

SCHOOLS TO WATCH MODEL SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE



Sam Rotolo Middle School of Batavia



Designated in 2007

Rotolo Middle School • District 101 • Kane County • Illinois •
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2007 School Statistics

Sources: Illinois School Report Card

Community: Batavia Public School District 101 is comprised of eight schools: six elementary, a middle, and a high school. The current enrollment is roughly 6,200 students. Batavia, Illinois is located 40 miles west of Chicago in a growing suburban area.

Enrollment: 1476
Grade Levels: 6th, 7th and 8th grade
School Schedule: 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Student Demographics

6.2%	Hispanic
85.9%	White
2.6%	African American
1.9%	Pacific Islander, Asian

6.3%	Free/Reduced Lunch
2.9%	English Language Learners

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

School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

Academic Excellence

- Authentic assessment to determine mastery
- Use of rubrics to guide learning and assess knowledge
- Staff assessment committee
- Partnership with Fermi National Accelerator lab
- Social studies simulations and replications
- Integrated learning styles
- Block scheduling leading to and encouraging flexible team scheduling
- Systems of support including a learning lab, student mentor program, regular education resource program identified as our Personal Academic Student Success program (P.A.S.S.), reading specialist, and Response to Intervention program (RTi)
- Student help extension activities identified as Homework Club, Sunshine Academy, reading support sessions and novel groups
- Use of differentiation and flexible grouping
- Most RMS teachers hold Masters Degrees, many have presented at local, state, and national conferences. RMS is also home to four Nation Board Certified Teachers.

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Developmental Responsiveness

- Grade level counselor who 'loop' with each grade level
- Focus on social, emotional, and developmental needs of the adolescent learner
- Daily period for Advisory Class
- Wealth of exploratory opportunities encourages student choice, success, and "exploration" of interests
- Community service projects
- Focus on "Character Counts"
- 85% student participation in extra-curricular activities
- Academic challenge activities including Word Masters Analogy Competition, Scripts Spelling Bee, National Geographic Bee, Robotics Club and State and National competitions, Future Problem Solvers, Battle of the Books, and Science Olympiad
- Coordination of bus transportation to Park District for after school program ("The Hub")
- Use of data collection to identify student needs and strength areas and to determine appropriate interventions

Social Equity

- High expectations of performance for all students
- Equal opportunities for participation in all after school programs
- 'Scholarship' funding available for students in need. Students are NEVER eliminate from an activity or field trip due to finances
- Gifted/talented (Challenge) teacher
- Celebrate success of all students with our Bulldog Biscuit program, Pillars of Character, Honor Roll recognition, yearly awards, individual and group recognitions
- Team celebrations and assemblies celebrating cultural diversity
- Assemblies celebrating cultural differences
- After school activities which include Band, Jazz Band, Jazz Lab, Orchestra, Drama for all grade levels, talent shows, student clubs (Environmental/Ecology, Games, International, Anime, Bowling, Bicycle) and a full complement of athletics and developing intramurals.

Organizational Support

- Teaming
- Grade level counselors who 'loop' with students
- Speech and social work services
- School psychologist
- Block scheduling encourages flexible class time
- On-Call board allows for an additional teacher to help with other academic duties (e.g. help with science labs, individual student help time, small group work)
- Daily common team and individual planning time
- Common grade level and team areas limit movement and enhance supervision
- Support personnel including reading specialist, challenge teacher, L.D. and 'instructional' teachers for each grade level, inclusion facilitator
- Team Coordinators, Lead teacher and Department Heads enhance communication and divide building duties
- Parent Advisory Council (P.A.C)
- New Teacher Induction Committee provides week long training of all new to the district staff, facilitates mentors for yearlong assistance, and focuses on the works of Harry Wong and Charlotte Danielson
- Close working relationship with Northern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Aurora University and Lewis University regarding student teachers, observers, and Masters Cohort Programming