

SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Francis Granger Middle School



Designated in 2008

Francis Granger Middle School • Indian Prairie School District # 204 • DuPage County • Illinois • Principal Mary Kelly • 2721 Stonebridge Blvd., Aurora, IL 60502 • (630) 375-1010, <http://granger.ipisd.org/index.asp>

2007 School Statistics

Source: Illinois School Report Card

Community: Aurora, IL Population: 157,267

Enrollment: 1,126

Grade Levels: 6-8

School Schedule: 8am – 3pm

Student Demographics

64.9%	White
12.1%	Asian/Pacific Islander
10.8%	African American
8.6%	Hispanic
0.1%	Native American
3.5%	Multi-Racial/Ethnic

6%	Free/Reduced Lunch
2.5%	English Learners

2005 AYP: YES

2006 AYP: YES

2007 AYP: YES

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- The Granger grading scale is rigorous, with the expectation that students earn 92% for an "A"
- Students are recognized for Academic Excellence, earning Honor Roll (3.25+ G.P.A.) and High Honor Roll (3.6+ G.P.A).
- All curricular areas are aligned with District and State Standards, predicated on Best Practice
- All students are benchmarked three times per year in the areas of Math and Reading using an online benchmarking assessment program
- Students who struggle to meet the standards enter a problem-solving process to determine how best to meet their needs
- 90.6% of all students meet or exceed state standards in the area of Reading (2007 I.S.A.T.)
- 93.8% of all students meet or exceed state standards in the area of Math (2007 I.S.A.T.)
- Math and Reading supplementary programs are in place for students in need of additional academic support
- At Granger, we have implemented a summer bridge program to support students in need of instructional continuity
- At Granger, we believe that, "Everybody Reads, Everybody Writes, and Everybody Does Math

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Granger Middle School practices a problem-solving process that is used to determine support for students who may be struggling academically, socially, emotionally, and/or behaviorally
- Student scheduling is unique and flexible to accommodate the needs of the students
- Granger has a full-time school nurse and a physical education program focusing on life-long fitness
- Granger provides interscholastic and intramural opportunities for students
- Social and emotional needs are addressed by a student services department comprised of a full-time social worker and two full-time guidance counselors
- Granger follows the Positive Behavior Intervention System (P.B.I.S.)
- A weekly Read & Respect program offers a time to explore social/emotional growth as well
- A variety of clubs and activities are scheduled in order to offer social opportunities for students
- Granger students and staff are active in various community service and fundraising endeavors

Social Equity

- Granger Middle School practices a full-inclusion philosophy
- Meeting the needs of all students through the use of a flexible scheduling model
- Granger Middle School staff members are currently receiving training in social equity and the racial achievement gap, determining how best to meet the needs of all students
- An school-based equity team was created in order to support the unique culture of Granger
- Future plans have been discussed to create a student and parent equity team to join the work of the current equity team comprised of staff members
- LEP students and their families receive support during the school year, including a dinner and presentation
- The goal at Granger is to make all of our students and their families an integral part of the Granger experience

Organizational Support

- Granger Middle School is a school with a shared vision of what a successful school is and does
- Creation, implementation, and continuing assessment of an active school improvement plan
- The school improvement plan is created through dialogue with all staff members
- A unique professional learning model is used, allowing time for staff members to meet within the school day to articulate
- Granger has an extremely active and involved parent group who has funded many exciting programs and building-based improvements