Exemplary Middle School

Putnam County Middle School
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Becky Nipper
The Learning Commons @ PCMS
Leading Students Towards Life-Long Learning...

- Learning Commons is the hub of learning and activity in our school.
- Flexible, warm, and welcoming space
  - Offers multiple avenues of exploration and innovation for students and teachers
- Reading and literacy are the foundations of our program.
  - Believe in nurturing interests and maintaining excitement about reading
- Center of inquiry and curiosity
  - Collaboration station
  - Inquiry-based learning embedded in collaborative lessons
  - Morning crew
  - Makerspace
  - Multimedia Room for War Eagle News Network
Life in the Learning Commons @ PCMS
The Role of Reading

- Quarterly Books and Breakfast meetings
- Genre of the Month lessons
- eBook collection and recommendations
- Book Trailers in the Makerspace
- Reading Bowl
Collaborative Partnerships

- Weekly and monthly collaborative lessons that are planned and executed with teachers.

- Lessons incorporate content standards along with instructional technology tools to engage and enhance understanding.
  - Examples: digital breakouts with OneNote, Skype sessions with meteorologist, authors and journalists, media literacy lessons focusing on evaluating websites, bias in the media and the use of social media as a news source.
  - Monthly Learning commons lessons that focus on digital citizenship, and more.
  - Virtual Reality activities

- Examples of collaborative lessons on website
Teaching for Learning

- Students are exposed to a variety of tools and learning opportunities that impact engagement and achievement.
- Lessons are planned with technology tools and differentiation
  - Students have a choice in demonstrating understanding
  - Students are encouraged to be creative, collaborative and thoughtful thinkers
- Teaching activities cross multiple content areas and most lessons are conducted in the Learning Commons
  - Easy access and flexibility in grouping
Favorite Tools and Programs!

• Adobe Spark
• Office 365
  – SWAY! OneNote! Teams!
• Flipgrid
• Padlet
• iMovie
• GoFormative
• Poll Everywhere
• Kahoot!
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Check us out on the Web: pcmscommons.weebly.com