

Wilkinson Middle School in Frisco, Texas, is not just a place for textbooks and tests; it's a transformative journey focused on empowering students through inquiry-based learning. Our principal, Jamie Rowan, leads our mission to create an enriching educational environment. Our diverse campus reflects our commitment to inclusivity, with a student body composed of 53% Asian, 19% White, 13% African American, 9% Hispanic, and 5% identifying as Two or More races. Additionally, 10% of our students come from low socio-economic backgrounds, 10% are in special education programs, 7% are emergent bilinguals, and 20% are identified as at-risk. The Wilkinson mission is to inquire minds, engage hearts, and transform the future.

As we crafted our guiding mission statement, we embarked on a journey to ensure that all voices and passions remain at the heart of our work. To genuinely uphold the principles of organizational transformation, we recognized the importance of fostering a safe, inclusive, and dynamic learning environment. Our commitment to this vision is reflected in our implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support system, the development of our house system, and our ongoing efforts to maximize every campus space as a valuable learning resource. To engage our 667 students in grades sixth through eighth, our dedicated staff employs innovative strategies that promote a dynamic and supportive learning atmosphere. Teachers feel comfortable using various teaching strategies, such as the workshop model with teacher tables, co-teaching, and alternate learning environments.

Workshop model with teacher tables is a strategy you will see in action in our math classrooms. During workshop, students are grouped by skill level at different stations, including a teacher-led table. One example of the workshop model in action is our math classes, where students are grouped by skill level at different teacher tables. This allows teachers to provide targeted support tailored to each student's needs. For instance, while one group focuses on challenging problem-solving tasks, another might work on foundational skills. This small-group instruction ensures that every student receives personalized guidance, fostering a deeper understanding of the material.

Co-teaching also plays a vital role at Wilkinson Middle School. Coteaching allows two educators to work collaboratively within the same classroom to support all students. This approach enhances instruction by combining different teaching styles, providing additional support for students who need it, and creating a more dynamic and interactive learning environment. For example, in science classes, each teacher works with different groups, meeting various needs while also being able to pop around to stations during the workshop model. This collaboration creates a rich and interactive environment where students benefit from diverse teaching styles.

Alternate learning environments are another innovative strategy we use to promote engagement. We empower students to choose a learning space that best suits their comfort and productivity. Flexible seating encourages movement, autonomy, and engagement, fostering a student-centered learning experience. Classrooms have various options, allowing students to choose where they feel

most comfortable. Research shows that flexible seating increases student focus and autonomy. Central to our school culture is the **house system**, which fosters a strong sense of belonging and community. Through the house system, our school community ensures that every student has a place to connect and grow. With six houses united as one family, we cultivate relationships, encourage school spirit, and build a supportive network where everyone feels valued and a sense of belonging. Each student is assigned to one of the six houses, which creates a family-like environment. Students participate in various house events, such as spirit weeks, academic competitions, and community service projects, promoting school unity. This helps every student find their place within the school, encouraging friendships and support networks essential for their social and emotional growth.

At Wilkinson Middle School, education is a collaborative journey. Through inquiry-based learning, supportive staff, and strong community ties, we ensure that every student feels valued, connected, and equipped to succeed in their educational endeavors. With six houses united as one family, we foster an environment where every individual is appreciated and encouraged to thrive.