

# ARKANSAS SCHOOLS TO WATCH

## KIRKSEY MIDDLE SCHOOL—VISITOR'S GUIDE

### Kirksey Middle School



#### Designated in 2007

Kirksey Middle School • Rogers Public School District • Benton County • Arkansas • Principal: Dr. Roger Hill • 2922 South First Street, Rogers, AR 72758 • Phone (479) 631-3625 • [www.rogers.k12.ar.us/schools/kirksey](http://www.rogers.k12.ar.us/schools/kirksey)

### 2007-08 School Statistics

(Source: Enter name of data source for stats listed below.)

City of Rogers Population: 50,000  
Enrollment: 935 students  
Grade Levels: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>

#### Student Demographics

46 % Hispanic  
52 % White  
1 % African American  
1 % Pacific Islander

60 % Free/Reduced Lunch  
35 % English Language Learners

2005 AYP: School Improvement Year 1 for Literacy for the students w/ disabilities sub-population  
2006 AYP: School Improvement Year 2 for Literacy for the students w/ disabilities sub-population  
2007 AYP: School Improvement Year 3 for Literacy for the students w/ disabilities sub-population  
(Student achievement for all other sub-populations meet and exceed AYP.)

## School Characteristics and Replicable Practices

The following represent the combined observations of the STW visitation team.

### Academic Excellence

- Curriculum is standards based with a focus on active engagement through various hands-on experiences that are aligned with the teaching and learning objectives.
- Mentors are used to support learning of those students who need additional support and assistance.
- Before and after-school tutoring / instruction are provided for students who need additional help and/or not yet proficient.
- Staff holds itself accountable for students' success, such as first year LEP, classroom management, enriched environment, and student respect.
- Vocabulary development is a whole school priority.
- Health and wellness is promoted through the outstanding fitness program and facility (PE 4 Life Academy).
- Kirksey Middle School is a community of readers (both students and faculty).

### **Developmental Responsiveness**

- The personalized environment, which emerges from the teaming, supports the students' intellectual, ethical, social, and physical development.
- Positive reinforcement is utilized daily (behavior management systems, praise).
- Procedures are clearly taught so that students know and understand how to participate successfully in school.
- Positive rapport exists among students and between teachers and students, which manifested itself in orderly, respectful classrooms.
- PRIDE program encourages citizenship skills.
- Parents are valued partners in the education of the students.

### **Social Equity**

- Teachers are sensitive to the needs of students from other cultures.
- We enjoy excellent attendance at parent teacher conferences (> 90%). The fall conferences are a traditional format and the spring conferences are a student-led format.
- The counselors are an integral part of the school community.
- Student suspension rates are low and reflect the diversity of the population.
- All students are expected to do well.
- There is a deliberate outreach to the Hispanic community.

### **Organizational Support**

- The principal has been able to empower staff around a strong shared vision and thus, there exists a clear sense of direction and focus that drives improvement efforts.
- The school has linked hands with families and has thus formed a strong alliance for meeting the needs of all students.
- The principal provides clear leadership based on the various kinds of student achievement and archival data.
- The schedule and facility supports collaboration and collegiality.
- The staff has adapted the information provided by The Learning Institute to meet their own needs, such as adapting the pacing guides.
- The principal models a strong work ethic and high expectations.
- The school leadership works with the University of Arkansas to recruit, prepare, and mentor teachers.
- The notion of distributive leadership is found through the governance structure of the school's committees and teams.