided for over 20 different languages spoken.
- Climate of acceptance in the building
- Recognizing student accomplishments; Positive referral Day, Honor Roll Assemblies, Principal’s Honor Roll luncheon)
- The Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol(SIOP) is implemented throughout the school to facilitate meaningful instruction for our ELL students.
- Expansive use of technology to provide 21st Century skills to all students.
- Implementation of the STAR program to provide laptop computers to families that can’t afford them.
- A school wide Learning Profile is given at the beginning of the year so students and teachers know what learning style is best for them.

Organizational Support

- Administrative support for the IB Program by fully funding the coordinator position
- Vertical articulation with Stonewall Jackson High School through the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme.
- Weekly PLC meetings to review formative and summative assessments to gauge student learning.
- Creation of Leadership Team to monitor the implementation of present programs and the creation of any new programs.
- The enhanced role of grade level Deans to act as behavioral support for students.
- The continued implementation of grade level interdisciplinary teams to assist in student learning and developmental growth.
- Weekly informational meetings with Administrative team.
- Monthly meetings with Leadership team, department teams, new teacher teams..
- Monthly meeting for full faculty to implement professional development especially for ESOL strategies.
- 21st Century Community Grant for after school remediation program
- Technical support support to the whole staff from Instructional Technology Resource Teacher
- The use of differentiation of strategies by teachers to meet the needs of all learners
- The creation of a master schedule that provides common planning time for teachers (PLCs), variety of classes for students, flexibility to move students as determined by data
- Multiple leadership opportunities (Team Leaders, Department Chairs, Deans, Literacy Council, etc…)
- Satellite administration offices in the hallways