



2021-22 Phase Three: Executive Summary for  
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2021-22 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

**Helmwood Heights Elementary School**

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United States of America

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## 2021-22 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

### Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Helmwood Heights is a 1st-5th Grade elementary school in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Helmwood has a enrollment of 395 students, which is 51 more students than at the close of the 2019-2020 school year. Student demographics - 53% male, 46% female; 11% African-American, .25% American Indian, 1.27% Asian, 8.86% Hispanic, Hawaiian .25%, 14.68% 2 or more races, 63.53% White. We have 13 EL learners, 7 female, 6 males - 9 are Hispanic and 4 are Asian. We have 24 military connected students. We have 233 economically disadvantaged students, 50% of that number are white, 19% are two or more races, 17% African American and 12% Hispanic. We have 65 Special Needs students - 42 are male, 23 are female. 63% of my IEP students are white, 9% are two or more races, 14% Hispanic, 3% Asian, 9% African-American. Helmwood is in the Elizabethtown Independent School District. The school district is small, with one high school, one junior high, 2 elementary schools and one Pre-K center. The city of Elizabethtown has roughly 40,000 residents, while the county (Hardin) has a population of 110,000. Elizabethtown/Hardin County is growing. New industries are moving into the area, notably Ford Motor Company - which will change the landscape of the county. We have some challenges, just like any school. More than half of our students are economically disadvantaged. The staff at Helmwood has several teachers with 20+ years of experience, while also having a very young contingent of teachers being hired within the last 5 years. The mixing of old and new ideas is great for our grade level teams.

### School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The vision of Helmwood Heights is that every 5th grader will achieve proficiency in math and reading upon exiting the school. Based on that vision, the mission of our school is to inspire a community of learners who are respectful, responsible and innovative. The staff at Helmwood Heights has selected 7 core values, with which we base every decision. Our core values are compassion, kindness, respect, integrity, relationships, excellence and valued. Our vision, mission, and core values are embodied in our program offerings here at Helmwood. We begin our day with

Hello Helmwood, a Youtube production in which our 5th grade students provide the news, pledge, and upcoming events to our student body. At the conclusion of each show, our Guidelines for Success are read - Be Respectful, Be Responsible, Be Cooperative and Be Your Best. We have a intervention program called RTL - Response to Learning. During this block, our students are grouped by enrichment, reteach, novice reduction and intervention. Our SPED students are also serviced during this time. Other programs include, RTB - which is our PBIS program in which we analyze behavior data, determine student need, and provide interventions. Helmwood also has an enrichment program. In which our specials teachers pull students by grade level and provide growth in leadership, art, music, stem lab, library media. We have a GT teacher based out of Helmwood, who also pulls students in our GT Talent Pool for 1st-3rd grades. We have a STEM program that uses the PLTW curriculum, vex robotics and other notable stem related programs. Our library media specialists collaborates with teachers to enhance core instruction and runs a STLP enrichment for our students. We have a school-wide cultural of learning program that is run by our guidance counselor and specials teachers on Fridays. The focus is on the 7 habits and growth mindset.

#### Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Over the last three years, we have had several achievements. As a staff, we have gone to a station teaching model within core instruction as well as utilizing Kagan Structures. The school districts Early Release Friday program, has allowed us to maintain a strong PLC focus in which our instructional practices are looked at along with vertical collaboration and data analysis. 2021 Testing Data revealed a notable achievement in On Demand Writing, scoring a 56.1, which was 17 points higher than the state average. We were also ahead of the state elementary average in reading by 3 points, scoring a 42.1. Areas of improvement include Math, Reading, and Science. Although we were ahead of the state average in reading, we were not happy. Keeping in mind that we tested in a pandemic year while in and out of school, the decision was made to continue many of the same programs implemented in 2019-2020 to see the effect it may have on the test scores for the 21-22 school year. These include a station teaching focus, Kagan structures along with a strong PLC focus. Math data showed that we were behind the state elementary average by 5 points, scoring a 26.9. With that in mind, we have begun to refocus our math practices. We recently visited a neighboring elementary school that did a great job with their math scores. We realized that we would need to make changes in the master schedule for the 22-23 school year and become more

focused on data as well as our station groups. Our Science scores show that we were behind the state elementary average by less than a 1/2 point - coming in at 24.7. Keeping in mind that we tested during a covid year in which we were in and out of school, we are keeping in place our station teaching in science as well as Kagan Structures. Looking ahead, we have set goals based on a five year plan in order to achieve growth in reading, math, science, on demand writing and social studies. The goals are based on where we are now and what it will take to get to 100%. We know that in order to achieve real growth, our staff will need to continue our growth in station teaching, Kagan structures, PLCs, as well as data analysis.

#### Additional Information

**CSI/TSI Schools (including ATSI) Only:** Describe the procedures used to create the school's improvement plan and briefly state the specific efforts to address the causes of low student performance and resource inequities.

N/A

#### Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

It is important to note that data collected in the spring of 21' was taken during a year in which students were learning virtually, in person, hybrid etc. There was a lot of change throughout the year. For the current school year, we are going through some more change with our school district moving to a Early Release model in order to provide more PLC/planning time for staff. With more stability during the 21-22 school year, we hope to have significant gains in our test scores.

# Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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