



## SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

### Field Middle School



#### Designated in 2007

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### 2007 School Statistics

(Source: <http://webprod.isbe.net/ereportcard/publicsite/getsearchcriteria.aspx>.)

Community: West Northfield School District 31 is comprised of two schools: one elementary school and one middle school. Current district enrollment is 885 students. Northbrook, Illinois is a middle to upper income suburb with a diverse population and is located approximately twenty miles north of Chicago.

Enrollment: 335  
Grade Levels: 6-8  
School Schedule: 8:48 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### Student Demographics

5.4%	Hispanic
61.2%	White
2.4%	African American
31.0%	Pacific Islander, Asian

5.4%	Free/Reduced Lunch
7.5%	English Learners

2005 AYP:	Y
2006 AYP:	Y
2007 AYP:	Y

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

### Academic Excellence

- High academic standards: 89% of students meet or exceed state standards in reading; 92 % meet or exceed state standards in math
- High attendance rate: 96.7%
- “Failure is not an option” philosophy: before and after school “Open Library” programs facilitated by certified teachers; bi-weekly Saturday School staffed by three teachers and the principal; reading and study skills support classes
- Alignment with Illinois State Standards with five-year curricular reviews of all disciplines
- Wiggins-McTighe “backward design” of curriculum using “big ideas”, varieties of assessments, evaluations, and learning activities to reinforce concepts taught
- School-wide learning strategies: Thinking Maps (David Hyerle’s graphic organizers), KWL’s, QAR’s, Cornell note-taking, and a school-wide formal writing rubric
- Two academic blocks of at least ninety minutes at each grade level
- Faculty committed to professional growth who seek advanced degrees, earn National Board Certification, partner with local universities, or participate in book study groups
- Teacher Appraisal Program based on Charlotte Danielson

## **Field Middle School**

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- Support for each individual at the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical level
- Flexible Services Delivery Model of intervention for students who do not qualify for special support services
- Co-teaching models at all three grade levels
- Daily advisory program that promotes decision-making, goal-setting, leadership, and service learning
- Special programs to promote good choices (seventh grade Snowflake Program) and leadership (eighth grade Leadership Day)
- STARS Program that uses peer mentoring and peer mediation to address and resolve problems
- Student Advisory Committee that meets with the principal to voice student concerns and works with the principal and food service provider to promote healthy food choices
- Student Council that plans dances, holiday activities, school spirit events, and charitable contributions from fund-raisers
- A full-time social worker to counsel parents and students as well as a part-time Korean social worker
- Social and medical services through Glenview/Northbrook Youth Services to obtain social and medical services for students with limited access to such services
- A nine-week course in conflict resolution and a "Mix It Up Day" to promote appreciation for the diversity within Field School
- Unique physical education program in which each student designs an individual wellness plan of diet, exercise, and stress reduction
- Partnership with the Northbrook Citizens and Drug and Alcohol Awareness through the health curriculum and advisory program to promote healthy choices by students
- A comprehensive elective rotation program that promotes appreciation for fine and practical arts
- Service Learning Leader School in which each grade level has a specific leadership focus; sixth grade conducts service at the school level; seventh grade concentrates on service to the community, and eighth grade dedicates their service to global issues
- Parent/Teacher Club and District 31 Education Foundation that provide funding, materials, and parent volunteers
- Communication with parents through weekly newsletters, school website, book study groups, quarterly principal coffees with parents, List Serv to provide news via electronic mail, and Language Line to provide translations for parents
- Student interaction within the community through gift baskets to police and fire agencies, involvement in the Northbrook Student Government Day, participation in Futures Unlimited sponsored by Oakton Community College and a citizenship essay contest sponsored by the Glenview League of Women Voters

### **Social Equity**

- Flexible and proactive "Failure Is Not An Option" student support system
- Enrollment of every student in general science and social studies curriculum
- Differentiated teaching models for students with special or ELL needs
- Support for all students who experience difficulty academically, emotionally, or socially through STARS (peer tutoring and mediation), referral to the Problem Solving Team that applies a Flexible Delivery Model, enrollment in Study Skills or Reading Lab, or attendance at Saturday School for students earning lower than a C in a class
- A Cultural Diversity Club to promote appreciation for the rich cultural backgrounds of Field students
- Use of the Language Line, a third party interpretation service
- Translation of all school forms into Korean since Korean students comprise approximately 30% of the school population
- Student participation in the planning, speaking, and performing at school assemblies
- Faculty members who reflect some of the diversity of the school community with one hearing disabled and four Korean teachers
- A sharp decline in serious student discipline issues, with only one such incident during 2006-2007

### **Organizational Support**

- Shared vision by administration and faculty that all students read and write effectively, appreciate the arts, embrace physical and emotional wellness, feel safe at school, engage in challenging and interesting curricula, develop critical

thinking and problem-solving skills, learn how to learn, adapt and apply technology, appreciate the diversity of the school, and feel a sense of pride in the school

- A Building Leadership Team that meets with the principal to incorporate the school philosophy into a strategic plan
- Professional growth for teachers through autonomy to plan and budget resources
- 85% of the teaching faculty have advanced degrees, 12% have doctoral degrees or National Board Certification
- Funding for teachers to attend national and local conferences
- Flexible Services Delivery Model of intervention for students who do not qualify for special support services
- Co-teaching models at all three grade levels
- Use of the Measure of Academic Progress Test, administered in the fall and spring, to assist students with individual goal-setting
- Recognition for Service Learning as a Prairie State Leader School and Corporation for National Service Leader School
- Teacher Appraisal System based on the Charlotte Danielson framework
- Community partnerships with the Northbrook Citizens for Drug and Alcohol Awareness, Northbrook Park District and Senior Leisure Center, Cook County Sheriff's Department and Northbrook Police Department (Internet Safety Seminars), Glenview and Northbrook Public Libraries, and neighboring school districts for consultations about various programs
- Funding for assemblies, performances, artist-in-residence programs, and band instruments through the Parent/Teacher Club and District 31 Education Foundation