

## Context Analysis

Murrayville has a student population of 703 students, the schools capacity is 660. The population is 57 percent white, 38 percent black, 4 percent Hispanic and 1 percent other. Murrayville has 97 students with Individualized education plans and 39 students who speak English as a second language. Forty two percent of Murrayville's students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. This would qualify them as a Title I school, but because this is their first year they will not receive any extra federal funding. The staff consists of 43 teachers and well over 100 staff members in total. Seven of the staff members can speak a second language. Of the 43 teachers, 5 are males, 1 is Hispanic, and 0 are black. Twenty three teachers are in the first year in New Hanover County, 27 have less than 5 years of experience, and 10 with less than 3 years. There are 2 Administrators, the principal is in her 6th year as lead administrator, the vice principal is a black male in his 3rd year overall, but first in New Hanover County. Their philosophy is for teacher to handle all discipline in a low key positive manner. They will provide support as needed but trust the staff to make professional decisions. The staff attitude is open minded but 14 staff members have been transferred from a school that had a 92 percent white population and a very low suspension rate.

The school is overcrowded by 60 students and understaffed by 4 teachers and 8 para-educators. Currently resource teachers have been moved into meeting rooms and classroom teachers have had to use tables instead of individual desks for their students. The school has been hit with 3 roof leaks that have damaged computers and forced teachers out of their rooms for days at a time.

The school resources are limited for they are in the first year of existence. Murrayville has been overcrowded from the start of the school year and is projected to increase by 70 students next year. The workshop will be held within the Media Center which contains 40 Hewlett Packard computers, an Active board to display an interactive internet usage, overhead projectors and the capacity to hold 75 adults.

The reason for choosing this school site includes:

- 1) A need and opportunity to turn the suspension rate around exists at this school
- 2) The administration has hand picked 75% of the staff towards "Closing the Gap"
- 3) There is a diverse group of staff members that ranges from past experiences to cultural backgrounds
- 4) Each classroom has 4 computers that are internet connected and grades 3 thru 5 contain Active Boards for interactive web based science and math lessons
- 5) The Superintendent and School Board are very supportive of implementing this resource
- 6) Murrayville is a brand new school that can be a model for all others across the county.
- 7) The Principal is supportive of offering the course and continuous support to her staff
- 8) The cliental at the Murrayville, for the most part, fits the profile of the highly suspended rate of minority students mentioned previously

The classroom environment is structured with a wide variety of technology opportunities. Each room contains a large screen television with DVD player. With this the teachers computers are hooked up through the television to download educational videos, perform lessons, and power point presentations on screen. In the upper grades there are Active Boards. These are touch screen white boards that through a laptop and a projector science and math lessons can be completed without the use of markers, they are motivating and interactive. Next year Murrayville will be a Title I school and be awarded funds from the federal government to allocate for more teachers and resources to promote success with their "at-risk" students.