



# WVFEC

# Students Mark History with Storyboard Project

Central Preston Middle School

## Summary

Central Preston Middle School's storyboard walking tour project will serve as an impactful permanent education tool for students, families, and visitors.

## School Name



Kingwood, Preston County



Approximately 13,000 family units in the county



306 Students



100% Students on Free or Reduced Lunch



### Mission Statement:

Developing Champions of Character, Academics, Trust, and Service



Website URL

## CHALLENGES



Central Preston Middle School is home to approximately 300 fifth through eighth grade students. The school is situated on the adjacent campus to Preston High School. Engagement can be challenging due to schedule and travel constraints.



### Challenge #1

Organizing a particular event can be challenging as it may not accommodate all students and families due to conflicting schedules and time constraints.



### Challenge #2

Limitations on travel and getting back to the school during a specific timeframe for families as the county encompasses a broad rural landscape.



### Challenge #3

Narrowing in on an engagement activity that is impactful, yet yields sustainable results

## SOLUTIONS



By creating a walking storyboard trail, it encourages students, families, communities members, and other visitors to physically participate in a self-guided educational tour. The 10 signs highlight historic facts surrounding the school and its campus. The weather-proof signs were created and installed by students in collaboration with school staff. They feature a QR code to keep track of visitors who scan the code. Signs will be used perpetually to onboard parents/caregivers during 5th grade open house.

### Top Priorities Related to Family Engagement



Long-lasting impact



Foster student pride and ownership



Increase community engagement



# ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



## Key Initiatives

From the start, students were involved in the creation process: they set-up interviews, conducted research and worked with staff to write each board's context. Staff and their personal families became invested in the project by helping to dig holes and install concrete. Once complete, the initiative was launched during a family engagement activity to welcome students and parents/caregivers to the school to experience the new trail.



### Key Stakeholders Engaged

- Middle School Students
- Parents and Families
- Faculty and Staff

## Lessons Learned

Principal and project lead, Paul Martin, said his only regret is not doing it sooner. The storyboard trail has been a success for multiple components of our educational ecosystem, including students, staff, families and community. Students have felt a sense of accomplishment and ownership by researching, writing and implementing each board. It is believed that because this storyboard initiative is student managed, it has minimized challenges that can be prevalent at a middle school setting. Visits from local and surrounding community members have been a pleasant unexpected surprise.

# OUTCOMES



1

### Quantitative Impact

Approximately 300 participants have scanned the QR code and registered their names and information using the storyboard trail since its launch in September 2023. This permanent innovation will continue to support the 5th grade open house and provide a measurable resource.

2

### Qualitative Impact

The creation of the storyboard trail project has increased family engagement by providing a low-pressure, sustainable, educational activity for the school. Historical knowledge of the highlighted sites are now more accessible.

3

### Unexpected Outcomes

A recent visitor to the school and history buff has registered the walking tour with an online global database for others to know it exists.

# CONCLUSION



The history storyboard project has increased student, family, and community engagement by creating an evergreen educational activity highlighting the work completed by students. Information on the Poor House, cemetery, animal shelter, and other county sites will now live on to future generations.

# Storyboard Project

The storyboard walking tour creates a longlasting path to educate families and visitors on historic sites around the school campus.



### Activity Goal

Increase education about the historic sites, encourage physical participation, and display students research.

### Key Actions

- Work with students to identify locations and create signs
- Use surveying tools and equipment to dig holes upon installation
- Promote at open house events and through local public relation initiatives



### Activity Outcomes

Nearly 300 individuals have participated in the storyboard walk and scanned the QR code.

