



SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

GCMS Middle School



Designated in 2007

GCMS Middle School • Gibson City-Melvin Sibley C.U. 5 •
Ford County • Illinois • Mike Bleich, Principal • 316. E.
19th St., Gibson City, IL 60936 • Phone (217) 784 8731
mdbleich@gcms.k12.il.us
<http://www.gcms.k12.il.us>

2007 School Statistics

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

Community: 5 small rural communities in East Cent. II
Enrollment: 250
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule: 10 period day includes Advisory

Student Demographics

.4%	Hispanic
98.4%	White
.8%	African American
.4%	Native American
.0%	Asian
.0%	Pacific Islander
27.4%	Free/Reduced Lunch
.0%	English Learners

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

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Overall ISAT scores – 89% Meets/Exceeds - 2007
- Grade level core academic teams meet daily
- Varied methods of student assessment
- Tutoring program
- Yearly school improvement planning
- Curriculum aligned with State standards
- Inclusion model for IEP students
- Teacher induction program
- Certified Teacher mentoring program

(Continued)

GCMS Middle School

Developmental Responsiveness

- 15/1 student/teacher ratio for Advisory classes
- Daily Physical Education classes
- Full time Guidance Counselor
- Social Worker shared with High School
- Active adult mentoring program
- Exploration classes at each grade level includes career studies
- Fine Arts Curriculum in Music and Art
- School newspaper published by media club
- School web site – GCMS.k12.il.us
- 6th graders host Sr. Citizen coffee hours once per month in Winter
- Competitive extra curricular programs
- Student volunteers deliver Meals on Wheels to local shut-ins
- School district nurse has middle school office hours
- Guidance counselor works closely with community agencies

Social Equity

- A mission statement guides the decision making process
- School supplies are donated by local businesses
- Active Student Assistance team
- HS students work with students who have academic needs
- Professional development focused on differentiated instruction
- Big Brother/Sister program
- Faculty and local businesses work together to adopt families at Christmas time
- Active student council
- Character education program
- Student of the month program
- Yearly attendance incentive trip
- Weekly locker lottery to encourage organized lockers

Organizational Support

- All building staff is included in character education program
- District wide curriculum committee
- Building level school improvement committee
- Active parent advisory committee
- School board and superintendent supportive of middle school concept
- Public relations support from local newspapers, and radio station
- Facility is used by local citizens for evening activities on a regular basis
- Team leaders at each grade level meet regularly with principal
- Strong professional development program