

Accountability Report

Issued 2020–21

Grace Snell Middle School

Darlene T. Brown, *Principal*

Dr. Al Taylor, *Assistant Superintendent*



Local school improvement connected to district’s strategic direction

Gwinnett County Public Schools’ accountability system for improving schools is called the Results-Based Evaluation System (RBES). RBES fairly and systematically measures a school’s progress, providing a process that clearly communicates expectations; reviews, monitors, and supports school performance; and evaluates that performance. With a waiver from federal requirements during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Georgia Department of Education did not administer state tests in the spring or produce related reports on school effectiveness. This abbreviated report reflects available achievement data from the 2019–20 school year. Using local data, school

administrators, teachers, and parent advisory groups developed this year’s Local School Plans for Improvement (LSPI) which outline our improvement goals and guide the work we will do throughout the 2020–21 school year to support student learning. These improvement plans are connected to the school district’s strategic direction and our core business of teaching and learning. Find our school’s LSPI on the website. The Grace Snell school council and school leaders collaborated on the highlights in this accountability report, which also serves as the school’s annual report. **Please review this report to learn more about our improvement efforts and progress.**

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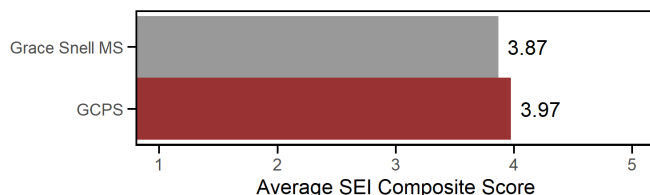
2019–20 Results: Norm-referenced Assessments: PSAT 8/9

Gwinnett’s 8th graders have an early opportunity to set their course for college and careers with the PSAT 8/9, a test that helps determine what students need to work on most so that they are ready for college when they graduate from high school. The PSAT 8/9 is part of the College Board family of assessments that includes the SAT college-admission assessment and the PSAT/NMSQT, a preview of the SAT. The PSAT 8/9 tests the same skills and knowledge as the SAT and PSAT/NMSQT, but in a way that makes sense for 8th graders. The test focuses on the skills and knowledge at the heart of education— what students have been learning in school and what they’ll need to succeed in college— in the areas of mathematics and evidence-based reading and writing. The PSAT 8/9 establishes a baseline measurement of college and career readiness as students enter high school. It also gives students a chance to preview the SAT and the PSAT/NMSQT. (Gwinnett 10th graders take the PSAT/NMSQT.)

	Math	Reading/Writing
Grace Snell	398	381
GCPS	436	414
State	412	410
National	406	405

2019–20 Student Engagement

The Student Engagement Instrument (SEI) is a survey used to measure how engaged students are at school and with learning. When taking the SEI, students respond to items that cover a variety of topics related to their engagement in their education, including the level of support they receive from teachers, peers, and family, as well as their perceptions of school work and future educational goals. We measure student engagement at GCPS because it is related to important outcomes such as on-time graduation and postsecondary success. The bar graph below shows the average SEI Composite Score— a summary of a student’s responses across all items on the SEI— for Grace Snell Middle School compared with an average of results for all GCPS middle schools. The Composite Score can range from 1.0 to 5.0, with higher scores reflecting stronger student engagement. This chart shows that the average Student Engagement Instrument Composite Score for Grace Snell MS in 2019–20 was 3.87, compared to the GCPS middle school average of 3.97.

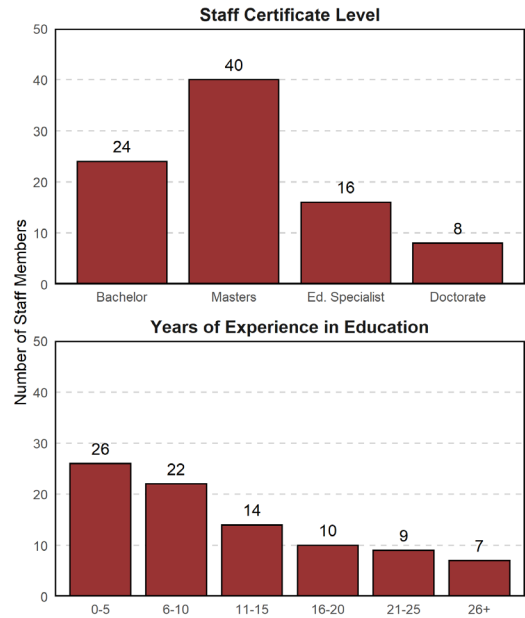


Grace Snell Middle School

Other 2019–20 Highlights...

- Grace Snell Middle School (GSMS) was recognized by the Georgia Department of Education with Operational status for implementation of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) during the 2019–20 school year. PBIS encourages positive behaviors with recognition for those students who exhibited appropriate school conduct. At Grace Snell, students are Respectful, Responsible and Ready. PBIS helps schools leaders to analyze behavior data, develop solutions, and implement positive behavior incentives.
- Sgt. Edward Boyd was named the 2019–20 Gwinnett County Junior Leadership Corps (JLC) Instructor of the Year. Grace Snell Middle School JLC serves nearly 200 cadets in the program, which focuses on student leadership and service to others.
- Nearly 800 students participated in music programs—278 in Chorus, 280 in Orchestra, and 230 in Band. Our student musicians performed concerts with grade-level groups.
- School leadership programs and activities,— including Student Council, Junior Beta Club, and Peer Leaders—served 150 students.
- Twenty students participated in the GSMS Readers Rally team.
- PTSA recognized Principal Brown for exemplary support of Area 1 PTSA. Grace Snell received a number of PTA awards during 2019–20, including Early Bird Award, Pacesetters Award, and, for the fourth year in a row, the Visionary Award.
- The Grace Snell MS Boys Basketball Team competed in the GCPS playoffs and semifinals, ending the season with a record of 11–4.
- Grace Snell Middle School was recognized as a Discovering Green & Healthy School in the Environmental Achievement Awards sponsored by Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful.
- Our students in Future Business Leaders of America participated in the Regional Conference. They won the following awards: 1st place in Business Etiquette, Digital Citizenship, Elevator Speech, and Invention Convention; 2nd place in Creed, Critical Thinking, and Microsoft & Office Concepts; and 5th place in Microsoft & Office Concepts.
- Grace Snell Middle School received the Community Award for participation with Emory Atlanta Urban Debate.
- Several students participated at the Gwinnett Science, Engineering + Innovation Fair. A Grace Snell MS project placed 3rd in Chemistry.

2019–20 Staff Data



Student Data (2017–18 to 2019–20)

	School Year		
	17–18	18–19	19–20
Enrollment	1239	1241	1258
+American Indian/Alaskan Native*	1%	0%	0%
+Asian*	1%	2%	1%
+Black/African American*	71%	71%	71%
+Hispanic or Latino, <i>any race</i>	15%	16%	17%
+Multiracial, <i>two or more races</i> *	3%	3%	4%
+Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander*	0%	0%	0%
+White*	9%	7%	7%
Special Education	15%	14%	14%
English Learner**	9%	10%	10%
Gifted Eligible	8%	8%	9%
Free/Reduced Lunch	68%	70%	69%
Average Attendance***	96%	97%	97%

*Not Hispanic or Latino

**Since 2017–18, the category for English Learners has reflected both students who qualify for services and those being monitored.

***Based on in-school attendance through March 12, 2020. Students participated in online learning from March 16 to May 20.

School Safety Perceptions

Based on responses from those with an opinion who responded to the 2019–20 RBES Perception Survey...

- 67.8% of students agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at Grace Snell Middle.
- 95.6% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child's school was safe.

The mission of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.

Grace Snell Middle School

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