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Mclaughlin academy of excellence

McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy is a public middle school located in Lake Wales, Florida. It was established in 1964 as the Lake Wales Junior High School and has undergone several name changes over the years. The school added more intensive fine arts programs in 2007 and changed its name to McLaughlin Middle School and Fine Arts Academy. The school is one of four middle schools in Polk County with an arts focus. In 2011, it was designated an Arts Achieve! Model School by the Florida Alliance for Arts Education. The school has helped other schools develop their visual and performing arts programs. McLaughlin's dress code requires students to wear khaki or black pants, shorts, or skirts, along with a specific school shirt color determined by grade level. The school is currently undergoing construction, including the addition of a new gymnasium that will serve athletic teams and other needs at the school. The McLaughlin School in Lake Wales is undergoing significant changes as part of a \$15 million project that includes the construction of new facilities and the expansion of its academic programs. The school will now offer high school grades, with plans to add a new grade each year until 2025. This transformation is being supported by community organizations, including the Dyer team, which presents an annual award to recognize non-profit organizations making a positive impact in Polk County. The school has a strong focus on career exploration and college opportunities, providing students with hands-on experiences that will prepare them for their future careers. With over 700 students enrolled in grades six through ten, McLaughlin Academy of Excellence offers a wide range of classes, from fine arts to technical training, allowing students to develop a well-rounded education. The Dyer Difference Award Committee recognizes the school's dedication to producing graduates who are independent, critical thinkers, and provides financial support to non-profit organizations making a positive difference in the community. The award is given annually to select non-profit organizations in Polk County, providing them with a \$3,000 boost to further their missions. The project also includes the construction of new facilities, such as a football stadium, gymnasium, and expanded parking area, which will enhance the school's capabilities and provide students with state-of-the-art learning environments. Mclaughlin Academy Of Excellence School Directory Overview Mclaughlin Academy Of Excellence is committed to transparency and accessibility, providing a comprehensive school directory that empowers parents, students, and educators with essential information to make informed decisions. Located at 800 4Th St S, Lake Wales, Florida, the school offers a conducive environment for learning and growth. With a diverse student body of 542, Mclaughlin Academy Of Excellence fosters an inclusive community where every individual's unique talents and strengths are celebrated. Key Information: - School ID: 120159001773 - School District: Polk School County: Polk - Address: 800 4Th St S City: Lake Wales State: Florida - ZIP Code:33853 - Phone Number: (863) 678-4233 Education is the cornerstone of Mclaughlin Academy Of Excellence, with a team of passionate educators dedicated to providing personalized attention and guidance for each student. The school offers various programs and services, including extracurricular activities, academic programs, support services, and community engagement initiatives. The Mclaughlin Academy Of Excellence is a middle school with a rating of 4.34 out of 5. With 369 students eligible for free lunch and none for reduced lunch, the school provides support to its student body. Florida's public education system is renowned for its quality, serving as pillars of community development and academic excellence across the state. The system operates under the governance of the Florida Department of Education (FLDOE), with each county managing its own school district. These districts set standards and manage budgets while schools operate under individual guidance. The State Board of Education sets policies and evaluates school performance to ensure consistency statewide. Florida's education system has made strides in improving graduation rates, reducing achievement gaps, and enhancing academic performance. Initiatives such as the FCAT (later replaced by FSA) evaluate student proficiency, providing valuable insights for instructional strategies. Programs like school choice, charter schools, and virtual education offer diverse options for families to meet their children's needs. Despite its achievements, Florida's public education system faces challenges including funding disparities between affluent and disadvantaged districts, teacher shortages in critical subject areas, and criticism of the accountability-driven approach of standardized testing from educators. Florida's reforms focus on addressing inequities and promoting holistic assessment practices. The "Best and Brightest" teacher scholarship program and increased funding for high-needs schools demonstrate the state's commitment to fostering a thriving educational ecosystem. With a decentralized structure and emphasis on accountability, Florida is shaping the minds of tomorrow's leaders while navigating evolving demographics and technological advancements.