

SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Indian Creek Middle School



Designated in 2004 / Redesignated in 2008

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2007 School Statistics

Sources: *Interactive IL Report Card*

Community:
Enrollment: 204
Grade Levels: 6-8
School Schedule:

Student Demographics

2.5% Hispanic
96.6% White
1% African American
0% Native American
0% Filipino
0% Asian
0% Pacific Islander

10% Free/Reduced Lunch
% English Learners

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

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Flexible block schedule allows teachers to implement integrated units more easily by having the ability to shorten or extend class time.
- W.O.L.F. is an additional instructional period at the end of the day for students to Work On Learning Fundamentals
- Reading and English are now integrated into Language Arts and is taught using a double block of time
- NWEA/MAP testing offers immediate student data, differentiated activities, and student centered goal setting.
- 90/30 Initiative is a 2-part goal for academic excellence with 90% of all students to meet or exceed standards and 30% of students to exceed standards.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Once a week is devoted to Character Education where students will meet in small advisory groups to discuss various topics such as bullying, honesty, respect, safety, friendship, etc.
- Exploratory classes drama, art, industrial technology, computers, band, and choir are offered to enrich the curriculum.
- Students at-risk go through the process of creating a plan and meeting with the teacher team and the principal.
- Responsible Reporting is a system students are taught and use to report any problems. The process can be anonymous.
- To encourage an active and healthy lifestyle and remain developmental responsive to students energy levels, ICMS continues to offer recess.
- A fitness room with cardio and weight machines has been added to the middle school in support of the Wellness policy.
- Student support groups are offered.

Social Equity

- Many extra curricular activities are offered before school, after school, and during school to help all students get involved as much as possible.
- The broad range of extra curricular activities includes: athletic events, academic events, performing arts events, and clubs.
- The ICMS no cut policy assures all students can participate if they choose.
- Special education students are mainstreamed into classes. Special education teachers and para-educators help all students.
- Pyramid of Interventions allows teachers and students to use a systematic approach to modifying and accommodating student needs.
- Every team celebrates students' achievements monthly during an awards celebration.
- Breakfast of Champions occurs twice a year. All staff members choose one child to recognize for good character. The student and their family are recognized during breakfast at school.
- RECS – acknowledges good behavior by students by posting stars with the students name and good behavior being acknowledged.

Organizational Support

- The principal and teachers work together as a team through a shared process and goal of, "What is best for the students of ICMS."
- Whole Faculty Study Groups meet to discuss and analyze data.
- Teams have a common meeting time daily to integrate curriculum and plan to meet the needs of the students.
- A Best Practice Analysis is completed when researching curriculum and instructional practices or programs.
- Teachers are passionate, engaged, and actively participate during professional development activities.
- Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee College have a good partnership with student teachers, which keeps our practices credible and up to date.
- Community forums on safety and family nights create an open forum positively connecting the school and community together.