

**Liberty Elementary School**

**2018-2019**

**School Improvement Plan**

**Doug Knott, Principal**



## School Profile

Liberty Elementary School is located in Canton, approximately 35 miles north of Atlanta, GA. Liberty ES opened as a K-6 school in August of 2002 with a student enrollment of 528. Over the years, Liberty ES has experienced explosive growth with the student population at approximately 1200. Reconfigurations of area schools and new school openings have relieved the overcrowding. When Freedom Middle School opened Liberty ES became a K-5 school. Even with rapid student growth, Liberty ES maintains a sense of family due to the dedication of the staff, parents and business partners who embrace new community members.

Liberty ES incorporates the state mandated 180 days of instruction. School begins at 7:40 a.m. and ends at 2:15 p.m. Students in K-3 receive 270 minutes of instructional time and 4-5 grade students receive 300 minutes. Students have the opportunity to participate in a variety of extracurricular programs and compete at county level events.

Liberty ES has 81 certified staff members. Of those, four hold Doctorate degrees, 19 have Specialist's degrees, 40 have Master level degrees and 18 hold Bachelor's degrees. Thirty-eight teachers hold gifted endorsements, 13 hold ESOL endorsements, 14 have Reading endorsements, 60 are Microsoft Innovative Educators and another 22 will complete training in December of 2018, six hold Teacher Support Specialist (TSS) certification, and one is Science endorsed. Certified teachers are under contract for 190 days and participate in professional development opportunities.

In order to communicate effectively with parents, Liberty ES utilizes the Canvas Learning Management System, provides e-mail blasts through the Aspen SIS, Remind text messages and has a school website and Twitter account. Grades 1-5 are provided agendas for daily communication between school and home. Kindergarten uses communication folders which are sent home daily.

Liberty ES offers other academic programs to assist students. Student qualifying for gifted education are served one full day per week in the AIM program. Students attending English Language Learners classes must meet qualifications using a Literacy and Oral Composite Proficiency Level Scale. Early Intervention Program students are served depending upon results from periodic reading and math assessments. Liberty ES provides special education classes for eligible students. Students are eligible for 504 plans when students have a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

The administration at Liberty ES works with the PTA, School Council and Partners in Education to seek input and work cooperatively with school needs in order to enhance the instructional programs and school culture.

Annually, assessments are administered in order to obtain information on student academic progress. Students in Kindergarten are given Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) assessments to monitor progress. In the current school year, Liberty ES is working with the GADOE to pilot a revised version of GKIDS. Students in second and fourth grade are given the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) in October. Students in grades 3-5 are given the Georgia MILESTONES tests in April in the areas of English/ Language Arts, and Math. Additionally, fifth graders are assessed in Science and Social Studies.

Liberty ES has implemented the #BeKind initiative, responsive classrooms methods (Morning Meetings and positive language) and service learning into the curriculum. Students are actively involved in showing respect and taking responsibility through daily practice. Student leaders take an active role in encouraging students to model positive character values. Additionally, Liberty ES incorporates the 11 Principles of Character Education into school culture, in order to provide a comprehensive character education program. As a result of our focus on the many facets of character education, Liberty has achieved recognition as a 2017 State School of Character and a 2018 National School of Character. In addition, Liberty has received five Promising Practice awards from Character.org over the last three years.

### **School Improvement Plan Design Team:**

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