



SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR’S GUIDE

Mattoon Middle School



Designated in 2007

Mattoon Middle School • District CUSD #2 •
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2007 School Statistics

Sources:

Community: Predominantly rural; Approximately 19,000 citizens
 Enrollment: 760 Students
 Grade Levels: Grades 6-8
 School Schedule:

Student Demographics

2.0%	Hispanic
91.6%	White
4.3%	African American
0.8%	Multiracial
0.0%	Filipino
0.9%	Asian
0.4%	Native American

36%	Free/Reduced Lunch
%	English Learners

2005 AYP: Met
 2006 AYP: Met
 2007 AYP: Met

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Offer after school program for supplemental and remedial purposes
- Re-written mission and vision reflects our high level of academic expectations for the learning community
- District-wide collaboration efforts are bringing teachers into MMS to observe instruction, and conversely sending teachers from MMS to other buildings to observe instruction
- Courageous Leaders group is implementing instructional walk throughs for teacher:teacher reflection and evaluation of instruction (not part of the evaluation tool)
- Subject areas have aligned the curriculum both vertically and horizontally
- Daily teaming practices ensure collaboration for best instruction
- MMS teachers offer a variety of assessment tools to measure academic growth
- The master schedule allows for block time for teams to take advantage of when needed
- MMS classrooms are nearly 100% equipped with LCD projectors, United Streaming, etc. and many more are receiving SMART Board technology each year
- Staff have implemented small targeted level homework groups for homework interventions

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Academic Excellence *(continued)*

- Intensive level strategies include academic goals as interventions
- Students are provided with any and all necessary accommodations for successful ISAT completion

Developmental Responsiveness

- MMS uses the teaming concept to meet students' intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development
- MMS offers Intramural programs to all students, and more physically relevant IM's to 6th grade students
- MMS Stretch Time offers walking, weightlifting, dancing, hackey-sacking, etc and activities
- MMS uses Advisory for 44 minutes every day to build skills for middle level students
- MMS offers Careers exploration, and is implementing an Agriculture program to provide a more relevant curriculum to students of this area.
- MMS teachers offer interdisciplinary units as part of the School Improvement Plan for instruction
- MMS has incorporated a student leadership team designed to assist in the implementation of building wide behavioral expectations
- MMS offers Yearbook, NJHS, Student Council, and Newspaper opportunities
- MMS has a weekly guitar club for students; they then perform as part of morning activities
- MMS has morning talent shows that have included magic shows, dance routines, singing, etc
- Parents of incoming students are invited to 6th Grade Discovery Day, 5th Grade Orientation, and MMS Open House to learn all of the exciting things that MMS offers to students.
- MMS students partner with a school for disabled (physically and mentally) children as a part of a recycling project

Social Equity

- MMS maintains classrooms that provide as much inclusion as possible
- There is a BD/ED classroom within MMS that uses inclusion everyday with its children
- Self-contained classes are maintained as a part of the core team.
- MMS teachers maintain the belief that all students can learn and make any necessary accommodations to assist in a child's education.
- MMS is investigating the possibility of bringing a culture club to diversify our school climate
- 8th grade students participate in a program with local business people who come in and discuss the realities of business, the workplace, and provide question/answer opportunities
- MMS maintains a reward system that focuses on 100% of its students. It levels itself from daily rewards, monthly reward activities, and semesterly outings.
- Mattoon Middle School maintains 3 building wide goals: Be Ready, Be Safe, Be Respectful and all will Be Successful

Organizational Support

- CUSD #2 employees are required to tie Prof. Dev. Into School Improvement and district wide initiatives
- MMS, again, has rewritten its mission and vision to reflect the ideals of AIMS, CUSD #2, and HOPE
- Administration works closely with steering committee members on focus groups for school improvement, school improvement planning, etc
- MMS works very closely with other buildings in the district to ensure best practices are present
- MMS staff uses data to drive its decisions!!!
- MMS and CUSD#2 works very closely with Eastern Illinois University in accepting practicum and observatory students to bridge the gap between teacher preparation and real instruction (MMS staff has approximately 3-5 members of its staff that also teach at EIU)
- Lifelong learning is the norm.