



A Story of Significant Progress Continues at Cherokee Bluff Middle School

Located in the southernmost portion of Hall County, Georgia, Cherokee Bluff Middle School was established in 2018. The school has an interesting origin story—one in which redistricting led to a significant change in demographics. But the far more interesting part of Cherokee Bluff’s origin story is the way in which Principal Robert Wilson and his team used the Thoughtful Classroom “Four Cornerstones” framework to establish the learning culture of the school. With the Cornerstones in place, Cherokee Bluff realized significant gains across much of the student population. **Over the course of its first three years, Cherokee Bluff became one of the highest-achieving schools in Hall County.** The foundations for teaching and learning were so strong, Cherokee Bluff saw test scores rise during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic—bucking the national trend.

[Read the full case study of Cherokee Bluff’s first three years.](#) ▶

Since those impressive first three years, Cherokee Bluff has continued its partnership with the Thoughtful Classroom.

Principal Robert Wilson explains, “We have stayed committed to strengthening Tier I instruction and supporting classroom teachers without distractions from outside the district. Thoughtful Classroom has always helped us remain focused on what’s most important—the quality of teaching and learning in the classroom.”

Principal Wilson credits a few key moves for really helping the entire staff make this commitment to instruction:

1. Selecting a manageable set of Thoughtful Classroom tools focused on areas such as establishing student-friendly learning targets, building literacy in all content areas, and providing meaningful classroom feedback.

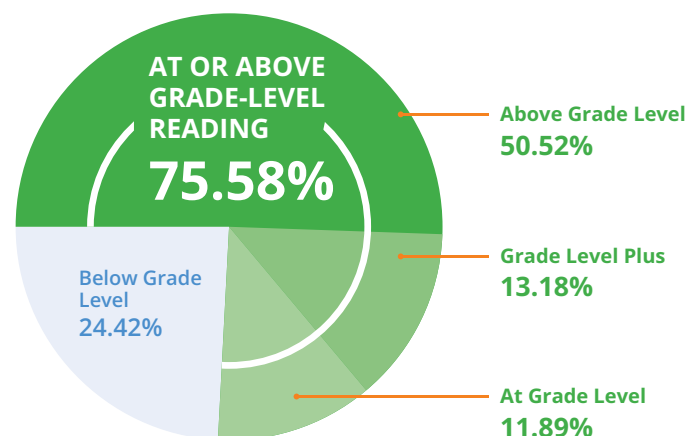
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2. Pairing teachers up with a peer learning partner to share observations, exchange feedback, review student work, and ensure instructional tools are implemented and adapted successfully.
3. Developing a school-wide culture of professional learning focused on instruction that earns buy-in from teachers, school leaders, and district-level staff.

Looking at the Data

As a result of this school-wide commitment to high-quality instruction, progress continues throughout Cherokee Bluff.

A quick look at the data for readiness in reading shows how building literacy in all content areas has paid off, with over 75% of Cherokee Bluff students now reading at or above grade level.

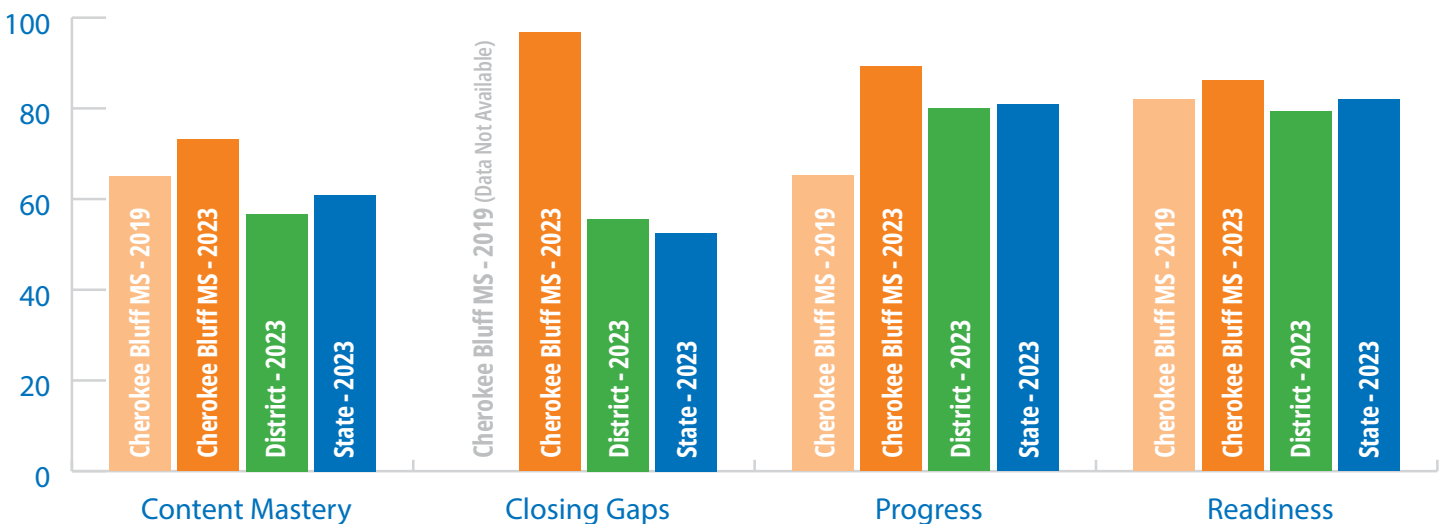


Looking at the Data (Cont.)

Readiness is not the only area where Cherokee Bluff has shown improvement. Since 2019, they have also made significant gains in the categories of Content Mastery and Progress. In the 2023 College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) scores, Cherokee Bluff's Closing Gaps score of 96.7 significantly outstrips the state average of 52.5. The school realized similar results in the category of Progress, with a score of 89.2. Cherokee Bluff also

made across-the-board improvement, with all student groups meeting their 3% improvement targets in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students identified as economically disadvantaged, English learners, and students with disabilities made "starred" progress, meaning they met 6% improvement targets. In addition, over 45% of English learners advanced by at least one performance band.

Overview | Performance on Key Components



Content Mastery for English Language Arts | CBMS 2023

Key Student Subgroups	Target	Score	Difference Above Target
All Students	67.02	72.88	↑ +5.86
Economically Disadvantaged	42.15	51.06	↑ +8.91
English Learners	34.76	39.62	↑ +4.86
Students with Disability	29.95	38.45	↑ +8.50

Content Mastery for Mathematics | CBMS 2023

Key Student Subgroups	Target	Score	Difference Above Target
All Students	74.80	77.42	↑ +2.62
Economically Disadvantaged	42.15	53.56	↑ +11.41
English Learners	42.98	45.76	↑ +2.78
Students with Disability	34.31	39.77	↑ +5.46

To see additional Thoughtful Classroom case studies, please go to www.thoughtfulclassroom.com/case-studies.

