



SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

Kennedy Junior High School



Designated in 2005 / Redesignated 2008

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2007 School Statistics

Sources: *Interactive IL Report Card*

Community:
Enrollment: 1141
Grade Levels: 6,7,8
School Schedule: 9 periods x 40 minutes

Student Demographics

2.1%	Hispanic
71.2%	White
2.4%	African American
0.0%	Native American
0.0%	Filipino
24.3%	Asian/Pacific Islander
2.6%	Free/Reduced Lunch
0.1%	English Learners

2005 AYP: 90.6% Reading 82.2% Math
2006 AYP: 97.7% Reading 97.4 Math
2007 AYP: 99.2% Reading 99% Math

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Committed to meeting the needs of each student
- High Academic performance
- Focus on challenging and engaging learning experiences for students
- Use data to drive and differentiate instruction within each classroom
- Provide supplemental and enrichment classes
- Expect all students to meet and exceed academic standards
- Involve all stakeholders in determining areas for improvement
- Focus on differentiated instruction to meet the needs of each student
- Use guaranteed and viable curriculum
- Align curriculum with state standards
- Each teacher has access to "Data Star" assessment data warehouse
- Additional programming has been established to enhance and remediate special needs
- Students are encouraged to maximize their potential

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Name of School: Kennedy Junior High School

Developmental Responsiveness

- We support and understand the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual development of each student
- Students are assigned to interdisciplinary teams for all core academic subjects
- Engage in team building activities and interdisciplinary units
- Student concerns and academic collaboration are discussed and shared with appropriate support staff
- School service personnel develop small groups to engage in meeting the affective needs of students
- After school, lunch time, and supervised study time are used to meet with students to address their needs
- The “Academic Support Team” meets weekly to address the needs of students
- A “Flex” delivery model supports the needs of students
- Character Counts program supports social emotional growth
- “Not in Our School” anti-bullying program supports reducing bullying
- Business partnerships provide students with intangibles that benefit students both socially and emotionally

Social Equity

- Differentiation in instruction meets the unique individual needs of students
- The Flex Delivery model accommodates student needs in varied options
- A wide variety of instructional strategies are used to foster curiosity, exploration, creativity, and social skills
- Kennedy students pose and explore their own questions
- Self monitoring takes place with student access to I-Grade
- Kennedy promotes appreciation of different cultures
- Authors and storytellers expose students to diverse cultures and opinions
- Students are always disciplined by teaching new ways to cope to adverse events
- Multi-cultural instruction is conducted

Organizational Support

- The entire staff meets to create the School Improvement Plan
- Curricular review is conducted and revised on a five year plan
- Department coordinators meet monthly to discuss common concerns and provide a network of collegial support
- All teachers are placed on cross curricular teams
- Professional development supports teacher improvement
- A teacher mentoring program supports new teachers
- A large number of student teachers begin at Kennedy
- All stakeholders participate in monitoring student achievement
- Kennedy Community Members are very involved in decision making