

SCHOOLS TO WATCH

MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Thayer Hill Middle School



Designated in 2004 / Redesignated 2008

Thayer Hill Middle School • Indian Prairie C.U.S.D. 204 •
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<http://hill.ipsd.org/index.asp>

2007 School Statistics

Source: Illinois Report Cards

Community: suburban/population 141,000
Enrollment: 919
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule:

Student Demographics

- 61.8% White
- 6.9% Hispanic/Latino
- 18.6% Asian
- 8.7% African American
- .2% Native American
- 3.8% Multi racial ethnic

- 5.7% Free/Reduced Lunch
- 3.4% English Learners

2005 AYP: Yes
2006 AYP: Yes
2007 AYP: Yes

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Curriculum designed and articulated across the school to make sure essential questions are answered and state learning standards are met.
- Master schedule is designed to maximize student learning opportunities while at the same time providing time for re-teaching and enrichment.
- Teachers utilize varied strategies and differentiated instruction as encouraged by district's full inclusion policy.
- Assessments and interventions are integral to teaching
- Daily team planning time, building articulation and school improvement days are used to look at student data to develop strategies and interventions to keep building at high level of academic excellence.

Developmental Responsiveness

- Students social well being is emphasized.
- Master schedule designed to maximize student learning opportunities while at the same time providing time for re-teaching and enrichment.

Schools to Watch – Taking Center Stage ***Bernice Ayer Middle School***

Developmental Responsiveness

- Discipline data is reviewed by staff regularly in order to build responses to students' needs.
- Guidance staff is utilized by students to talk about their issues.
- Student guide program allows students to volunteer to help new students.
- Parent network has been implemented through efforts of the principal and guidance office in order to reach out to others with similar backgrounds and languages to help facilitate a smooth transition to Hill.
- District's only self-contained ED program is located at Hill.

Social Equity

- Hill is a full inclusion school.
- Teachers adjust and differentiate instruction so all students can be successful.
- Parents are given many opportunities to be involved in their child's education – e.g. Parent Shadowing Week.
- Building equity team meets monthly with an equity consultant to improve education for all students while limiting achievement gaps.
- Parent diversity council meets monthly to talk about issues related to education and diversity.

Organizational Support

- Over 20 business partnerships with Hill help facilitate the teaching and learning in the school.
- FLEX Problem Solving Model implemented gives grade level and building level teams the ability to address student needs and develop research based interventions.
- Professional staff development highly valued and implemented to improve teaching.
- Building level leadership team facilitates the shared vision among the school.
- Entire faculty takes full responsibility for student learning.