## Bate Middle School

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[**http://www.bms.danvilleschools.net/**](http://www.bms.danvilleschools.net/)

**Ensure Student Focused Vision and Action**

A key emphasis for Principal Amy Swann and the faculty of Bate Middle School in Danville, Kentucky, was not only to increase their skills and capacity to teach the content, but also to equip students with necessary skills required for success throughout their lives. Listening to students’ voices about their learning and ways they learned best, while addressing the needs of the whole child, enabled Bate Middle School faculty to focus clearly on students and their learning.

Implementation of project-based learning environments enabled students to develop necessary 21st century skills. These skills included the use of technology, critical thinking, reflecting on their contributions to a group, collaboration, communication, problem solving, team building, time management, and presentation skills. Principal Swann maintained their schools’ focus on students’ mastery of the required content, while simultaneously developing reflective thinking practices and critical skills necessary for success.

Dr. Swann lived her belief that as a professional educator her moral obligation was to provide continuous, meaningful, and deliberate professional learning experiences for all faculty and staff, including herself. Other case study leaders encouraged routine professional discourse among faculty, staff, and community, demonstrating respect for all stakeholders’ varying opinions while discussing the positive value of incorporating new strategies or information into teaching methods.

## Articles about Bate Middle School

<http://www.danvilleschools.net/UserFiles/Servers/Server_18263/File/DOI/FINAL%20BateMiddleSchool-v03.pdf>

<http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2014/06/01/317433695/in-kentucky-students-succeed-without-tests>